

Welcome!



Welcome to our Co-production Newsletter Summer Edition!

As the days grow longer and the sun shines brighter, we're excited to bring you the latest updates on adult social care strategies, innovative projects, events, and inspiring stories from our vibrant Co-production network. In this edition, we're celebrating the spirit of collaboration and creativity that drives us forward. Dive in to discover how our collective efforts are making a difference and get ready to be inspired by the incredible work happening across our network. Happy reading!

How to contact us

For more information about our work please visit: [Slough Borough Council ASC Co-production Network](#)

Useful links

[Community equipment recycling](#)

[Social Care](#)

[Slough Community Directory - Activities and services to keep Slough residents fit and healthy \(sloughhealth.org\)](#)

Minor Illness: Slough Urgent Care Centre in Priors Close is open 8am-8pm seven days a week, providing same day treatment for patients who do not require treatment in the emergency department. More info: [New Urgent Care Centre in Slough | NHS Frimley Health Foundation Trust](#)

Adult & Children social Care:

For social care emergencies outside of Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm, please call the Emergency Duty Team on 01344 351999 email: EDT@bracknell-forest.gov.uk or dial 999.



Slough Co-production Network 2024-25 review and planning ahead for 2025/26

The Slough Co-production Network (CPN) has been diligently working to enhance its impact on adult social care services and the broader community. As part of our ongoing commitment to improvement, we conducted a review of our activities and partnership over the past year. This review included feedback from our members and our partners.

Survey insights

A key component of our review was a survey co-designed with our volunteer members. With a high response rate, the survey provided valuable insights into our involvement in adult social care strategies, communication effectiveness, and the impact of our projects.

Here are some highlights from the review.

- Many respondents felt that the CPN has been significantly involved in the development of ASC strategies and services.

- Most members felt well-informed and able to voice their opinions, also, they recommended reducing the number of agenda items to ensure meaningful discussion.
- The CPN has been active in various initiatives, including community engagement events, newsletters, training sessions, and commissioning projects. Notable events included Autism Awareness, Carers' events, and the 'Older People Question Time'.
- Feedback indicated that while some community groups are aware of the CPN, more work could be done to raise its profile. Suggestions for improvement included increasing public information sessions, CPN newsletter distribution, and use of social media platforms.
- Most volunteers found the training helpful, particularly in understanding governance and council decision-making processes. Furthermore, members suggested that training be more concise, and we need to ensure all volunteers are aware of its purpose.

- Feedback from officers and partners highlighted the positive contributions of CPN members in various projects, such as the recommissioning of wellbeing services and safeguarding partnerships. Volunteers also shared their positive experiences, emphasising the importance of being involved from the start and having a clear project plan and timely updates.

Looking ahead: Action Plan for 2025-26

Based on the review, we have developed an action plan for the upcoming year. Key actions include:

- continued focus on equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) training
- strengthening our network through volunteer recruitment
- continue to publish quarterly newsletters, increase community outreach and ensuring timely feedback from project leads.

Slough Safeguarding Partnership and Safeguarding Learning Strategy and leaflet

The Co-production network continues to be a key partner network in supporting the Slough Safeguarding Partnership.

The Co-production network has been pivotal in ensuring that the voice of adults has been central in the work of the partnership in recent projects including:

- the Safeguarding Adults Leaflet, which is currently being finalised, will be publicised shortly and we are looking forward to being able to share it with you
- the Safeguarding Learning Strategy is currently being reviewed by an external professional, but we are creating

courses, which will be publicised in July, with courses for professionals being delivered in spring/autumn this year. This includes the voices from the Co-production network, about what the professionals should be learning about safeguarding.

Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Training

As a direct response to the review, on 29 April members of the CPN attended EDI training where we explored key legislation including:

- Human Rights Act (1998) - outlining fundamental rights and freedoms
- Equality Act (2010) - detailing the nine protected characteristics and public sector equality duties.

