What is Coproduction?

Ireland's '*National Framework for Recovery in Mental Health' (2018-2020)* names coproduction as one of the four key principles for recovery, describing it as "**delivering public services in an equal and reciprocal relationship between professionals, people using services, their families and their neighbours.**" (*New Economics Foundation, 2009*). Informed by this, Mental Health Ireland has created a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on co-production. The MOU supports our staff, volunteers, and partners to use coproduction as one of our core processes.

Coproduction is a strengths-based process that looks to incorporate the end user as an equal participant from the very beginning and throughout the process, planning, development, delivery and evaluation. For Mental Health Ireland this means having people with lived and family experience of mental health challenges as active participants alongside professionals from community and voluntary sector, mental health services, or wider community representatives.

Coproduction is compatible with collaborations, partnership working and project management processes. It is intended to be outcomes focussed while also upholding the principles of empowerment, participation, equity, exploration, collaboration, power sharing, enhancing knowledge, relationship of equals and non-linear. Coproduction aligns with the highest standards of citizen participation and is evidence based as the most beneficial method of user involvement in mental health. (*New Economics Foundation, 2009*) (Page 16, fig. 2)