



**FACT
BUCKS**
Parent Carer Forum

WELCOME

Co-Production and the Voice of the Child

Andrew Howard – Team Leader

Let's get started



In the chat, please note down what you hope you might take away from this session

HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY



1. I am not a trainer
2. We will finish early
3. Ice Breaker – don't you just love them?



Audience Participation

In the chat, please type 3 words that sum up your bank holiday weekend



BACKGROUND

1. Families and Carers Together in Bucks – your Parent Carer Forum
2. Team Leader?
3. I am not an EHCCo; EP or Specialist Teacher
4. At work, you are not a SEND parent



BACKGROUND cont...

1. Full time father to 3 girls – now all 18+
2. Eldest has complex SEND
 - social & emotional delay/ADHD/learning delay/anxiety
 - Educated mainstream; ARP; Maintained SS; Independent SS/
Independent College
3. Middle Child – mild ADHD/social anxiety/mainstream school & college
4. Youngest – mainstream school now uni
5. All are adopted – all have attachment disorder to some degree



Audience Participation

What were my words....

This year – ‘empty nesting rocks’

2012 – exhausted, lonely, failure

2018 – self harm, fear, police

PARENTING IS TOUGH



1. This is true for any parent
2. SEND just makes it more complex and intense
3. The responses include anger but also drive to know more
4. This helps co-production



Audience Participation

In the chat, please type anything that comes to mind when you hear the word – *co-production*

WORKING WITH PARENTS – Section 19 (C&F Act 2014)



1. In exercising a function under this Part in the case of a child or young person, a local authority in England **must have regard** to the following matters in particular—
2. (a) **the views, wishes and feelings of the child and his or her parent, or the young person;**
3. (b) the importance of the child and his or her parent, or the young person, **participating as fully as possible in decisions relating** to the exercise of the function concerned;
4. (c) the importance of the child and his or her parent, or the young person, **being provided with the information and support** necessary to enable participation in those decisions;
5. (d) the need to support the child and his or her parent, or the young person, in order to facilitate the development of the child or young person and to help him or **her achieve the best possible educational and other outcomes.**



CO-PRODUCTION – what is it?

**Working together to find a solution that works
for everyone**

BETTER TOGETHER

Moment of truth.....

CO-PRODUCTION IN BUCKS

[SEND co-production charter | Family Information Service \(buckinghamshire.gov.uk\)](#)



Co-production is a way of working where everyone works together on an equal basis, bringing their own unique skills and experiences, to ...come to a decision which works for them all.

Co-production is about developing equal working partnerships between young people, children and their families, carers and professionals.

By bringing together different perspectives, knowledge and experience, everyone can work together

In other words, co-production means that the way of working is **‘done with people’** rather than **‘done to people’**

CO-PRODUCTION IN BUCKS.....



Co-Production Toolkit - [SEND co-production toolkit | SchoolsWeb \(buckinghamshire.gov.uk\)](#)

It works – trust me

It can change lives – believe me

WHEN IS CO-PRODUCTION NOT CO-PRODUCTION?



Ladder of Involvement



Doing with

CO-PRODUCING

People we support are equal partners, with equal responsibility and decision making

CO-DESIGNING

People we support help design services and have influence but don't have responsibility



Doing for

ENGAGING

People we support have regular opportunities to engage and can influence some decisions

CONSULTING

People we support attend meetings or fill in surveys to ask their opinion

INFORMING

We tell people we support on decisions we have made and sometimes, why we have made them



Doing to

EDUCATING

We tell people we support what we offer and why, and may try and convince them

COERCING

We make people we support use our service without knowing what they want or need



CO-PRODUCTION IS TOUGH

1. Requires time
2. Requires skill
3. Requires patience
4. Requires risk

Anyone for a two-legged stool or a square wheeled bicycle?



Look what happens when you add the child?





WE CAN HELP....

1. We have the knowledge and experience
2. We can be the 'voice of the child'
3. We see the world through the SEND lens....

Voice of the Child....

1. Capture it
2. Paint a picture
3. Value their dreams
4. Save our sanity....



PARENTS CAN BE TRICKY





SUMMARY

1. Parents know their kids better than you
2. Working together produces better outcomes as they are owned
3. Hearing (not just listening to) the voice of the child is essential
4. Capturing the voice of the child is your gift to them
5. Co-Production is an ideal – strive for it always



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QUESTIONS



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THANKS