The training, activities and discussions were not only informative but also explored practical scenarios such as stakeholder interview panels, ASC project groups and conscious and unconscious bias, leaving us with insights, skills, and practical tools to implement in our daily interactions.

We want to extend our gratitude for the outstanding EDI training session facilitated by Cheyanne Sparks (Chey) - EDI Project Manager - Frimley Health Integrated Care System.

Chey's ability to create an engaging and interactive environment made the complex topics of equality, diversity, and inclusion accessible.

Their expertise and passion for the subject were evident throughout the session, and their approach encouraged open dialogue, reflection and recognising that everyone brings unique insights and experience.

Chey, thank you for your dedication and for fostering a space where everyone felt heard and respected. We look forward to applying what we've learned to contribute to a more inclusive environment.

Chey said: "It was my absolute pleasure to deliver a 2-hour training session on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion to the Co-Production Network. This energised and passionate group looked into overarching laws such as the Human Rights Act (1998) and Equality Act (2010) and what they mean in terms of working with local communities. The group explored our own protected characteristics individually, and discussed together how being in these groups might look different to other people in the room. We enjoyed thinking about how other people might see us and how we can help people feel comfortable and trusting in the work we are doing with them. We finally applied our learning and discussions to scenarios that the Network may encounter in adult social care projects. The session was a brilliant learning opportunity for all individuals who attended and helped the group to learn about one another together in a truly safe space."



Volunteer recruitment

We are thrilled to welcome three new passionate and dedicated volunteers to our Co-production network.

The addition of these three volunteers is a testament to the growing interest and support for our network. Their diverse skills and backgrounds will help to support our reach and continuous effort for making greater impact on our community.

Our new volunteers

Sunjiv Sharma

I have a broad range of previous work experience, and I also enjoy working with people, am a creative thinker, a great problem solver and am hands on with projects.

Farhat Malik

I believe in healthy mind and happy satisfied life; I like to support and motivate others. I would like to be part of a programme where I can use my experience to help my community.



Ash Khan

With a blend of personal and professional skills and experience through supporting loved ones, I am looking forward to using my experience to create solutions with the co-production network.

We look forward to working with Sunjiv, Farhat and Ash. Their lived experience will help to drive forward our ambition of creating a collaborative and inclusive environment.



Co-production network volunteers involved in CQC Inspection

Co-production network volunteers were involved in the recent CQC inspection providing a genuine, people-led insight to the evaluation process, driven by their passion for improving adult social care.

Thank you to all the volunteers who participated in the inspection and those who expressed an interest in being involved. Your efforts are

instrumental to ensuring a culture of continuous development, improvement and innovation. You are the unsung heroes who work tirelessly to ensure better service for everyone.

We will be hearing back from the CQC over the next couple of months and will share the final report as soon as we have it.



ASC officer recruitment

Executive Director of Adult Social Services

As we continue to foster a sense of ownership, transparency, accountability and better outcomes within social services, Co-production volunteers once again have been integral to the recruitment of the Director of Adult Social Services (DASS). Expert by experience provided a unique perspective on what is expected of a DASS and qualities that are important in the community by highlighting the need for promoting compassionate services and assessing how well the candidate not only understands the community but is also a good fit for the cultural and diverse demographic that might not be apparent to professional interviewers.

We are delighted that David Coleman-Groom has been appointed as DASS.

David said: "In April I was interviewed as part of the external recruitment process for Executive Director - Adults and DASS. This process involved a number of steps

ranging from technical experts and elected members and not forgetting the Co-production Network.

Out of all of the processes it was the Co-production interview that I knew had to be authentic as I knew anything else would not be good enough and they would see straight through.

"I found the panel members to be warm and welcoming which helped to put me at ease, however, they were concise in the questions and their expectations were clear. What was I going to do and bring to Slough.

"I found the whole experience very engaging and felt confident that together in my role and Co-production Network we will be able to deliver the support and information people need to make informed choices."



