

## Theme updates



### Co-Production: Learn all about what the co-production team has in store

[Nadia Brookes, ARC KSS Co-production Theme Lead](#), takes us through what the co-production team has in store for 2023, including some of the theme's key projects, collaborations and events.

#### Theme projects

This year, we will continue working with our **Co-production Group**. Our Co-Production Group members offer a variety of skills, knowledge and experience to support Theme activities. We will work collectively to design, develop and deliver our projects and activities.

One key project for 2023 is our own **assessment of the contribution and impact of co-production of research within ARC KSS** project. This work will aim to gain better insight into co-production processes and impact at different stages of the research process and across different areas of focus within health and social care.

This year, we will also be taking part in a collaborative project with the Living Well with Dementia and Digital Themes **DIGDEM - co-designing a digital tool for people diagnosed with mild-to-moderate cognitive impairment**. We are keen to be involved in exploring the process of co-designing a digital application with people living with dementia and their carers/families and an industry partner.

Our **Communities of Practice (CoP), co-production and implementation scoping review** is in development. A CoP is a group of people who have a shared concern or interest and various forms of these exist across the region. A scoping review is a mapping of the literature, it includes academic papers but also reports and other documents, and usually involves a consultation exercise. The review will help inform a project exploring the current and potential role of CoPs in the co-production and

implementation of research across ARC KSS. We will share more about this work at a later date.

Last year, the University of Kent provided us with funding to organise a **photovoice engagement event** with older adults living in Thanet, Kent. We asked people to take photographs (using a disposable camera) of places, people and things that meant something to them in connection with their health and well-being, along with some written narrative about the images. In December, we held an exhibition of the photographs in the local area and this year we will create an online version so this can be shared with local health, care and community organisations to use as a starting point for conversations about research.

To support the Kent Surrey and Sussex research community we will publish all of our own research methods and findings (and ask other researchers in the region to contribute to this **repository**). This will make our own methods visible and transparent and also creates a way to track and understand what researchers are working on, feeding into future resources and activities.

### **Theme publications**

If you are interested in co-production you might find our series of [Co-production Resources](#) useful. Our 2021, we published [A guide to co-production for researchers, services and commissioners](#) and is one of our most popular resources since its publication. We will be updating it in the next few months. Throughout the year, we will add a resource that will highlight ways to **assess outcomes and processes of co-production of research**; and two new discussion papers about the 'performance' of co-production and different conceptualisations. We will also involve guest contributors to share views from research and practice to promote visibility and understanding of co-production.

We plan to produce two **summary commentaries** reflecting how far we have come with co-production in research, and what the next steps will be in creating a sustainable future for co-production across Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

We will promote and support **participatory approaches** to research and **creative methods**, as they are often talked about alongside co-production but are different, these are research methods that embrace some of the values and principles of co-production. And, we will create a resource for researchers and signposting to further information.

### **Theme events**

We will create a space for debate and knowledge-sharing, bringing together academics, practitioners and the public to discuss the latest research, insights, and developments in co-production. We will host **workshops** and an **annual discussion panel** building on the success of the [first virtual panel discussion](#) launched in March 2022.

As a cross-cutting theme, we support the translation of evidence into practice, and will continue to do this in a variety of ways such as delivering training, presentations and workshops that facilitate learning and discussion. This year we will run a **series of in-person and virtual sessions**. This will include: co-production sessions for researchers; delivering one-to-one advice surgeries supporting researchers and practitioners; and sessions for people connected to the voluntary/private sector about how to co-produce, conduct and implement co-production of research.

To work with us in 2023, [get in touch](#) and look out for further updates throughout 2023.