Co-Production Collective Journey of Change: Challenge Tree

The aim of a 'challenge tree' is to establish a single, overarching 'Challenge Statement' (the trunk) which Co-Production Collective is seeking to change. This is intended to be ambitious but ultimately something we can significantly contribute to.

Beneath this Challenge Statement are the root causes (tree roots). These are all the contributing factors that cause the Challenge to exist. In reality, these are challenges in themselves which need to be overcome. The aim of the tree approach is to ensure that all the root causes are contributing to the Challenge Statement. This allows Co-Production Collective to set a direction of travel and identify all the things that need to be done along the way to get there. The green canopy of leaves above the trunk shows the effects of the problem.

In the first workshop, the four breakout groups came up with lots of ideas relating to Challenge Statements, root causes and effects. Since then, the team have brought these ideas together into a draft Challenge Statement with three groups of root causes, plus a few examples – these are shown in the diagram and tables below. The effects are also shown in the tree image, but they will be a focus for later in the process so haven't been included elsewhere.

The diagram and tables below all share the same information, but in different formats to help with accessibility.

If you would like to see the full notes from the session and thematic analysis, you can visit the Miro board in view only mode (this guide explains how to move around on Miro).
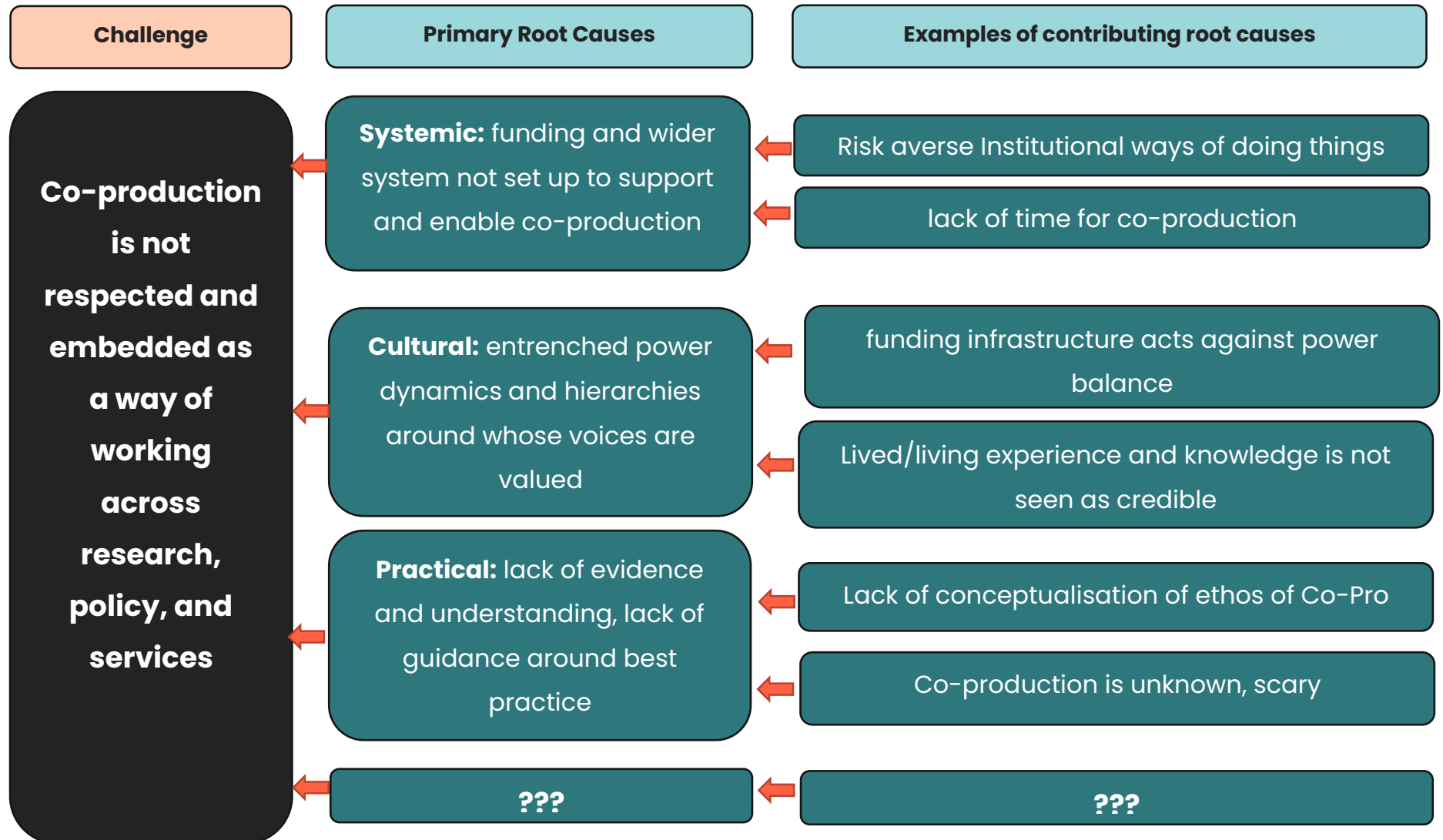
Tree format

