



Fullscope: Involving children, young people and their families

This framework has been developed as an invitation for those working with children, young people and their families (CYPF) to consider ways in which the voices of CYPF are heard and amplified when developing projects and services designed to serve them.

Who is Fullscope?

Fullscope is a consortium of organisations and individuals united by a vision of positive mental health for all, but especially for children and young people in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The consortium organisations share the vision of positive mental health for all and believe this can only be achieved through collaboration between children, young people, families, specialist organisations and the wider community. We deliver pilot projects, do research, and work closely with other organisations to make the important changes that we believe are needed in children and young people's mental health.

Our [Strategic Plan](#) for 2023 - 2026 will focus on our core areas:

Learning



We listen and learn with children, young people and their communities.

We identify gaps and systemic challenges and innovate sustainable solutions.

We co-produce new projects to improve the mental wellbeing of more children and young people.

Amplifying and Influencing



We Influence local policy and provision, using our collective voice.

We maximise quality and positive outcomes and share our good practice locally and nationally.

This is a framework for working with children, young people and their families (CYPF) to listen and learn, co-produce responses to the issues as presented by CYPF, and ultimately influence systems change through the collective voices of collaborative work that places CYPF at its heart.

“Nothing about us, without us”

[Find out more about Fullscope.](#)

Guiding Principles

Co-production, for Fullscope, is a way of designing and delivering support for children, young people and their families which places CYPF at the centre of the development process, recognising them as experts by their own experience. This involves a process of working together, using CYPF expertise, experience, knowledge and capabilities to ensure the best outcome for them and others.

Our underpinning values and principles are:

- 1** All children, young people and families can express their views freely and these views will be given weight (United Nations 2009).
- 2** We consider children, young people and their families to be important assets, with skills and resources.
- 3** We work to break down the barriers between people who use services and the people running those services.
- 4** We build on people's existing capabilities.
- 5** We include reciprocity (where people get something back for having done something for others) and mutuality (people working together to achieve their shared interests).
- 6** We work with peer and personal support networks alongside professional networks.
- 7** We facilitate social change by helping organisations to become agents for change rather than being solely service providers.

Fullscope believes that listening to the voices of CYPF provides systems and services with opportunities for learning, and that CYPF voices should be amplified.

A note on 'co-production'

It is important to note that co-production may not always be the most appropriate method of involving children, young people and families, for example, if time doesn't allow for effective engagement and relationship building, or where CYPF will have limited power or influence. Wherever possible Fullscope works to the co-production framework set out below to involve CYPF. However, we acknowledge that there may be times where involvement looks different, for example **consultation**, **participatory activity** and **feedback**: we will not call this co-production.



The co-production team

Core team/coordinators

Able to hold the project, coordinate logistics and bring people together.

Responsible for briefing the rest of the team, risk assessment, safeguarding and care.

Consider whether the coordinator is best placed to facilitate co-production: is there a better placed representative of the community you are working with who could be your facilitator?

Children, Young People and their Families (CYPF)

The co-production group, who are involved at the information gathering stages as well as in co-producing ideas and solutions. Might also be represented on the steering group.

Stakeholders & decision makers

This might include commissioners and funders. Will understand the co-production process and principles and are able to come along with the work, sharing power with the co-production group as far as possible..

Steering/support group

Established at the start and oversees the whole process, meeting regularly with the coordinators. Comprising of experts by experience, including both professional and lived experience.



Task and Finish projects

This structure presents the Fullscope approach to time limited co-production projects where the insight, experiences and skills of children, young people and their families (CYPF) are needed to help develop solutions or ideas about a particular issue.

Steering group ensures the CYPF have full access to the resources, support, information & people they need.

1

Desk-based research Information gathering

What is the issue? Data, policy drivers, opportunities etc.
What works? Evidence of what has been effective in other areas
Current delivery picture What is being done now, and what are the strengths and challenges of the approach?
Stakeholder views
Do we have any existing viewpoints on the issue?

2

Sharing what we know Event 1

A gathering of interested parties, including CYPF.
The steering group helps to frame the questions, e.g.
-First impressions
-What is missing?
-What are the main priorities?
-What additional information is needed?
-What suggestions do the group have for addressing the concerns?

3

Drafting the priorities Creating a long list

Using the information from event 1, the coordinators/facilitators draft a long list of priority areas and potential responses.
Facilitators also respond to identified gaps in information and gather more data/evidence/research where needed.

4

Presenting the long list Event 2

Facilitators support the co-production group to explore priority areas, with input from invited specialists; e.g. designated listeners/ decision makers.
The aim of this stage is to consider the long-list of priority issues and areas in more detail, with additional information or expertise to hand, and to sense-check and potentially rank proposals.

