

ARE YOU REALLY CO-CREATING?

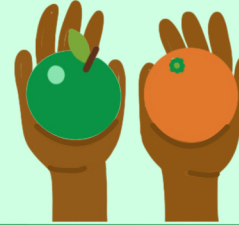
In 2021, Peer Power conducted research exploring the different ways Youth Justice Services (YJS) throughout England and Wales design their services.



We learnt that many YJS misunderstood the difference between co-creation, coercion and everything in between.



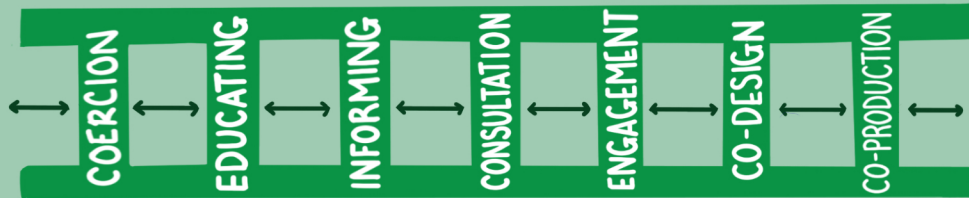
Some thought they were co-designing when, in fact, they were coercing.



It's confusing, we get it, and we want to help you on this journey. That's the purpose of the resources we've created for you.



To start with, we created a 'flat ladder' to demonstrate the continuum between coercion and co-production.



We identified how different YJS across England and Wales are approaching activities from different 'rungs' on the ladder. Let's take participation sessions as an example:

If it is part of an intervention plan that is:

- constructed by YJ practitioners
- sanctionable if children fail to attend.

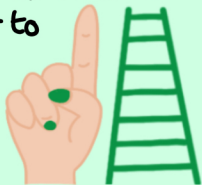
If it is part of an intervention plan that is:

- agreed with the child,
- not sanctionable.

THIS IS COERCION

THIS IS ENGAGEMENT

The challenge with using a ladder as an analogy is that it is too linear. We didn't want you to think it was a scale and, in order to co-create you could only use one rung of the ladder.



The reality is that the participation continuum is more like a pick and mix; you can choose how you approach each of your activities.



So we've mapped out some real-life examples from our research onto a sweet shop.



You can use the sweet shop to assess your YJS strengths; which of these are you doing already and where are they placed on the continuum?



Which activities do you aspire to develop at your YJS?



Where is your YJS in relation to the five foundations for participation & co-creation?