OneSlough Community fund



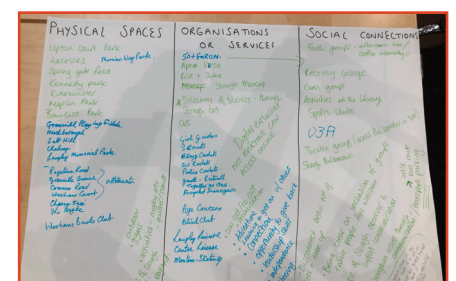
James Parker, Head of Capacity Building at Slough Council for Voluntary Services (SCVS)

James writes: The Co-production Network continues to play a pivotal role in supporting the #OneSlough Community Fund. A community member from the network takes part in the decision-making panel alongside other local stakeholders. They collaborate to evaluate funding applications, ensuring that the selected projects align with the community's health and wellbeing goals. This approach fosters transparency and accountability, making the process more inclusive and reflective of the community's priorities.

The wider group actively shapes the funding priorities for the year and provides feedback and input in setting the priorities for the fund for the forthcoming year, ensuring that the funded projects address critical issues within the community.

For the 2025-26 funding cycle, the network was tasked with agreeing on key priority themes such as health inequalities, community cohesion, and initiatives for children and young people and their parent/carers.

Involving the network in setting these priorities ensures that the funded projects address critical issues within the community, promoting social bonds, inclusivity, and the overall wellbeing of residents.



Adult Social Care Strategies update

Launch of the Adults Mental Health Commissioning Strategy Steering Group

The first meeting of the new Adults Mental Health Steering Group took place in April. The group has been established to provide strategic oversight and drive the implementation of Slough's Adults Mental Health Commissioning Strategy, which was shaped through extensive engagement with local residents, carers, professionals, and community partners. The strategy is available at: [Adults-mental-health-commissioning-strategy-2024-2029](#)

Chaired by Mayowa Kushimo, Interim Mental Health Strategic Commissioner at Slough Borough Council, and co-chaired by Jordan

Butterfield from the Co-production Network, the Steering Group brings together partners from across statutory, voluntary, and community sectors. It will meet regularly to monitor progress, coordinate delivery, and ensure that lived experience remains central to local decision-making.

In the months ahead, the group will focus on key priorities from the strategy's Action Plan. Members of the Co-production Network will continue to play a leading role in shaping delivery and ensuring that services reflect what matters most to local people.

Planned Mental Health Accommodation Strategy for Slough

Following the publication of the

Adults Mental Health Commissioning Strategy, work is now underway to develop a dedicated Mental Health Accommodation Strategy for Slough. This will provide a clearer, more coordinated approach to meeting the housing and support needs of adults living with mental health challenges across the borough.

The new strategy will set out a vision for delivering a wider range of high-quality, supported accommodation options that promote independence, recovery, and social inclusion. It will be developed in partnership with housing providers, health and care professionals, and people with lived experience to ensure that future models of accommodation are person-centred, sustainable, and responsive to local needs.

Celebrating Carers Week 2025: "Caring About Equality"

A day of recognition and relaxation

On 10 June, Slough Carers Support hosted a vibrant celebration at Pinewood Hotel to mark Carers Week 2025, under the theme "Caring About Equality." The event, attended by more than 150 carers, highlighted the vital role unpaid carers play in our community and the importance of ensuring they are recognised, supported, and valued.

The day featured a warm welcome from Jane Senior, Director of Commissioning at Slough Borough Council, and an inspiring talk by Alex Lapointe from Ways into Work on equal employment opportunities for carers. Attendees enjoyed access to advice and support from 10 local organisations covering topics such as benefits, health and wellbeing, and carers assessments.

Carers were treated to a delicious buffet lunch and a variety of

entertainment, including performances by Creative Academy, Amina Khayyam Dance Company, Dancing Nikita Company, and relaxing Massage by Paul. The event also featured lively dhol drumming and bhangra taster sessions by Apna Virsa, creating a joyful and inclusive atmosphere.

