


# PARTNERS IN PRACTICE:

Co-production conference 2026  
Cumberland HDRC

Join Cumberland HDRC at **Partners in Practice: Co producing Research that Reflects Real Lives** for practical learning and skills building sessions to explore how co-produced research captures lived experience, share co-production practice, and open up new ways of working.

 FRIDAY 26TH JUNE 2026

 9AM - 3.30PM

 CIVIC CENTRE, CARLISLE



Get your ticket here

 [HDRC@cumberland.gov.uk](mailto:HDRC@cumberland.gov.uk)

## From Involvement to Influence: Making Co-production Work in Practice

Chantahl Rodwell  
Cumberland Council

Tom Grimwood  
University of Cumbria

## Co-Producing Funding Applications: Winning Together

**Doing the Right Thing: Everyday Ethics in Community Research. Practical examples, solutions and open Q&A**

Alasdair MacSween

## Co-Production in Local Authority Practice

Liz Harper  
Westmorland and  
Furness Council

Lula Mečińska  
Lancashire County  
Council

## Facilitation Techniques in Co-Production

Aviel Lowndes  
Blackpool HDRC

## From Involvement to Influence: Making Coproduction Work in Practice

Through concrete examples of how lived experience has informed shared principles and led to the development of the Working Together approach, including the Co-Production Charter, and the wider Community Power Programme and short reflective input with facilitated discussion.

- How to move co-production beyond one-off activity to a system wide way of working
- How to influence real decisions and practice through early planning
- The differences between engagement, consultation and co-production in real organisational contexts
- How shared principles or charters show up in everyday behaviours and decisions, how these are experienced across different organisational and community contexts, and can support cultural change, and their limits
- Leave with practical prompts they can apply in their own organisations and partnerships, rather than a model to replicate

Partners in Practice is delivered by



**NIHR** | Research Support Service



**Blackpool Council**



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## **Co-Producing Funding Applications: Winning Together**

An overview of and introduction to the UK research funding environment and the most important elements to include when writing and costing bids for research funding to maximize your chances of success.

- Identifying appropriate funding streams
- Forming Project Teams that will give funders confidence in delivery
- Preparing objective rationales for why the project should be funded, protocols, intended impact and Co-production/PPIE input pre-application during the project

## **Doing the Right Thing: Everyday Ethics in Community Research**

An overview of and introduction to the UK Health and Social Care (H&SC) Research Governance Environment, the core tenets of ethical research and how to apply them in practical terms in research.

- Understand the Ethical and Governance Approvals / Permissions required by different types of H&SC Research
  - Identifying and mitigating the common ethical issues that arise in H&SC research
  - Data Protection and UK GDPR in H&SC Research
  - Understanding what concerns Research Ethics Committees the most and how to set their minds at ease in an application for approval
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## Co-production in Local Authority Practice

Practical co-production approaches that support more equitable, effective, and context sensitive local authority services.

Through examples from local authority research and policy, facilitated discussion on how context affects participation, trust, and what “assets” look like in different places and using a simple asset mapping method:

- Understand the core principles of coproduction and what distinguishes it from consultation or engagement
- Shifting power dynamics, understanding values and strengthen decision making, particularly in communities that experience structural disadvantage
- Identify local strengths, stakeholders, and community resources in different geographic contexts (rural, coastal, and complex urban) and how to weave into coproduction processes.

## Facilitation Techniques in Co-Production

Practical facilitation techniques that strengthen co-production through recognising the human cost, the time and preparation required, and the critical importance of relationships.

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- What it takes to facilitate coproduction well
- The key elements of effective preliminary work
- Creating the conditions for lived experience and professional expertise to collaborate as equal partners
- How to support and enable genuine power sharing through relationships