

Spring Edition

May 2026 – issue 3

Hi and welcome to Shropshire co-production's Spring Newsletter.

It is starting to feel like winter is finally behind us and we can start to look forward to some better weather and longer days as well as some exciting things that are going to be happening in co-production.

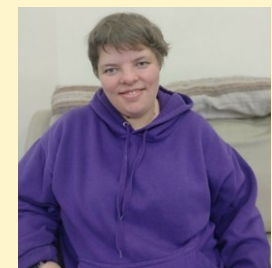
We hope you enjoy reading about some of the things that have been going on at Shropshire Council in co – production, collaboration and engagement. And don't forget to have a look at the opportunities at the end of the newsletter!

This newsletter has been co-produced by Beth Gardiner, Tanya Sudlow with Rachel Woods.

I think you'll agree Tanya and Beth have done an amazing job.



Beth Gardiner



Tanya Sudlow



In this edition:

<u>What's been going on in Shropshire council over the Spring?</u>	Page 3
<u>Interview with Sophie Davies</u>	Page 5
<u>Riverside Remembered</u>	Page 7
<u>Co-production Celebration advert</u>	Page 8
<u>People's Pool – Why not join!</u>	Page 9
<u>Latest Opportunities</u>	Page 10
<u>Thank you's</u>	Page 15



What's been going on in Shropshire Council this Spring?

Interviews

The Contracts team at Shropshire Council have been using people with Lived Experience on their interviewing panel for new staff. Here's what Lesley Richards from the Contracts Team had to say about it:

“ Having someone with lived experience of services on the interview panel was positive and added significant value to the process. The Expert by Experience contributed thoughtful, relevant insights and asked considered questions that clearly reflected their lived experience and an understanding of how services are experienced in practice. Their involvement helped to strengthen the discussion and provided a valuable perspective that complemented the rest of the panel.

Overall, it was a very good experience and demonstrated the benefits of continuing to involve Experts by Experience in recruitment and wider quality assurance activity.”

Lesley Richards Contracts Officer
Shropshire Council

Personal Alarms



In early Spring we held a workshop with people with lived experience about the Council's recommissioning of Turnstall Personal Alarm System. Here is some of the things people said about the session

“ On 24th February we held a Co-production workshop on community alarms supported by the team. It was a lively and interactive session which answered all of our questions but also gave us food for thought in other areas we hadn't thought of. Such a useful workshop, I came away with lots of ideas and information which will support me in my commissioning work.”



Julie Edmond (Commissioning Officer Independent Living)

The work is continuing , if you want to get involved, please get in touch co-production@shropshire.gov.uk

What did the people involved have to say?

“Thank you for inviting me to take part in the discussion. I found it very interesting and was pleased to be able to contribute. I hadn't previously thought much about personal alarms but now I realise that I must start to consider the whole area much more seriously.”

Peter Madley

“Through my 37 years of professional employment, i have always done some form of volunteering, but when i was forced to retire early due to health issues, all this needed to stop. So am very pleased to be able to feel like I can contribute back into Society in some small way through my participation in projects like this.”

Marc Morris

“ I felt comfortable and welcomed. Nobody pre-judged me , everybody was very considerate about taking turns. The meeting was very productive because everybody contributed from their own experiences”

Chris Smith

“Thanks for today I found it fun and each time I've helped you I've become more confident and less nervous”

If you're interested in getting involved but are feeling a bit nervous do get in touch to have a chat.





Meet Sophie

Tanya and Beth interviewed Sophie who has worked for Shropshire Council for 7 years. She has done lots of different jobs within that time, but her job now is **Shropshire Council's Co-production Lead.**

Sophie is passionate about co-production, collaboration and engagement.

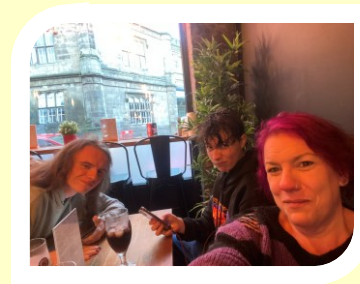
It's a way of working that she hopes everyone in Shropshire Council will be using before too long.

A lot of Sophie's job involves her working as part of a team either with other council staff or with people with lived experience, which she enjoys. However, some of her job involves her working on her own, like writing Easy Read Documents.

