Centre for Citizenship and Communities Seminar Series 2019

Co-production and Community Control: The Quest for the Holy Grail

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Putting communities in control leads to better health, social and service outcomes...?
Pathways from community participation, empowerment and control to health improvement

- Community control
- Delegated power
- Co-production
- Consultation
- Informing

Service outcomes:
- More appropriate and accessible service and improved uptake

Intermediate social outcomes:
- Impact on social capital
- Enhanced community empowerment and improved social & material conditions

Health outcomes:
- Improved health status & reduced health inequalities

Popay J
Participation
How is it that the most intimate sphere of our knowledge – the knowledge of our own culture, families lives and bodies – can have been colonised so fully by the portrayal of others: researchers, epidemiologists, medical sociologists, and even health promotion experts?

Community based participatory research tells us as scholars and researchers that the ideas of poor women, indigenous peoples, workers in hotels and the homeless count
Complex health and social problems (HIV/AIDS, homelessness, environmental injustice) ill suited to outsider approaches
Disappointing interventions borne out of traditional research and top-down service design
Increasing demands for collaborative approaches that address locally identified issues
Funder expectations that research and projects should be community ‘based’ rather than ‘placed’
Demand for research that not only generates knowledge but that also promotes social change
Pathways from community participation, empowerment and control to health improvement

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Popay J
A participatory approach

Arnstein, S.
A Theory of Change for Local Conversations

Health equality

Better health and well-being
- Improvements in social determinants of health
- Better local services
- Increased control in life

Scale and sustainability

Mechanisms of change

Longer term changes

Social connectedness
- Knowledge, understanding and skills
- Confidence and aspiration
- Influence
- Money and resources

Individual action
- Collective action

Shorter term changes

Coming together
- Dialogue

Mechanisms of change

Inputs

Local organisation co-produces with local people

Local people bring knowledge, skills, ideas and time

The Trust provides grant money and co-productive support

Context

In communities where people experience disadvantage:
- Local people have many strengths and assets, including knowledge, skills, ideas and time.
- Local people say that:
  - Services can be hard to access or ineffective.
  - They can experience unemployment, little money and poor housing, and can feel stressed and anxious.
  - They would like more control over the things that matter to them.
Centre for Ethnicity and Health
Community Engagement Model

Facilitated | Supported | Resourced | Trained

Communities and agencies working together

- Raising awareness
- Reducing stigma, denial & fear
- Assessing need
- Increasing trust
- Articulating need
- Building capacity
- Generating ownership
- Sustaining engagement
- Developing workforce

equitable services
improved access, experience and outcome

Fountain et al
Outcomes

Baker, B. Crompton, N. Anitha, S.

Nearly always
- Increasing awareness – of issues, services, policies
- Increased networks
- Enjoyment and satisfaction

Sometimes
- Increased influence
- Improved relationships
- Increased funding
- New services
- Access to new jobs or training
Problems and Challenges

- Infrastructure
- Community (what is it?)
- Capacity – skills and time
- Dumping on people
- Ensuring people are supported
- Playing to each others strengths
- Reinventing the wheel
- Mechanisms for resolving conflict
- Neo-liberal – austerity
Where it does work, why does it work?

• Co-production
• Partnership
• Leadership
Co-production is not just a word, it’s not just a concept, it is a meeting of minds coming together to find a shared solution. In practice, it involves people who use services being consulted, included and working together from the start to the end of any project that affects them.

A way of working whereby citizens and decision makers, or people who use services, family carer’s and service providers work together to create a decision or service which works for them all. The approach is value driven and built on the principle that those who use a service are best placed to help design it.

A relationship where professionals and citizens share power to plan and deliver support together, recognising that both have vital contributions to make in order to improve quality of life for people and communities (SCIE)

— Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE)
Which aspects of research or project work can the community contribute to? What is the role of the academic or other partners?

• Which roles can the community fulfill?
• Which roles does it need support with?
• What roles and tasks should others perform?

Qualitative analysis – mountain of transcripts can be daunting and the iterative processes needed time-consuming
Use the analogy of a dance

Some people are natural dancers, some need instruction. We need to complement each other's steps, sometimes we lead, sometimes we are led. We try not to step on each other's toes, but when we do we need to react non-defensively. Sometimes we need to sit out.
Kyustendil

- 120 km – 2 hour bus ride - West of Sofia
- Population of 50,000
- Famous for it’s spa (and it’s cherries!)
- 12,000 Roma
- Live in a ghetto on the edge of town
- Hemmed in by river on one side and motorway on the other
- New and old part
- 30 young people graduated from high school in last 12 months
- Mayors policy of inclusion – closure of Roma schools – integration in to Bulgarian schools
Findings

Figure 15: Whether the participant was classified as being active at registration and follow up
Findings

Figure 16: Relative levels of activity reported by participants in last 7 days at registration and follow up.
Findings

Figure 18: Overall wellbeing score of participants at registration and follow up using Cantril ladder
• The collaborator
  – Recognising the realities
  – Playing to strengths
  – Commitment to working in partnership
Sullivan et al

• Flexibility and pragmatism

*It may be a cliché to say that there are no easy answers, but in our experience there really aren’t any. There is only commitment to the process, to the goals, to relationships with each other, and to improving the health of the community*
References


