



in collaboration with



Evaluating differently: Supporting projects to co-produce evaluations

By Ruth Unstead-Joss from the Evaluation Exchange

Over the next 9 months, the [Evaluation Exchange](#) will be working with teams from across England that are participating in a learning programme that aims to strengthen understanding of evaluation, specifically on more participatory and co-produced evaluation approaches.

8 teams will participate in sessions that explore why and how they want to learn and reflect on their work. Over a series of 4 sessions and through one-to-one support, they will receive guidance as they plan, design and deliver evaluation activities in each of their team's unique contexts.

The 8 teams were selected through the [Measuring Success in Co-Production](#) programme, a funding initiative that aims to strengthen evaluation in co-production. The Evaluation Exchange is delighted to have been invited to the lead delivery of the teams' support around evaluation, and to be working in collaboration with the [Co-Production Collective](#), [UCL Grand Challenges](#) and the [Academy of Medical Sciences](#).

On 25th January, we ran our first 'Deepening Practice' session bringing the cohort of over 30 people together on-line. Through break-out room activities, people across teams began to meet and learn about each other for the first time. Teams explored the Evaluation Exchange's 'building blocks' approach to co-producing an evaluation plan. The approach encourages individuals to consider who the learning from a project is for, who might be involved in learning processes and in what ways. The approach, alongside case studies of participatory and co-produced evaluations shared by Dr Gemma Moore, challenged people to consider the different motivations that sit behind evaluation and to ensure that ways they gather information from their projects is relevant and appropriate to what they want to learn.

The Evaluation Exchange is a long-standing partnership between UCL and [Compost London](#). It was fantastic for us, as individuals from Compost London, UCL East's Community Engagement Team and UCL's Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment, to be able to deliver our first session together this year. The session was designed and facilitated in close collaboration with staff and lived-experience co-producers from the Co-Production Collective, and UCL Grand Challenges. We're looking forward to working together and supporting and learning from the funded teams over the coming year.