

SPECTRUM OF PARTICIPATION - CASE STUDIES

This exercise is designed to get you thinking about how interactions between organisations and their service users might stretch across a spectrum – with power being the key factor that changes across the range. Remember to check back with the 5 principles of co-production. Whose agenda is it?

Exercise:

You've each got a number of case-studies; some real, some made up! Read through these and discuss within your groups. Where would you place them on the spectrum of participation? Do you think any clear values or principles come out of the examples? What could they do to be more co-productive?

6. EU Social Fund Employment Pilot

A new employment scheme for people aged between 18-24 encourages young jobseekers who have worked for less than 6 months to take voluntary placements with local private and third sector organisations that benefit the community. They are asked to work for 30 hours a week for 3 months and to be searching for employment for 10 hours a week. This commitment allows them to claim Job Seekers Allowance. It is intended that this experience will provide a foothold on the jobs ladder and increase their confidence and range of skills.

11. Environmental impact

A local environmental charity aims to reduce local residents' environmental impact. The charity employs Energy Advisors to visit people in their homes. The advisors work on a street-by-street basis, working with residents to collate information about their energy use and property. They then work through a checklist of possible energy and water saving behaviours and measures that the homeowner could implement to improve their property and reduce their energy use. These actions include one-off investments to install practical solutions such as draft proofing measures, or tap inserts. Having shared this list of possible actions the Energy Advisor asks each resident to choose which action they will complete, contacting them three months later to confirm if they have implemented the changes they have pledged. To date 518 individual home visits have been conducted. Residents have committed to a total of 2,437 energy and water saving pledges. 93 percent of people visited stated they have stuck to their pledges. 90 percent of people said that the visit changed the way they use energy in their homes. There is no further follow-up with people after the 3 month callback.

13. Anti-bullying campaign

Comprehensive school staff had organised an anti-bullying campaign, based on good practice in other schools and supported by the regional CEO of a UK-wide children's charity. It was launched via a series of school assemblies. After the middle-school launch a group of female pupils came to speak to staff about the issue of sexual harassment which, they said, was widespread. They wanted to hold an assembly on this specific topic. With support from pastoral staff and considerable input from the charity CEO, the girls learned more about the subject, prepared a number of presentations, and discussed possible solutions. They ran a middle-school assembly for female pupils only which resulted in a huge increase in the number of girls wanting to be involved / heard. The subsequent boys-only assembly was very successful with many male pupils actively supporting the girls and helping generate solutions which were then implemented across the school. The original group of female pupils went on to present at other local schools, were interviewed by local media, and received an award from the children's charity.

16. The Madeleine Project

Madeleine has dementia and Colin is her carer. They are working with the local health team and a university on the 'Madeleine Project' – an attempt to design health services around their lives. One idea this group came up with was to hold memory clinics in Madeleine and Colin's local GP practice instead of a less familiar central service (which is also further away). Everyone was up for this, the first session went ahead and was very successful. The group then received a notification from the local health board, that this could not take place because 'it would change the nature of the relationship between the health board and the GP practice'. The dementia consultant has challenged this but to date with no effect.