
IMPOWER

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IMPOWER invests over 100 social value hours in high needs co-production toolkit for sector

IMPOWER is sharing a toolkit aimed at encouraging and helping local areas to harness lived experience and co-production in the delivery of support for children with additional needs, representing an investment of over 100 hours of social value consultancy work.

A culmination of over a years' work, the co-production toolkit can be used by anyone involved in the delivery of public services including frontline teams, schools, Parent Carer forums, Integrated Care Partnerships, Commissioners, Local Authorities and more. IMPOWER want to say a huge thank you to parents from Hertfordshire, Lincolnshire, and the National Parent Carer Forum who have helped to co-produce the toolkit.

The toolkit provides six different tools supporting discussion and planning, which will help to strengthen engagement and mobilize co-production in the delivery of support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs. The tools can be applied at an individual level with staff working with families, within and across frontline teams, at a service level within activities and projects and at a strategic level when creating programmes and developing long-term plans.

The toolkit was created based on learnings from across the country by the [High Needs Delivery Advisory Board](#). The board was set up by IMPOWER to reflect on and share ways to solve challenges and deliver the best outcomes for children and families with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). It has wide representation from national and local leaders and stakeholders across councils, education, health, finance and parent carer forums.

IMPOWER launched the free toolkit at the National Children and Adult Services Conference (NCASC) taking place 2 - 4 November in Manchester which is available [here](#).

IMPOWER's work focuses on making a difference for children, young people and adults by helping local areas to meet their needs whilst also improving their opportunities and life chances.

Jenny Coles, High Needs Delivery Advisory Board Chair said:

“Given the breadth and scale of the High Needs challenge and the complexity of change we are seeing, we decided to establish a toolkit, with the help of IMPOWER, to ensure co-production is at the heart of improvement in SEND. We know the system needs more funding, but funding alone will not result in change.

“The needs of children and young people, local authority expenditure, and tribunals are rapidly increasing, alongside parental dissatisfaction and the pressure for more funding. Co-production is integral to improvement in the delivery of services within high needs and SEND.”

Leo Jones, Director at IMPOWER, said:

“IMPOWER knows co-production is the right thing to do, but just like our clients, we have sometimes found it difficult to know where to start. That’s why we have worked with our High Needs Delivery Advisory Board to create this High Needs Co-Production Toolkit and provide it to anyone who needs it, for free.

Our toolkit helps local areas have conversations about co-production and what it means for them. Co-production doesn’t happen in silo’s, these tools help to make co-production more manageable by breaking it down into small steps that can be taken including all relevant partners.

Recognising that co-production is a journey which many local authorities are already on, we have designed this toolkit to tap into ambition and build on current strengths for positive progress.

We know a ‘one-size fits all’ approach is not effective, and interventions must support what matters to individuals. This is the fundamental way in which we will shift the focus onto supporting children and families earlier, supporting sustainable public services.”

Sean Hanson, Chief Executive of IMPOWER said:

“IMPOWER is proud to have developed the work of our High Needs Delivery Advisory Board into a free co-production toolkit for the sector, demonstrating our genuine commitment to better outcomes for those accessing public services.

Focused and deliverable change must be co-created with those who are using the services. When designing and reviewing public services, we must consider where and how we can involve either those with, or those representing individuals and groups with lived experience.

This toolkit, representing an investment of over 100 hours of IMPOWER consultants’ time, enables and supercharges the ability of public service leaders to create the right solutions in the most effective way by harnessing lived experience and co-production.”

Carol Kelsey/Coralie Cross, Parent carer representatives on the High Needs Delivery Advisory Board said:

“Across the country, families and professionals report varying degrees of understanding and success around what co-production means and how to do it well. We have worked together to help address this, resulting in a toolkit that is specifically designed for the SEND aspect of children and young people’s services.

We all want the best for the children and young people with SEND that we work or live with. We believe co-producing this toolkit at both a strategic and individual family level is the best way to achieve that.”

ENDS

About the High Needs Delivery Advisory Board

The board aims to:

- Provide the infrastructure to share skills and expertise across multiple local areas experiencing the same issues
- Provide a safe space for senior leaders to share insights, ask questions, and pose worries or challenges they are facing
- Generate ideas and solutions to specific challenges affecting the High Needs system - that can be shared with the wider sector
- Provide a catalyst for learning at practitioner level that can create and embed new approaches

The board works to bring together resources or learning to share with the sector, with a particular focus on change, delivery, and impact on improving outcomes.

The board membership includes:

- Jenny Coles - High Needs Delivery Advisory Board Chair
- Dame Christine Lenehan - Director, Council for Disabled Children
- Pauline Melvin-Anderson OBE - Director of Learning, Inclusion & Skills, Derby County Council
- Heather Sandy - Executive Director of Childrens Services, Lincolnshire County Council
- Martin Gray - Directory of Children's Services, Stockton-on-Tees Council
- Coralie Cross - Parent Carer representative and chair, Lincolnshire Parent Carer Forum
- Jo Fisher - Executive Director of Children's Services, Hertfordshire County Council
- Lorraine Mulroneu - National Specialist SEND Advisor, NHS England/Improvement
- Carol Kelsey - Independent Parent Carer representative
- Louise Aynsley - Chief Financial Officer, Suffolk County Council
- Tina Emery - Co-chair, National Network of Parent Carer Forum
- Leo Jones - Director, IMPOWER Consulting
- Alastair Thompson - Delivery Director, IMPOWER Consulting
- Geoff Hinkins - Senior Manager, IMPOWER Consulting
- Sandra Ositelu - Manager, IMPOWER Consulting

About IMPOWER

IMPOWER delivers better outcomes that cost less.

IMPOWER aims to put humanity at the heart of public service reform. By enabling public service leaders to grip the challenges of complexity, they supercharge their ability to improve lives and save money. IMPOWER helps public service leaders produce lasting, positive change in complex systems - the key to long-term financial sustainability.

EDGEWORK® is IMPOWER's unique transformational approach, enabling organisations to make the required mindset shift – towards a focus on outcomes and working across organisational and system boundaries – and provides the tools that make this easier.

IMPOWER's passionate teams and decades of delivery experience equip it to tackle high stakes, complex challenges for local authorities through a mix of applied analytics, behavioural science, and primed performance.

IMPOWER operates in the following areas: Whole Council Transformation, Adult Social Care, High Needs and SEND, Climate Change, Children's Social Care, Health and Social Care Interface, Housing and Homelessness.

IMPOWER is delighted to be sponsoring the National Children and Adult Services Conference in Manchester from the 2nd – 4th of November, which is another valuable opportunity to discuss and share ways to enhance the services delivered to children across the UK.

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