

Asset Based Community Development

Workshop 1: 4 and 5 April 2019; Workshop 2: 6 and 7 June 2019

Both workshops will be led by Cormac Russell of Nuture Development, and take place at Mary Stevens Hospice, Stourbridge DY8 2JR.

During the first two days, participants will learn about the guiding principles of ABCD in theory and practice, have time out in which to work up their plans for projects, and then come back together for a further two days. **Because of this approach, which will help you to develop the practice in your hospice, participants should come to both workshops and, ideally, attend in pairs.**

Workshop 1: 4 and 5 April 2019

Overview

The learning experience focuses on the historical context of ABCD, its theoretical framework and some practical tools; providing you with the skills and information you need to start your ABCD initiative. The belief is that 'the medium is the message'; not only do participants gain new knowledge but they experience community building in practice through practical illustration and use of tools and techniques. Everyone will take away something new in their practice.

What will you learn over the two days?

The workshop will:

- give you an understanding of the history of ABCD, relating it to your experience of community development
- explain the 5 guiding principles of ABCD in both theory and practice
- identify the 6 building blocks or assets of community building, exploring how these can be identified, connected and mobilised in the neighbourhood context
- share the 8 touchstones of community building, offering stories and examples of their application
- identify the ABCD Tools for Change, eg Learning Conversations and Asset Mapping
- involve you in activities and exercises that you can then use in practice
- use stories and case studies of ABCD in action from our Learning Sites, in the UK and around the world, to highlight effective practice.

What will you be able to do after this workshop?

You'll be able to take ABCD into action in a way that is respectful of the local context and, ultimately create safer, healthier, more economically and environmentally vibrant places to live. You'll be able to use what's strong where you live/ and or work to deal with what's wrong but also to make what's strong, stronger.

Workshop 2: 6 and 7 June 2019

Overview

This workshop builds on ABCD Training Part 1 and provides an opportunity to develop a framework for the effective establishment of Asset Based Community Development initiatives in the local context. You will be guided through a series of questions to explore how you can support citizen-driven community building in a way which is timely, proportionate and specific to your context. Built around the 7 Top Tips for supporting citizen-driven community building, the facilitator will work with participants to create actionable next steps to bring their initiatives to life.

What will you learn over the two days?

The workshop is made up of the following eight learning sessions.

Session 1: Finding a trusted local association with sufficient infrastructure to act as a host for the work is one of the biggest challenges when attempting to proliferate more citizen-led action. The session will explore sustainable means of discovering and supporting hosts, as well as exploring ways of hosting paid 'community animators'.

Session 2: This session looks at how to shift the focus from 'deliverables' to 'discoverables' and to start making the invisible visible, in traditional top-down cultures. The motto of this session is 'don't be helpful, be interested' Participants will learn practice-based techniques for working in this way, while exploring the dilemmas they are likely to encounter when shifting their practice and organisation in this direction.

Session 3: Effective community building goes at the speed of trust, not a funding cycle nor an election cycle. It is messy, slow and real. It takes generations, evolving over decades not years. Hence this session explores what this means in practice, at a leadership level (strategically and at a policy level), and in terms of commissioning.

Session 4: This session explores the politics of ABCD and commonly held misinterpretations such as: ABCD is a veil for making cuts; ABCD is a version of the 'big society'; ABCD focuses only on the positive and minimises community problems. At the end of the session, you will have compelling counter arguments that offer people a deeper, more balanced account of the approach.

Session 5: Supporting the establishment of a community connectors circle is critical to the authenticity of the process. This session gets really practical about finding, connecting and supporting connectors to connect with each other and collectivising their efforts. The session considers three case studies that illustrate good practice, and examines some examples of poor practice.

Session 6: Getting the scale right is critical. This session asks 'How do we scale down a culture that tends to scale up?' It gets practical about working on a local scale and explores common challenges and how to develop the case for working in this way.

Session 7: The primary focus and outcome of this work is the growth of a culture of community. It is not about converting people to Asset Based Community Development. Hence the session has two objectives:

- to look at the core purpose of ABCD – to support local residents to develop a culture of community
- to shift the focus away from getting people to adopt ABCD, towards proliferating deeper practice and more community-driven action.

The session will examine effective processes for training/organisational development which result in deeper and more widespread community-building practice and explore the concepts of Helping 4.0 and Nuture Development's Theory of Practice-based Change.

Session 8: The aim of this session is to enable each participant to bring their learning from the others session together into a coherent local, iterative process that fits their context.

[What will you be able to do after this workshop?](#)

After the workshop, you will be able to:

- develop and implement a dynamic framework for the proliferation of authentic and sustainable community-driven change
- maintain the integrity of the ABCD principles while supporting genuine impact on the ground
- support your organisation and allied organisations to make the shift from deficit models of delivery to asset-based community development
- promote asset-based commissioning
- establish a strong grounding in the political philosophy of ABCD and respond to criticism and obstacles.