5

Drawing up a proposal Short priority list

Using the materials from event 2, a proposal is drawn up with detailed delivery plans, risks and mitigations.
The facilitator contacts the decision makers for feedback on the feasibility of proposals

6

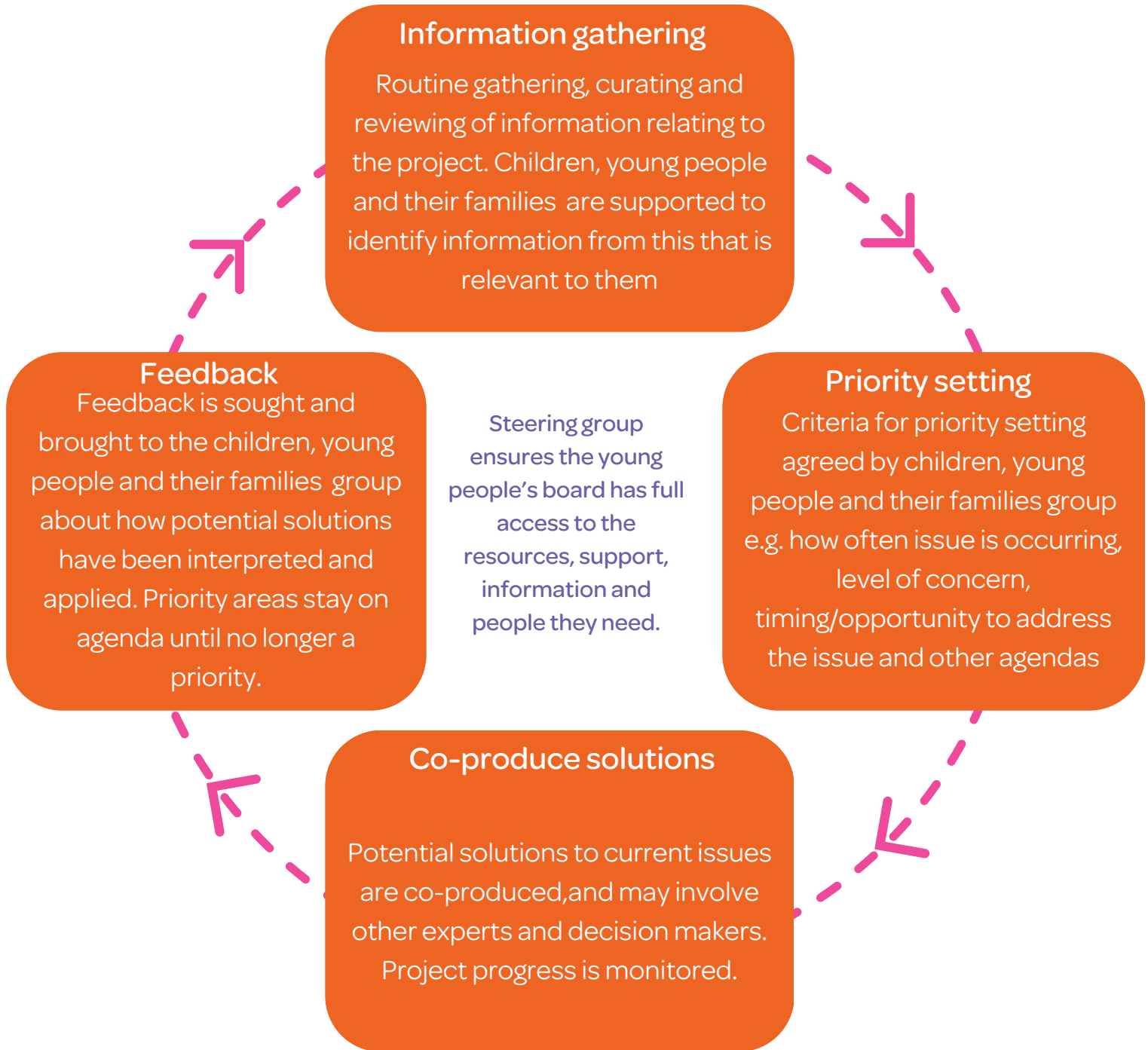
Final comments & sign-off Event 3

The co-production group are consulted about the final proposal to give final comments and sign off.
The group also at this stage considers monitoring and evaluation, and how they would like to receive further information about the outcomes of the project.



On-going projects

For projects where children, young people and their families are engaged for longer periods to act within an ongoing project's governance structure. Their role may extend beyond co-production, such as consultation, but they may be asked to engage in co-production activities, e.g., to identify prominent or important issues, to prioritise issues or set agendas, and to generate potential solutions to issues or problems. The model is similar to Task & Finish projects but is now delivered in a more cyclical process.



