Nurture Development
Development - Redefined

Proliferating Asset Based Community Development

Mick Ward

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Why ABCD is Crucial

“No society has the money to buy, at market prices, what it takes to raise children, make a neighbourhood safe, care for the elderly, make democracy work or address systemic injustices.....

The only way the world is going to address social problems is by enlisting the very people who are now classified as ‘clients’ and ‘consumers’ and converting them into co-workers, partners and rebuilders of the core economy”

Professor Edgar Cahn, US-based civil rights lawyer and inventor of Timebanks
Delivering Asset Based Community Development

ABCD Key Principles:

• Having friends and valued relationships is key to people leading the life they choose
• People are supported to connect and share their gifts, passions and interests where they live
• Reciprocity is vital for community and individual well-being.
• Everybody has a valuable contribution to make
• The assets of an area (as defined by the people who live there) are recognised and celebrated
• Communities are best placed to know what needs changing and make the changes
“Everything done, is to us & without us.”
(Medical Model)

“Everything done, is done for us; without us.”
(Charity Model)

“Nothing for us, without us.”
(Social Model, Advocacy, Co-design/Co-production/Asset-based Approaches)

“Done by Us for Us.”
(Asset-Based Community Development)

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**Expert**

**Gapper**

**Alongsider/Animator**
Proliferating ABCD

The ABCD ‘Framework’

Asset Based ‘Ways of Working’
ABCD ‘Framework’ - Establishing ‘Pathfinder’ sites in Leeds (from 3 to 14):

- Commissioning Community Builders
- Identifying Community Connectors
- Local Led Asset Mapping
- Use of Small Sparks Funding
- Establishing Infrastructure Support
Impact

Adapted from: ‘The 7 Functions of Community’ Russell & McKnight

• Community Cohesion and Community Safety
• Local Environment
• Education
• Family Life
• Food
• Local Economy
• Health and Wellbeing
Things to still think about

- It is a move away from ‘service land’ not from responsibilities
- It is about some services radically changing and even ending
- You do need to invest in pathfinders at a local level
- Need to establish infra structure to support ABCD
- Some things that emerge may need some ‘small sparks’ funding – but do not over fund
- Recognise it’s a relational activity (not a traditional project or procurement approach)
- Let a hundred flowers blossom (and let some wilt!)
- Need to measure impact
- It will reduce demand on Adult Social Care and NHS – but over time
- It can fundamentally change the relationship between a Local Authority,