

Co-producing Mental Health Peer Support in Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships



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1. KTP Project Aim:

To redesign employment processes to ensure the sustainable implementation of individuals with lived experience of mental health issues as Peer Support Workers (PSWs) to improve service delivery within Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust.

2. Key definitions:

Co-Production: "shifts the balance of power, responsibility and resources from professionals more to individuals, by involving people in the delivery of their own services." (Boyle and Harris, 2009 p.12)

Peer Support: "A model of provision that champions the use of personal knowledge and experience of a particular issue to help [and support] others who are experiencing the same issue." (Bradstreet, 2006 p.34)

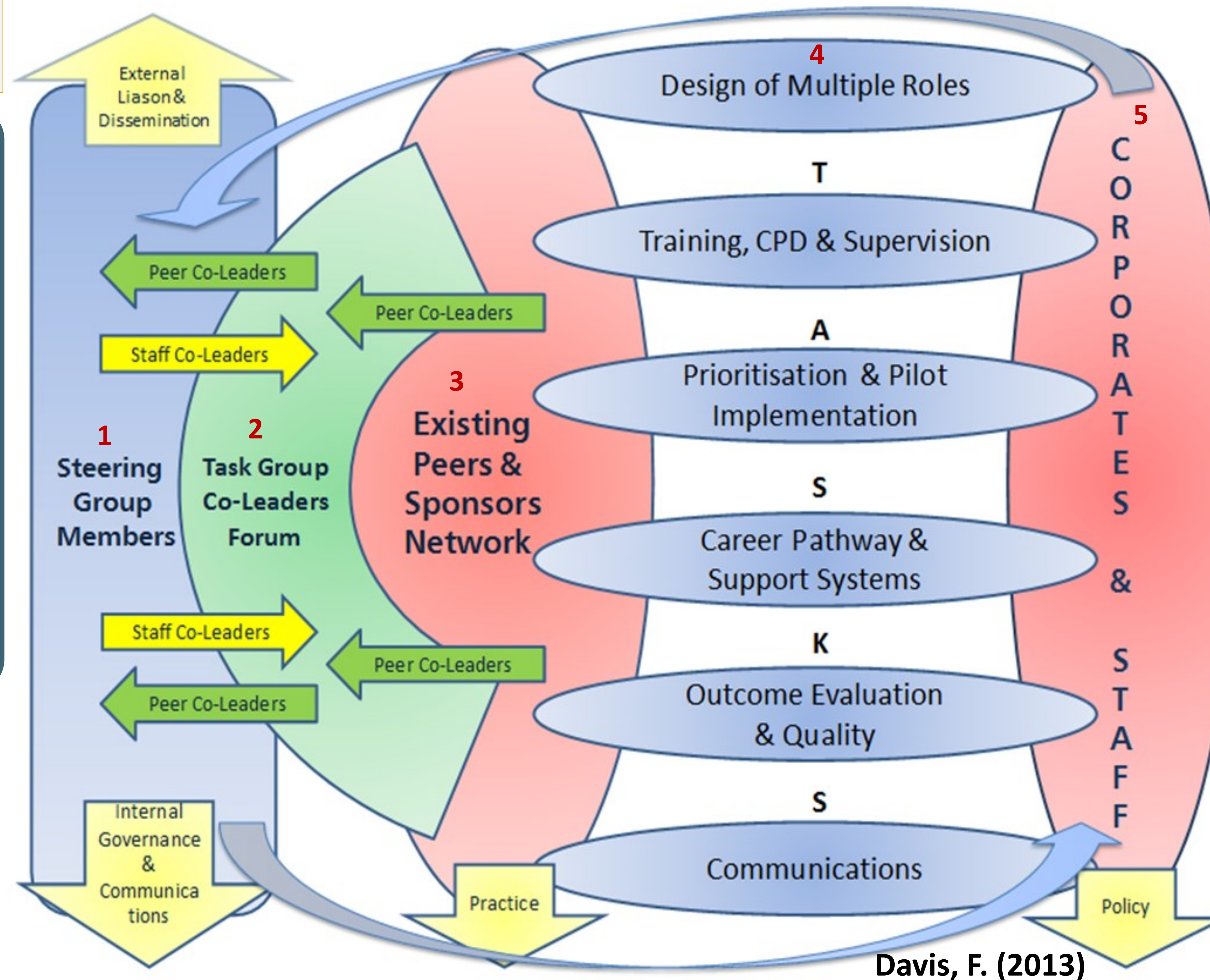


Image 1: Peer co-lead of the Bromley Hearing Voices Network and non-peer staff co-lead sharing experiences of co-production at the Oxleas NHS Peer Support 'Conversation' (5th February 2014) organised as part of the KTP.

3. Method- Innovation through co-production:

- KTP project stages were used to form Task Groups (4) mapped to the main areas of the project.
- KTP mini project was used to identify existing current work with a strong peer support focus within the Trust; highlighting a body of peer practice comprised of informal peer support and peer co-facilitation.
- Service user peers and their Oxleas sponsors were invited to form the Peers and Sponsors Network (3) and share their practice with the Peer Support Steering Group (1).
- Task groups were populated with representatives from the Peers and Sponsors Network and Corporate Services Staff (5) including Human Resources, Communications, and Equality and Human Rights staff.

4 Model of co-production developed by the KTP project:



5. Features of co-production model:

1. A transformative way of conceptualising power, partnership and resources (Needham and Carr, 2009).
2. Responsibility for design and delivery of services shared between service user and provider (Boyle and Harris, 2009).

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6. Tangible benefits to Oxleas NHS:

- KTP project formalises long tradition within Oxleas of co-developing provision with service users.
- High quality service user engagement. The model of co-production is underpinned by the belief that everyone has something to contribute (Hunter and Richie, 2007).
- Creation of a method for engaging service users in internal governance and policy development with capacity to retain this structure post KTP.
- Greater potential for Peer Support to become embedded within Oxleas and support the sustainable implementation of Peer Support Workers post KTP.

7. Conclusions

- Co-production in Oxleas has provided a mechanism to engage key stakeholder groups and promote collaborative working.
- Positive feedback from service users and staff involved in co-production in Oxleas.
- Provides an innovate approach to implementing and embedding Peer Support within an NHS Trust.

References:

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