Designing public engagement for policy-making

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About Involve
My case

1. Policy-making is a design challenge – and you might need public engagement to solve it

1. Taking a design approach to public engagement is likely to make it much more successful for you

1. Case studies
Policy-making as a design challenge

- Direct experience (or lived experience)
- Ethical issues
- Can have benefits: greater acceptance, increased ambition
- When to do engagement
A design approach to public engagement
Case studies
Youth mental health

Aims to give young people a voice in shaping mental health prevention, support, and services in their local area

Early in the policy-making process: priorities, as well as solutions

Methodology: Community Champion (Citizen Researchers)
- Youth-led throughout
- Key decision-makers and research engagement from the start
- Peer-to-peer approach

Impact: Implementation of recommendations
Data sharing and public benefit

Two parts:
- Cabinet Office thinking around government legislation
- Working with local areas around health and social care, housing and criminal justice

Bringing civil society together with decision-makers

**Methodology: Deliberative workshops**
- Simple and quick method
- Good match for audience
- Local areas: building relationships

**Impact: More ambition**
Mitochondria replacement
A major public dialogue to review the ethical, social and regulatory issues involved in mitochondria replacement and provide the main contribution to HFEA’s advice to Government

Policy makers view

Perhaps surprisingly, the public supported the “new techniques if it could prevent serious illness. They had little objection to its being approved for clinical use as long as it was rigorously overseen by an appropriate regulatory body.”

Professor Jon Jenkins, Chair of HFEA, said:

"The HFEA agreed to a public dialogue because there is a strong case for giving members of the public the chance to discuss issues and raise any concerns. The dialogue itself was facilitated by Sciencewise, and was also co-funded by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.”
Mitochondrial replacement therapy

Should mitochondrial replacement therapy be legalised in the UK?

Commissioned by HEFA, through Sciencewise programme

Methodology: Mixed method including:
• Deliberative workshops – diverse cross-section of population
• Opinion poll – representative sample of population
• Focus groups with mitochondrial disease sufferers

Impact: Legalised with conditions (e.g. how regulated, information given). This become the HEFA’s advice to government. The government’s position drew heavily on this advice. Mitochondrial replacement therapy was legalised with conditions, after a Commons debate which referenced the engagement work.
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