



## Co-production network meeting notes 9<sup>th</sup> September2025

### Venue:

Council Chambers

### Attendees

Vickie (co-chair), Bestina (co-chair), Giuseppe, Dolly, Diana, Sunjiv, Kevin, Zhora, Sue, Bernadette, Gaye, Mohamed, Joycelyn, David, Vicky, Mike, Mayowa, Jordan, Marcia, Shahanaz

### Apologies:

Shanaz, Natasha, Karen

### Agenda

#### 1. Temporary accommodation – project progress update

**Diana Balsom - project commissioner provided the following updates.**

Since the project's introduction in January, this update outlines its progress, challenges, and next steps as it continues to evolve.

The project aims to help people move forward with their lives, reduce the cost of temporary accommodation, and provide evidence to support a longer-term service.

Two members of the Co-production Network have contributed their experiences in a project focus group to shape the support offered and identify service gaps. This has ensured lived experience informed service design and evaluation.

### Challenges

Changes in procurement regulations and staffing led to delays in launching the new service, pushing the likely start date beyond October 2025.

During the discussion, co-production network members asked the following Questions

*Is homelessness considered in this project?*

- Homelessness is not the focus of this project; however, housing demand team have statutory duty to support homelessness.

*How long do people have to stay in temporary accommodation?*

- Least time possible, however if leaving temporary accommodation means they will be homeless then extending their stay in temporary accommodation may be sought depending on individual circumstances.

#### **Action**

- Commissioning officer to Identify and engage with providers who able to offer suitable accommodation in Slough, to understand obstacles and realistic timelines.

## **2. Mental Health accommodation Strategy**

Mayowa Kushimo - Mental Health Commissioner, presented the strategy overview and co-production approaches.

The development of this strategy is led and shaped by individuals with lived experience as core partners, ensuring that the voices of those who use mental health services are central to the strategy design, step up or down pathways and delivery

The current mental health housing and support offers supported living flats and shared homes with onsite staff, spot-purchased placements for urgent or complex needs, and floating support to help individuals maintain tenancies within the community

#### **The aim of the accommodation strategy is to.**

- Improve supported accommodation for adults (18+) with mental health needs, enable recovery, independence, and wellbeing through tailored housing and support.
- Reduce hospital stays and out-of-area placements.

#### **Co-production engagements**

The first co-production engagement has taken place were the mental health steering group members met to assess current service offer. They identified gaps in the current service and together have developed outcomes, among them is as follow.

- Faster hospital discharge and fewer out-of-area placements.
- Improved wellbeing, independence, and housing stability.
- Stronger collaboration across services.
- Transparent, measurable outcomes.

#### **Action**

Develop service model and referral pathways. This will combine service users, peer mentors and Mental Health steering group starting mid-October.

### **3. Learning Disability Accommodation Strategy**

Giuseppe Di Martino - Learning Disability Commissioner, presented the plan to develop a co-designed accommodation strategy with key stakeholders, including individuals with lived experience.

Slough Borough Council seeks to work collaboratively with key stakeholders to co-design an inclusive and effective accommodation strategy for adults with learning disabilities, aligning the strategy with Frimley health's strategy to ensure consistency and integration across services.

#### **Aims of the Strategy:**

- Improve and expand accommodation options for adults with learning disabilities.
- Promote independence, choice, and wellbeing through person-centred housing solutions.

Co-production members discussed plans and decided on the following actions.

- Engage with service users, families, providers, and community partners.
- Facilitate co-production workshops to shape the strategy.
- Develop clear service pathways and referral processes.

*First workshop early October.*

### **4. AOB**

Slough Borough Council, in partnership with the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, has launched two new digital tools to support residents:

#### **AskSara:**

A free, online self-assessment tool offering personalised advice on equipment and technology to support independent living. [AskSARA Slough & RBWM Portal](#)

#### **Jointly App:**

Provided via Carers UK, this care coordination app allows carers to create a "circle of care" to manage tasks, appointments, medications, and communication. Free access is available using the code **RBWM-SLOUGH**. The platform also includes e-learning, contingency planning tools, and a carers forum. [Jointly App – Slough Carers Support](#)

**Next meeting co-production meeting: 14th Oct on Teams**