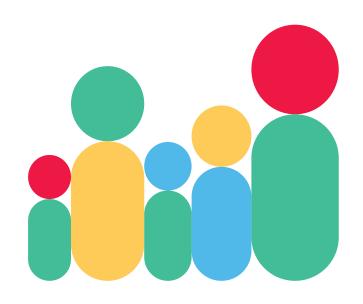# The Importance of Co-Designing.

What is co-design?

Co-design is a great way to bring a range of people together with differing needs and wants around a common goal. By pursuing this more participative approach with a range of stakeholders, you are more likely to remove bias and have an end experience/activity that is more reflective of the range of community stakeholders you serve.

Co-designing with young people is a great way to ensure their voices and perspectives are seen heard and acknowledged.

Benefits of co-design

A Person-centered approach

Co-design asks service providers and service users to consider things from each others perspectives, and to use these learnings as the basis for designing changes.

Makes ideas, experiences and possibilities visible and tangible

Using a variety of methods, solutions become tangible, and complex systems become accessible to a range of people who may have different perspectives and knowledge about the system.

Starts with a desired end

Think of what you want to achieve, and work backwards from there.

It is inclusive

Co-design processes draw on many perspectives, people, experts, disciplines and sectors.

Focuses on developing practical, real-world solutions

Co-design involves testing and refining ideas until mutually beneficial solutions are found.

How to co-design activities.

1.

Build a group that is representative of all those who will be impacted by the activities - you want to design with them, not for them.

2.

Create a shared group vision to reflect what a meaningful end result looks like for your group

3.

Remove bias within the group through a range of empathy exercises to enable more lived experience to be shared

4.

Start generating ideas on activities from the group and creatively build upon them

5.

Test them out and ask the group to reflect on whether the activities worked

6.

Playback and showcase work at every stage to enable constructive feedback on activities from the broad group