inequalities continued

Lack of evidence of the value of working this way

Difficulty working with organisations who don't use co-pro well

power remains unshared and unequal

research doesn't meet the needs of people

Research gets away with bad practice

discrimination and stigma, lack of education

Research lacks access to required knowledge & experience

tokenistic practice

Co-production starts after the research question is set

Voices unheard

Co-pro is not done OR done badly

Co-prod used as a buzzword

Co-production is not respected and embedded as a way of working across research, policy and services

Systemic – funding and wider system not set up to support and enable co-production

Cultural – entrenched power dynamics and hierarchies around whose voices are valued

Practical – lack of evidence and understanding, lack of guidance around best practice

Risk averse Institutional ways of doing things

lack of time for co-production

Lack of conceptualis-ation of ethos of Co-Pro

co-production is unknown, scary

funding infrastructure acts against power balance

Service users knowledge not seen as valid or credible

Table Format

Challenge	Primary Root cause	Example Contributing Root Cause
Co-production is not respected and embedded as a way of working across research, policy, and services	**Systemic:** funding and wider system not set up to support and enable co-production	Risk averse Institutional ways of doing things
		Lack of time for co-production
	Cultural: entrenched power dynamics and hierarchies around whose voices are valued	Funding infrastructure acts against power balance
		Service users' knowledge is not seen as valid or credible
	Practical: lack of evidence and understanding, lack of guidance around best practice	Lack of conceptualisation of ethos of Co-Pro
		Co-production is unknown, scary
	???	???

Flow diagram format

Challenge	Primary Root Causes	Examples of contributing root causes
Co-production is not respected and embedded as a way of working across research, policy, and services	**Systemic:** funding and wider system not set up to support and enable co-production	Risk averse Institutional ways of doing things
		lack of time for co-production
	Cultural: entrenched power dynamics and hierarchies around whose voices are valued	funding infrastructure acts against power balance
		Lived/living experience and knowledge is not seen as credible
	Practical: lack of evidence and understanding, lack of guidance around best practice	Lack of conceptualisation of ethos of Co-Pro
		Co-production is unknown, scary
	???	???

Questions

Have a read through the diagrams and tables above, and share your responses to the following questions:

1. Does the Challenge Statement capture the big problem Co-Production Collective exists to tackle? Could it be improved?

2. Do the primary root causes make sense? Is there anything missing?

3. Most importantly, if the three primary root causes (systemic, cultural, practical) were addressed, would the challenge be overcome? Please note – the contributing root causes are only examples from the workshop and may fit under more than one primary root cause. They're not set in stone and don't need too much focus yet.

4. Is there anything else you'd like to comment on or question?

You can respond [via this online form](#) or in an email to [coproduction@ucl.ac.uk](#). The deadline for responding is **Thursday 19 May**. More information about payment is available [in our blog](#).

Thank you!