[Find out more about our on-going involvement project Our Voices](#)



Co-creating a product

Fullscope would always advocate for the involvement of children, young people and families in coming to the decision to create a new product. The co-creation of a product may be therefore be the result of either of the above two processes and brings with it its own unique challenges for authentic co-production.

The co-creation team

Creatives



The artist/designer/maker who will help the CYPF group to realise their ideas, identified through a clear and transparent recruitment process which includes clarity around safeguarding and codes of care, and expectations.

Core team/coordinator



Usually the coordinator role comes from the Fullscope team, with support from external consultants experienced in involvement projects to make up the project core team. Sometimes we will appoint an external coordinator. The coordinator role is essential for managing the logistics of the project, with the core team ensuring that everyone in the project has the support they need to participate safely and within their scope of practice.

Children/young people/families



Identifying the children/young people/families with lived experience who will co-create the product. This often involves partnering with others e.g. another organisation with an established group or with schools to ensure we are working with a group who are as representative as possible of the community we are working with.

Steering group



Fullscope will convene a diverse and inclusive group with professional and/or lived experience at the start of the project. The group will meet regularly and oversees the whole process, providing expert guidance.

Facilitator



Fullscope will bring in an independent facilitator for co-creation sessions to support the work between the CYPF/creative teams where we feel this person needs to be different to the coordinator e.g. to be representative of the CYPF community we are working with.

Commissioner/funder



Fullscope will always invite the commissioner/funder to be part of the steering group and project planning. We always endeavour to bring the commissioner/funder along with the whole process, and the commissioner/funder will be expected to provide clear expectations and communicate any limitations, without exerting power over the creative/CYPF team.



Define and agree on terms and processes

This forms part of the project inception process with the whole team, and includes Fullscope's definition for co-production, as well as: safeguarding, wellbeing, risk assessment, de-brief, reporting, communication methods and sign off process.

Time Authentic co-production cannot be rushed and so we will always make time to build relationships and trust between the CYPF/creative/core teams. Adequate time is also essential for the making of the product, allowing for de-brief/reflective sessions, sign off and evaluation.

Space The comfort, physical and mental safety of the CYPF will always be our priority which means the place we work in as a team will be chosen and agreed on by the CYPF, in consultation with the creative team. We find that often a 'neutral space' works best, e.g. if working in partnership with a school, sessions with CYPF may take place off the school grounds. Fullscope is considerate of the needs of the group, and ensure it is a safe space for all, regardless of religion, sexuality, gender, age, sex, disability or race.

Care Fullscope will always approach co-creation with care: for the people we are working with, for the process and for the outcome. Taking time to establish relationships and trust, supporting CYPF to feel safe and included is essential. We allow space for the CYPF to bring their lived experience - and to listen. We are clear about boundaries and mindful of people's anxieties and feelings.

Communication

We will agree with the whole team on a communication method from the outset that everyone is happy with, whether that's email, text or an online channel such as Microsoft Teams. Our communications will be clear and concise for everyone, but especially the CYPF team.

We try to provide information about events/workshops in advance and provide as much information as possible to manage expectations and ease any anxieties. When we can we will also send information either by audio or video, as well as in written formats.

Budget The project budget will include vouchers to cover the CYPF time, travel expenses, and hospitality (appropriate food and drink at team sessions). Fullscope will always pay creatives for their work.



