

Co-pro Open Letter: *for release on May 1st*

Today we sent an Open Letter to the First Minister asking our Government to make co-production the primary approach to public services in Wales.

Over 250 organisations and individuals have signed the letter, including local councils and statutory organisations, health and social care sectors, community organisations, environment groups, voluntary organisations and charities, public service professionals, academics and researchers, citizens, service users, carers and volunteers across Wales.

We've received supporting statements from co-production advocates from USA, Canada, Australia, Scotland and England. They include Edgar Cahn, American civil rights lawyer and a founding father of co-production; Philip Colligan of Nesta's Innovation Lab; Anna Coote of new economics foundation; Dr Simon Duffy of the Centre for Welfare Reform; David Robinson of the Early Action Task Force; Will Norman of the Young Foundation; Sarah McDonnell of the Office for Public Management; Eddie Bartnick, Western Australia Mental Health Commissioner and Carolyn Curtis, CEO of the Australian Centre for Social Innovation.

Co-production is a citizen-centred, evidence-based approach to public services which results in more effective and sustainable services and better relationships between citizens and service providers. It increases engagement, builds stronger communities and improves wellbeing. It's not the Big Society. It's a return to Welsh traditions of co-operation and community: in Nye Bevan's words, **'collective action to lift all of us together'**.

These are the values that we aspire to in Wales.

Now we need a clear, visionary lead from our Government: to enshrine co-production within key legislation; to make it the primary approach to public services; and to ensure that the citizens of Wales truly have a voice – contributing as equal partners to decisions about public service commissioning, design, delivery and evaluation.

We have signed the Open Letter to safeguard our services and our communities. We hope you will join us in supporting this vital campaign.