A heartfelt thank you goes to Ramandeep Gogna, carers support



officer (SBC) and Zhora Jefferies from Cippenham Carers for helping to organise a wonderful event, and all the community partners, volunteers, and carers groups who made the day so special.



Staff achievements

Yahya Shuriye



"I recently had the opportunity to be interviewed by the co-production network as a New Qualified Social Worker in Slough. During my 7-year journey with Slough Borough Council, I have been a part of the local authority's plan of 'growing our own', having undergone the apprenticeship programme to become a Social Worker. Working in Slough, which is one of the most diverse places in the country, has given me the opportunity to work with individuals who require social care support, from varying backgrounds, and beliefs. The interview focused on how I work with individuals to identify what is important to them and, in a strength-based manner, supporting them to tap into resources, to achieve their goals. Although this is meant to be a reflection on my role, I am struck by the resilient spirit of Slough residents, carers, community groups and the Co-production Network's desire to contribute to better outcomes for individual and the communities. Ultimately, having been trained by Slough Borough Council, it is a pleasure to make my small contribution to the tapestry of our community and to serve our residents."

Samantha Nkomo



After 18 months in an acting position, I was recruited for the role of Practice Lead - locality team within Adult Social Care, following a rigorous two-part interview process that included a unique and insightful panel with the Co-Production Network (CPN).

Initially I was apprehensive about being interviewed by the CPN, but the interviewing panel turned out to be warm and friendly. Their assessment focused on the value of inclusive practices ("doing with" not "doing for") mutually benefiting both professionals and those with lived experience which a traditional panel might miss.

Having been interviewed, I appreciate their perspective and quality of insight the CPN offers in assessing candidates and in shaping services. I'm truly grateful for the opportunity and believe that more professionals should experience this kind of interview. It is a powerful reminder of the importance of listening to and working with those with lived experience to find solutions together, building strong, respectful relationships with the people we serve.

World Social Work Day celebration

On 18 March, Slough Borough Council's Adult Social Care Operations proudly joined the borough-wide celebration of World Social Work Day, embracing the theme *"Strengthening Intergenerational Solidarity for Enduring Wellbeing."*

The event brought together adult and children's services, public health teams, and community partners to honour the dedication of social work practitioners. Highlights included inspiring talks, wellbeing activities, and heartfelt stories from carers and service users, showcasing the profound impact of social care. The celebration reflected the council's commitment to collaboration, inclusion, and improving lives across Slough.

Co-production network members interviewed social workers. Listen to their journey on You Tube:

World Social work day
- Yahya & Gaye

World Social Work day
- Geeta & Karen

Meet our members

Yay! They have been CPN members for just over a year!

Mohammed



I have a wide-ranging background across different areas of health from stop smoking to delivering weight management programmes to even working in a community centre. I have also explored links between depression and obesity, and I am constantly learning on the go. I have worked with a vast array of communities nationwide. As a Community Development Officer and a member of the Public Health team and the CPN, what motivates me is bridging the gap between the voice of the community and the decision makers. Quite often, we see a top-down approach being implemented by local authorities nationwide. In Slough, however, we have recognised that the same old approach may not necessarily work, and we are always looking at ways of addressing barriers and finding solutions. Co-production is about doing things with the community interests at heart, it should not be about doing things to the community but rather doing things with the community. I have been a member of the Co-production Network for a few months now and it has enabled me to see and hear about things from different viewpoints, which has enhanced my perspective on issues faced across the borough. The Co-production Network brings about a real sense of cohesion.

Marjorie



After many years working in the corporate world, I stepped away. I've been involved in the Co-production Network since 2022, and since then, I've been involved in a variety of community and care-based projects. I've had the opportunity to use both my professional skills and experience (keeping them up to scratch and learning new ones too!), alongside my lived experiences, to give new and different perspectives in some cases. I believe my capabilities and input are valued, I feel appreciated as part of the team, and that my time and effort are being put to better purpose. If you're interested in an opportunity to make a difference at local level, I think you'll find one here. Working toward a better Slough, you might find a better you. Like I did.