



## **3.3 Conducting a research coproduction project: A principle-based approach**

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# Overview

- Research coproduction is about *being with* knowledge users and *doing* [research] *with* knowledge users.
- Any research method could be more or less coproductive depending on the manner in which it is chosen, designed, applied, reflected on, and reported *with* knowledge users.
- Real world challenges such as time, budget, or institutional processes can constrain coproduction. These can be explored transparently with knowledge users.



## How can we coproduce research?

Two processes that transform research methods to be more coproductive are **dialogue** (explorative interaction with knowledge users) and **iteration** (evolving enquiry and learning with knowledge users).

Surrounding these two processes, five principles of coproduction should be applied: (1) Sharing power; (2) Including all perspectives; (3) Respecting and valuing the research knowledge users equally; (4) Reciprocity; and (5) Building relationships.

# Key Learning Points

- Research coproduction cannot be achieved through using specific methods. Instead, it is an approach to working with knowledge users through dialogue and iteration.
- Knowledge users and researchers can collaborate on every step of a research project with each other, holding as closely as possible to the five principles of research coproduction.
- Typical research structures and processes can present challenges to achieving these in practice and compromises may have to be made. This could be part of the dialogue with knowledge users to make it transparent and negotiated compromise.

# Key Learning Points

- It takes time to develop skills, capabilities, and confidence in research coproduction. Start small, reflect with knowledge users on how efforts can be improved, and be transparent.