

Changing Futures: introduction to the Coproduction and Peer Support Service

The Changing Futures Coproduction and Peer Support service launches in March 2022.

What's the service here to do?

Coproduction

When we co-designed the service, people told us about the difference it made to be positively involved in coproduction:

"If felt like you're valued... your contribution is listened to, you feel you're part of the process."

The coproduction service will aim to increase the voice and influence of people with lived experience of multiple disadvantage. This includes on the design and delivery of services, and on Sheffield's overall approach and strategy for people facing multiple disadvantage.

We want people with lived experience to be driving person-led change at all levels - with increased voice, power and influence, meaningful co-decision making, and genuine co-governance.

Our model of coproduction:

- ✓ **Co-design** – co-designing what's delivered, and how it's delivered
- ✓ **Co-delivery** - playing an active role in services, in paid roles and as mentors and volunteers
- ✓ **Co-evaluation** - co-evaluating quality and impact
- ✓ **Co-governance** – co-oversight and decision-making, with a genuine place on boards and steering groups.

We'll share our learning, and support others to do the same, so that coproduction becomes something we all just do. We'll offer hands-on coproduction training to organisations, working with real-life coproduction activities. We'll create shared and open-source resources, and we'll pilot co-evaluation with our partners.

Peer Support

During the co-design, people told us about the importance of good peer support, and about how important it was for those offering peer support to be developed and supported, too:

“Talking to her and knowing that I wasn’t the only person that this had happened to was a feeling I can’t explain.”

“The peer mentor shouldn’t be left out of the journey. Their success is just as important.”

Our Peer Support service will increase the number of peer supporters in the city, providing opportunities for people with lived experience to give back, to develop and build on their skills, and to be credible and positive role models.

Our peer support model is progressive, working with people to:

Connect: Early engagement, with rapid matching to peer mentoring or peer-led activities

Grow: Skills development, including access to an accredited peer support and mentoring qualification delivered by a dedicated trainer

Thrive: Employment support to help people get into good work.

People receiving peer support will have a consistent peer support worker throughout their time on the programme. Our peer supporters will work with people’s strengths and aspirations in the way that works best for them.

We’ll support and develop our peer mentors and volunteers by providing safe and reflective working practices, and access to skills development and employment opportunities. We’ll celebrate success and reward people fairly for their time.

Our guiding principles

The principles that guide our Coproduction and Peer Support service include:

- ✓ **A strong model of coproduction**
- ✓ Being **strengths-based** and working with people’s goals and aspirations
- ✓ Creating **opportunities for progression** – people will be able to develop, grow and thrive by being involved in our service
- ✓ Making it **simple and easy** to engage with the service, and ensuring that people won’t have to retell their stories time and time again
- ✓ We’ll **collaborate with partners** and others working in the city, and won’t work in isolation
- ✓ We’ll **test and learn**, and openly share our learning.

Lasting impact

We want to work at scale and deliver impact. We've planned our service to deliver for individuals, for professionals and organisations, and for the wider system. This is because we recognise that we need to achieve widespread impact to genuinely increase voice and influence for people with lived experience.

We want to scale out by engaging with increasing numbers of people, and we also want to scale up, by using coproduction to change the way we govern programmes and organisations. We'll scale deep by changing hearts and minds about the impact things like coproduction and peer support can have.

How you can get involved

Coproduction: we will involve people with lived experience from the start. If you have people you are working with who'd like to get involved in coproduction activities, let us know.

We've got a range of projects that people can get involved in, from feeding into regional and national groups, to having a say on the way that funding is spent to ensure that it gets to the activities that will make a difference to people facing multiple disadvantage.

Peer mentors: we're working on our engagement and recruitment plans for building a fantastic pool of volunteer peer mentors. We are very happy to come out to you and your groups to talk about this opportunity.

Pilots: as we go along, we'll want to work with partners to test things like our coproduction training, and our co-evaluation tools.

Get in touch

The service will be delivered by South Yorkshire Housing Association and Crisis South Yorkshire working together in partnership.

For more information, or if you're interested in any of our opportunities, contact Kate Walsh, programme manager: k.walsh@syha.co.uk