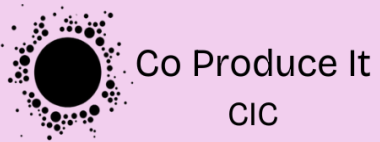




Just Space Fairville Project



Co-production and the Commons



Fairville London Lab

- A Horizon UKRI funded research programme across 8 countries into potential for co-production to address social inequality
- Three themes in London lab – Care; Food and Built Environment emerged from the Community Recovery Plan
- Action Research – learning by doing but also pilots; networks; interviews; transnational sharing of practice; co assessment
- London Lab led by Just Space and led to a new off shoot Co Produce It CIC: www.coproduceit.com



The Community Led Recovery Plan

Chapter 1 A Caring City

- Policy 3 – Implement Place Based Care Hubs, that are community led
- Policy 2 – widen the social care movement by building partnerships and alliances with universities, LA's, health centres.

Chapter 2 Participation

- Policy 8 – the GLA & boroughs should embed co production as a core value in planning and policy making

Definition of co-production

- Involving local people and groups as partners, joint decision making, power sharing, transparency, supporting participation with resourcing & upskilling.



Care Hubs

- Bromley by Bow centre was a leading light in 1990s but even they sold off their community GP practice due to inability to continue cross subsidising from other community activities
- New networks for social prescribing which link to Councils for Volunteer Services (CVS) and Volunteer Centres (VCs) supported by initiatives like London Plus and Health Equity Network.
- More food banks than ever in London (now 300) which shows the level of demand from people in need
- New models of funding needed as communities rise up to the challenges



The Health Equity Group

- A sub-group of London Health Board since 2020
- Revised constitution so now it engages groups across community sector and created a HEG Co-Production working group including HEAR Equality and Human Rights Network, London Plus, London Youth, Faiths Forum for London and Just Space
- HEG Co production working group has a community forum whose purpose is to:
 - Ensure the community has strategic influence including representation at all levels of the Health Equity system in London, with a specific focus on the Integrated Care Boards, the London Health Board and other appropriate London level partnerships.
 - Share knowledge, experience, funding opportunities and facilitate collaborations Harness and focus bottom-up community knowledge and experience into London level discussions and structures.
 - Link back with communities through a network of networks with a common thread of health equity.
- A potential model for health, planning and other strategic approaches



The Health Equity Workshop 24th March 2024

3 emerging themes:

1. Power, Influence, Partnership

Assessing the power balance, 'who is around a table'? Who needs to be engaged?

2. Transparency, Simplicity, Accessibility

Certain use of language or only digital access can be a major barrier to VCSFE taking part, depending on the setting.

3. Value and Trust

Health systems need to gain and sustain trust in communities they are working with and invest their resources to support building community wealth.



Equal Care Coop & Clapton Care Commons

- Working towards developing a new participatory approach to social care in Clapton
- Funded by the GLA (LOTI) and piloted from 2023-24. Key outcomes were:
 1. Map making and making visible hidden networks of care
 2. Co-found the Clapton Care Commons; multi stakeholder, hyper-local opportunities for local residents and groups to come together to develop resource local networks of care and establish peer governance.
 3. Engage local volunteer and befriending services, enabling volunteers to join Equal Care teams
 4. Contribute to the development of a Food/Care Hub creating an open and accessible safe space for local people of different social, ethnic and religious affiliations to improve experiences of giving and receiving care
 5. The focus of this work is trying to enable health/social care systems to become more transparent and share power with communities. A challenge of the pilot was that Hackney Council said it was not financially viable to commission these projects as part of Homecare.



Fairville London Lab biographies of engagement

- Working collaboratively with researchers from the Bartlett Development Planning Unit (DPU), the Fairville London Lab prepared and co-conducted 10 long-form interviews exploring experiences of coproduction in London.
- Primarily focussed on community voices, the interviews sought to unpack perspectives on inequalities, power imbalances and challenges/opportunities around deepening participation in planning.
- All interviews were recorded, automatically transcribed and summarised with support from DPU researchers. Interview summaries were then reshared with respondents for revision and / or expansion and, finally, approval.



Tim Oshodi

Nubia Way Self Builder, Community-led Regeneration Consultant and Health Equity Activist, (Lewisham)

“There is stark evidence that **gentrification processes deepen health inequalities**. And **health inequalities track discrimination** very accurately.”

“When we ask: *What is the health impact of a decision?* we are also asking *Are you being racist / discriminating against the poor?*”

“**Ownership of Land is a big driver of inequality**. An **asset-based approach**, ‘using what you’ve got to get what you want’ is central to **community wealth building** and **community wealth building** is self-building. It is maximising people's agency in the regeneration process. That is what **co-production** could be.”

“There are the success stories like Coin Street, Milton Keynes Parks Trust, WECH (Walterton and Elgin Community Homes) & Westway Trust, which demonstrate **an asset-based approach including communal land ownership is crucial**.”



Portia Msimang

*Project Coordinator, Renters' Rights London and Charteris
Neighbourhood Tenant Co-operative Member in Islington*

“**Coproduction** is flavour of the month. We need to make sure we don't lose it to people who are not doing it, are not really interested in doing it. Whose agenda is to do with maintaining the status quo. I've seen it subverted to mean all sorts of different things.”

“We want **collective control over the means of production** and that comes from **common ownership**.”

“**The commons** is also really important here if we are talking about **land** and the larger ambition for **community control** over the wealth and **power** which comes from **land**.”

“At the moment, what's left of **the commons** is around that Tory band of Outer London - Wickham Common, Hayes Common, Bromley Common. But they do love their **commons**, and that, I think, is the crack to insert into and split open. To bring those people on board, because they take **commons** really seriously.”



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Tom Young

*Kentish Town/ Queens Crescent Planning Activist Just Space
Member, Local Economy Focus, Architect (Camden)*

“You can’t give **the commons** to people. People must take **control** of it themselves.”

“**The commons** is an idea about resources: **housing** makes sense as **a commons**.”

“I like what some orthodox Jewish people in Stratford have done, which is to build roof extensions on a series of terraced houses which defy planning. Direct action exposes the problem of **inadequate housing** for families.”

“I think there is still quite a strong residue of **popular conviction that planning is on the side of people and places** but that faith is **betrayed all the time**.”

“Currently the national planning conversation is all about Keir Starmer’s **growth**. Planning has had a variety of roles and goals over the last 150 years. **Just Space is sustaining conversation about planning’s wider role** which is immensely important in the bleak situation that we’re now in.”



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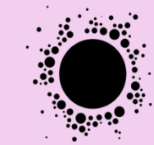
London Plan influence

The Caring City – a community approach to planning



The Growth Plan has not provided equal benefits for all residents of London. Inequality has increased. By striving for A Caring City underpinned by the commons, we could accomplish:

- Fewer gentrification schemes*
- Increased community-driven housing initiatives*
- Enhanced resources for community organisations*
- Improved public spaces*
- Protection and upgrading of street markets*
- Upgraded infrastructure for health and well-being*
- More equitable growth across all communities*



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