



Co-production Policy Statement 12 December 2014

North Somerset Council, People and Communities Directorate is committed to the principles and practice of co-production when we change existing or develop new policies and services. Co-production builds on what we have already done on engagement and involvement.

Co-production is about involving service users, carers and the voluntary sector as early and effectively as possible in the writing or changing a policy, changing a current service or developing a new one. This means setting-up a co-production group.

This group would include service users, carers and other key stakeholders involved with that service or policy. The manager leading the piece of work will set the group up as early as possible, and will make sure all the comments and views from the group are taken into account.

It may be possible in some projects for the co-production group to have a representative on a group that is overseeing or managing the project.

The group will continue for as long as the project does, and everyone on the group will still be able to get involved in any formal consultation on the project.

We are clear that co-production is very important to inform and shape policies and services. Final decisions will be with the councillors and senior managers, but we give a commitment that the views and ideas put forward through co-production will be seriously considered and taken into account.

It may not always be possible for every policy, service development or change to be fully co-produced. However we give a commitment that every manager who is leading changes to policies or services or the development of new ones will consider if they can be co-produced, and show clear reasons to the manager or governance structure overseeing the development why they cannot be.

It will also be important for the manager/governance of the project to make it very clear to the co-production group what the boundaries of the work are, and not to raise expectations. The manager will also make sure the co-production group is aware of the limited budgets available to the council and the need for any work they do to take this into account.