



Why co-production matters to women with learning disabilities

For women whose voices have often been ignored, dismissed, or misunderstood, co-production is a more effective way of delivering safe, efficient, and sustainable services.

Women with learning disabilities who experience gender-based violence often face:

- ▶ Disbelief or minimisation
- ▶ Over-protection and/or removal of their autonomy
- ▶ Inaccessible services
- ▶ Decisions being made without their involvement and/or consent.

When services are designed without their input, barriers are often built in unintentionally.

Co-produced services can help women with learning disabilities by:

- ▶ Improving their accessibility and relevance
- ▶ Reducing assumptions about what support they need
- ▶ Strengthening trust
- ▶ Increasing engagement
- ▶ Creating more effective safeguarding and support.

Most importantly, it recognises lived experience as expertise.

Co-production means:

- ▶ Involving women early, not after decisions are made
- ▶ Giving them real influence over decisions
- ▶ Providing the support they need to participate meaningfully
- ▶ Valuing their lived experience equally alongside professional knowledge.

Co-production is not:

- ▶ A one-off consultation
- ▶ Asking for feedback on a finished plan
- ▶ Inviting someone to attend a meeting without power to shape outcomes
- ▶ Tokenistic representation.