Visual methods and lay language aid co-production with children

Co-producing with children and young people for a meta-ethnography on experiences of chronic pain, treatments and services

Methods

Patient and public involvement
Meta-ethnography
Visual methods

Characteristics and approach of patient and public involvement (PPI):

- Thirty-three stakeholders: children aged 8-20 years, parents, health professionals and third-sector representatives
- Co-production of all aspects of a meta-ethnography via bespoke online meetings, email, phone calls
- Innovative methods to involve stakeholders:
  - Infographics to show screening results
  - Cartoons to help discuss findings
  - Plain lay language

Results

Figure 2. Example of cartoon developed to share ambiguous or controversial findings with children:

Feedback from PPI on cartoon content gave these insights:

1. Concept of ‘control’ was used in primary studies without clear definitions or adequate consideration of its meaning to parents and children with chronic pain
2. ‘Control’ could mean something quite different to a parent versus a child or young person
3. Parents and children perceived the term ‘control’ negatively, e.g. it implied that a child could control their pain and its impacts

Conclusion: Co-production with PPI ensured the relevance and usefulness of the review outputs, clarified ambiguous and controversial findings and was key to producing meaningful findings to enhance policy and practice. Visual methods and plain lay language were key to aiding co-production.

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