Producing Easy Reads involves turning a big, complicated document into something that is simple so everyone can read it. Sophie believes everybody should be able to read and understand all the documents Shropshire Council

produce. It is something that she does a lot of which is a good thing!

Outside of work she enjoys spending time with her two boys! Sophie loves music and enjoys going to lots of gigs. She is a very talented sewer and is particularly good at making costumes.



“When we as Shropshire Council are looking at services, either creating new ones or developing our existing services, it's so important that we involve the people that draw on that service. We as staff can sit here and go, oh, that looks great on paper, but we don't have the experience of using that service to know what we are proposing is going to work. We need to ask people who really know and understand the service because they live with it.”

What's next in Co-production, engagement and collaboration?

We are going to be looking at a toolkit to help Shropshire Council staff co-produce, collaborate and engage more with people who use services, in their work. And producing a co-production web pages.

We're also doing a piece of work on having more people with lived experience involved in the Interviewing process and sitting on interview panels.

The big thing that is about to be launched which has been talked about for a while is the People's Pool.

This means we'll have a record of the People with lived experience which will have details of their experience. This won't be just their lived experience, but also their learnt experience, and their interests as well. Then when we have council officers who want to co-produce,

"It's great to see co-production, collaboration and engagement taking off in the council. More people who work for the council are looking to use elements of co-production within their work.
Sophie Davies – Co-production Lead

collaborate or engage with a piece of work, we would match their request with the most appropriate person or people from the pool with that piece of work. We often say it'll be like a dating service!

Co-production week is coming up in June, so a big celebration is being planned for that.

What do you like most about your job?

I like doing easy reads and talking to people and meeting new people is a really exciting part of my job, but the best thing is getting people excited about co-production.

What one thing could the council do to make things better?

Give co-production a budget. This would help us to be more creative, get more people involved and to do more co-production.



Interviewer's - Beth and Tanya



Riverside remembered

Tanya and Beth met with Eloise Allan a project Support Officer in the Economic Growth Team at Shropshire Council to find out about a special project she is working on that she needs people to get involved in.



Eloise has worked for the council for 2 years and loves her job. She used to be a geography teacher. In her spare time, she looks after her cocker Spaniel called Percy who loves socks; she loves to read and has just set up a book group at Shropshire Council.

The project that Eloise is working on now is "Riverside Remembered"

This is about The Riverside Shopping Centre, which you may have noticed has recently been knocked down. In its place there will be a new public space as well as some buildings.



Although in recent years the shopping centre hasn't looked it's best, lots of people have fond memories of shopping at Riverside and visiting the night clubs attached to the shopping centre. In order to remember Riverside, it was felt that it would be a good idea to collect people's memories. She is keen for as many people as possible to be involved in this.

If you would like to be involved in this and have any photos or memories that you would like to share, here are a few ways you could do this.

You could go to one of their reminiscence groups; share any photos or memories through their portal or volunteer to conduct research at the Shrewsbury Archives.

Details of all of these can be found following the link below, as well as lots of further interesting information about The Riverside Shopping Centre.

[REMEMBERED — Smithfield Riverside](#)


So far there have been lots of memories shared. Eloise favourite memory so far is about the night The Stone Roses came to play in The Fridge night club. So many people came they had to move it into Park Lane!

Once all the information is collected there will be an exhibition at Shrewsbury Museum in January.



Did you know the Riverside Shopping Centre used to be a livestock Market!





You are all invited to

Shropshire council's
Celebration of co-production

Tuesday 16th June 2026
1:30 – 3:30

Council Chambers
Guildhall Shrewsbury
SY3 0HQ

Further details to follow!

If you would like to be involved in the Co-production celebration, please email: co-production@shropshire.gov.uk



Do you live in Shropshire and have recent lived experience of Shropshire Council social care services?

We'd love you to be part of something that makes a real difference. Your experience matters.

Join our People's Pool and help shape services by:

- Sharing what works – and what doesn't
- Helping redesign and improve services
- Taking part in meetings, workshops, and events
- Supporting staff recruitment and interviews

JOIN THE PEOPLE'S POOL TODAY

BE HEARD. BE VALUED. BE PART OF CHANGE.




Scan the QR code

Or email co-production@shropshire.gov.uk
to find out more

YOUR VOICE CAN HELP IMPROVE SERVICES FOR OTHERS.

Co-production, engagement and collaboration opportunities

Explore the latest **opportunities** with **Shropshire Council** and get involved — a few new roles have just launched, marked with a star. 

