UCL Centre for Co-production in Health Research

Commitment to change: Diversity & Inclusion
June 2020

The Centre for Co-production exists to change the culture of research to one in which working in a genuine way with patients and the public is truly embedded. We're starting within UCL, and whilst we can't control how the university operates, we can try to influence it. We've been working on this since we started in 2017. We are gathering evidence as to the benefits of working in this way to help us, and others, lobby for change.

We want and need to further diversify the group of co-producers involved in our work and to support those that don't usually get involved in research to do so if they want to. So, we have identified several immediate things that we think we should do differently. By the way, if you are involved in a similar project yourself, please feel free to use these ideas, or share with us what you've been doing!

We will be:

Working on our relationship-building activities
- We did a lot of this initially, to share our plans and attract people to work with us and, whilst we have continued to do some work in this area, we need to do more and particularly in terms of talking with groups who don't normally engage with research.
- We need to go back to some of those who were part of our work a while ago, and reconnect with them, as well as reach out to others.
- We can't be complacent - it's up to us to go where people are, we should not expect them to come to us.

Identifying and breaking down more barriers
- We need to look again at barriers stopping people from getting involved – is there something more that we can do to help break these down? For example, it's great that lots of people have been finding us on Twitter, but what about those not on there, or not online at all?

Looking at how we gather info about who is in the room

- We think that how we gather information about who is in the room (an anonymous survey which uses the government list of ethnic groups) needs adapting. When we ran face-to-face sessions, nearly everyone filled this in.
- But, sending a link to an online survey hasn't worked as well - the number of people completing these forms after sessions has dropped by two-thirds. This means that we don't have such a clear picture as to who is in the room, and where exactly we need to improve.

Timeline

We will check back in publically in 6 months to update you on our progress.

How can you help

If you have any thoughts in relation to how we could make sure we are building a genuinely diverse community of co-producers, please do let us know. Please email us at coproduction@ucl.ac.uk, and we can set up a time to chat.

Thank you!