



# Listening Hub Forum Highlights



Salford Safeguarding  
Childrens Partnership

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## Summary



- The theme of this Listening Hub meeting was to hold a practitioners forum to explore the role of co-production in local safeguarding work.
- The Listening Hub usually meets every 8 weeks to share engagement work and discuss themes from children, young people, and families. This session aimed to **expand the group's scope** and consider how it could become a space that champions co-production.

## Key themes



### 1. The Growing Importance of Co-Production

- There's increasing **local and national focus** on co-production, especially with changes in the new *Working Together* guidance.
- There is a regional project supporting North West Safeguarding Partnerships to increase participation with children and families. Members from Salford [Parents 4 Positive Change](#) participated in number of conferences as "experts by experience," reinforcing Salford's strong involvement.

### 2. Openness, Inclusion, and Awareness

- Several attendees emphasized the need to **open up the Listening Hub** to wider participation.
  - Currently, it has operated as a "closed membership" group.
  - There's a call for promoting it wider as a **go-to space** to hear about what's happening across Salford.

### 3. Clarifying Co-Production vs Consultation

- There was a discussion on the need to clearly distinguish between:
  - **Consultation** (seeking feedback)
  - **Co-design** (developing ideas with people)
  - **Co-production** (sharing power and decision-making)
- A shared resource (e.g. **flowchart or guide**) was proposed to help services understand when and how to use each approach.

### 4. Using Real-Life Examples

- The “softer” impacts such of collaborative work such as building friendships and networks often **go unrecorded** but are **highly valuable** and could encourage more participation if shared more widely.
- Idea: collect and share **case studies** showing real impact of co-production on young people and families.

## Next Steps and Future Opportunities

Listening Hub to **raise awareness** of definitions related co-production that includes terminology and frameworks.

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Listening Hub to explore co-producing a **practical guide or resource** about engagement approaches.

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**Listening Hub to be promoted** as an open, collaborative space for all practitioners across Salford.

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## Key Reflections

Practitioners attending the forum are **aligned in their understanding** of what co-production is and why it matters.

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There's strong enthusiasm to **move from discussion to practical tools**, shared learning, and real engagement.

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The Listening Hub committed to ensuring Salford remains a **regional leader** in co-production.

For Listening Hub meeting dates please email: [joanne.horton@salford.gov.uk](mailto:joanne.horton@salford.gov.uk).

For more information visit [Listeninghub | Salford Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)