Creativity in the co-production process

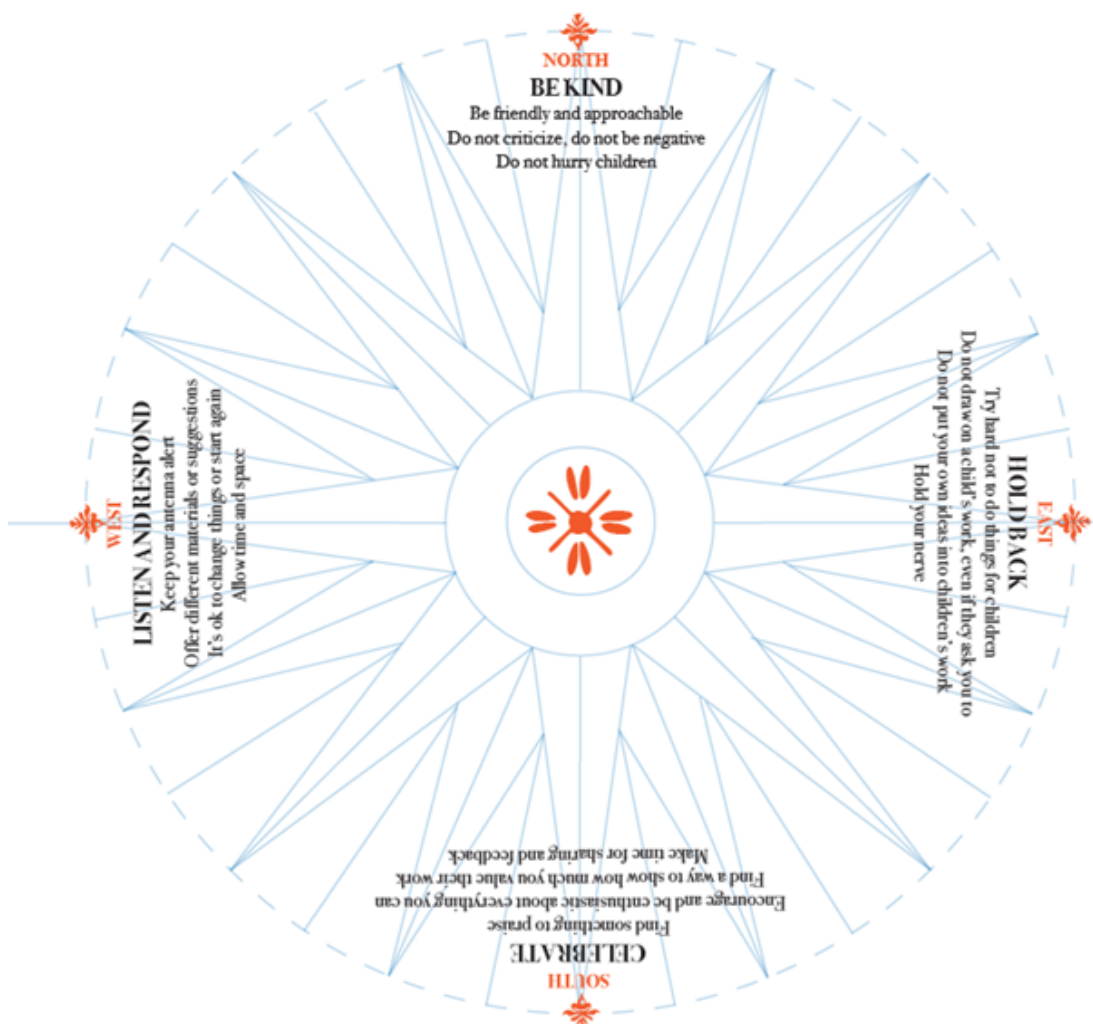
Creativity has the potential to unlock co-production possibilities, and build the relationships needed for effectively involving CYPF. Wherever possible, Fullscope works with artists, using creative resources and activities in both task and finish and on-going co-production projects.

Companionship Compass

Artscaping is the practice of exploring and creating in nature developed by Cambridge Curiosity and Imagination (CCI) through creative collaborations between artists, professionals, schools, and families. It embodies a collective way of being core to CCI's ongoing work.

Branching Out brought together CCI, the Cambridge Acorn Project and Fullscope, with academic partners at University College London and Anglia Ruskin University in 2022, to work together to learn how Artscaping might be scaled up to benefit more children. Teaching assistants, teachers and volunteers were trained to share elements of Artscaping in six schools across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The Compass was developed to guide and support them. Because of a shared belief that collaboration between children, artists, professionals, and communities is essential, the training resources for Branching Out were co-created with children from Mayfield Primary School (Cambridge). A class of 9/10 year olds worked with the team over two days to share and test out ideas and reflect on the most important values the new training resources should convey.

The Companionship Compass is a navigational aid designed to help adults find their way alongside children and young people as they set out to explore ideas and be creative together. Designed by artist Susanne Jasilek, this kinetic paper edition of the Compass has been commissioned by Fullscope as their manifesto for creative co-production.



Find out more about Creative Health projects at Fullscope

To request the full downloadable compass resource to utilise its navigational points for creative co-production, contact getinvolved@fullscopecollaboration.org.uk

Suggested further reading and resources

Children's Participation: From Tokenism to Citizenship by
Roger A Hart for Unicef

Convention on the Rights of the Child: Unicef

The Lundy Model for Participation

HeadStart evidence briefing 14: Youth participation: models
used to understand young people's participation in school
and community programmes

KA McKercher's work on co-design: Beyond Sticky Notes

National Survivor User Network: 4Pi Involvement Standards

The Sun Network, Cambridgeshire

**Find out more about involvement activity
through our projects at Fullscope:
www.fullscopecollaboration.org.uk/projects**

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Cambridge Curiosity & Imagination