Will you be paid for being involved?

Unless otherwise stated, we are currently offering payment to Experts by Experience for their contribution to any Co-Production activity, they do with the council. This is inline with the Recognition and Rewards Plan and will be discuss at the first meeting with the co-production team.

It is your choice whether to accept payment for any Co - production opportunities you take part in.

How do you apply for get involved?

Email: co-production@shropshire.gov.uk, saying which opportunity you are interested in. A member of the co-production team will forward your contact details on to the project lead and they will be in contact with you directly.

The decision on who will be involved in the project will be made by the lead officer for the project.



Accommodation-based support and Community-based support Framework

- What:** Shropshire Council is creating a new model for accommodation-based and community-based care as part of our transformation programme. This will support the new All Age Accommodation Support and Community Based Care Frameworks and help make practice more consistent. Your input will guide future service planning and purchasing—helping people stay independent, safe, and in control while meeting Care Act and Procurement Act 2023 requirements.
- How Long:** 12 months (approx.)
- Online or in person:** Online and in-person options. No fixed limit on participant numbers.
- How many people are needed:** No fixed amount
- Who can take part:**
- Adults - including anyone who uses care or support services, attends day opportunities, or is thinking about future care needs
 - Young people
 - Parent carers of children and young people
 - Families
 - Unpaid carers
- How to apply:** Email co-production@shropshire.gov.uk



Co - production Toolkit

What:	We're creating a staff toolkit with practical guidance and tools to support successful co-production and engagement.
How Long:	3-4, 1-hour meetings
Online or in person:	Online
How many people	3 max
Who can apply	Anyone with an interests
How to apply:	Email: co-production@shropshire.gov.uk

Co-production webpages

What:	We are looking to create new council webpages for co-production, what it is, what we are doing and how people can get involved.
How Long:	To be set out at the first meeting.
Online or in person:	Online
How many people are needed:	3 max
Who can apply	Anyone with an interests
How to apply:	Email: co-production@shropshire.gov.uk

The following opportunities are voluntary, and no payment will be offered.



Suicide Prevention Webpage Development

What	Review the webpages to reflect the needs of people who use the webpages at a time of crisis, when experiencing thoughts of suicide- with aims of ensuring this webpages are as impactful as possible and provide the right support in the right way at the right time.
How long	Till 1 st August 2026
Online or in person	Both
How many people	No limit
Who can take part	people with variety of levels of digital skills.
How to apply	Email co-production@shropshire.gov.uk



The Healthy Shropshire Public Health Mental and Emotion Health support webpage (This opportunity is voluntary)

What	Review and refreshing Shropshire council's Mental Health webpage. Looking at how they can be designed clearer, accessible, inclusive, user friendly, helpful and without jargon and corporate language
How long	1 st June – 26 th June 2026
Online or in person	Both
How many people	10 - 15
Who can take part	Those who have tried to find mental health info and services for themselves or others. This opportunity is also open to any staff that use the website to signpost.
How to apply	Email co-production@shropshire.gov.uk



Nursing students Poster (This opportunity is voluntary)

What	Designing (with AI assistance) a poster advertising for student nurses within Worcester University in their first or second year of their nursing degree, the opportunities available on a placement with adult social care. Also, a handbook for the placement.
How long	1 st July – 14 th August 2026
Online or in person	Online
How many people	1 - 3
Who can take part	Adults who need be able to use Teams through their own laptop or phone. Desirable skills could include use of PowerPoint to actively design the poster (but not essential.) To have ideas about what experiences a student nurse may have on a placement within adult social care. Individuals who have had experience of working with professionals in adult social care and / or nursing staff.
How to apply	Email co-production@shropshire.gov.uk

Shropshire Council invites feedback on its new accommodation and community care plans, supporting independence and safety. Your input will shape future services.

[Accommodation-based and community-based support framework \(adults and children's\) | Get Involved - Shropshire Council Consultation Portal](#)

This consultation is open until 17 May 2026

Thanks for reading and a big thank you to Tanya and Beth for all their hard work it was a pleasure working with them!

If you have a story or project that you would like to see in the next edition of the newsletter, please email: co-production@shropshire.gov.uk

If you're not already registered on the co-production mailing list and would like to be kept up to date on opportunities to co-produce with the council and what's happening with all areas of co-production within Shropshire Council, contact the email address at the bottom of the page.

co-production@shropshire.gov.uk

