

Introduction Bob Williams-Findlay

Why is Reclaim Social Care holding an opening meeting today on coproduction? We believe when done correctly, coproduction is an effective, principled and progressive way of working. The New Economics Foundation said that co-production is:

'The relationship where professionals and citizens share power to design, plan, assess and deliver support together. It recognises that everyone has a vital contribution to make in order to improve the quality of life for people and communities'.

Campaign bodies such as Reclaim and the newly created campaign for a National Care, Support and Independent Living Service need to develop an understanding of how potentially powerful a tool like transformative co-production can be not just for creating services but also for campaigning. The Foundation saw six main parts to co-production:

- **Recognising people as assets:** People are seen as equal partners, rather than as passive receivers or burdens.
- **Building on people's capabilities:** People are supported to use what they are able to do to benefit their community themselves and other people.
- **Developing two-way reciprocal relationships:** All co-production involves some mutuality between those who are involved.
- **Encouraging peer support networks:** Peer and personal networks are often not valued enough and not supported. Co-production builds these networks.
- **Blurring boundaries between delivering and receiving services:** The usual line between those people who create and deliver and those who use them is blurred with more people involved.
- **Facilitating not delivering to:** Public sector organisations (like the government, local councils, and health authorities) enable things to happen, rather than provide services themselves. This point is often seen as a 'threat' rather than 'an opportunity' – it doesn't need to be along marketisation lines.