

# A LIFE NOT A SERVICE: WHAT IS ASSET BASED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENTS (ABCD)?

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## **Workshop aims:**

To introduce the principles and practice of Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) to people (both citizens and professionals) who want to support community led action, learn about the methodology and be inspired by local examples

# What is Asset Based Community Development

ABCD stands for Asset-Based Community Development and it refers to a type of community development.

ABCD challenges the traditional deficit-based approach that tries to solve urban and rural development problems by focusing on the needs and deficiencies of individuals, neighbourhoods, villages, schools etc.

It is a lens through which we can support citizens and practitioners to effect more community driven development and to validate and celebrate that which is already happening.

(Nurture Development)

# What is Asset Based Community Development?

ABCD supports citizens committed to the development of effective community alternatives to institutional responses. It builds on the work of those who are passionate about reducing institutionalisation. It is based on the belief that people primarily want a life not a service and that the best way to get a 'good life' is by increasing interdependency in communities.

(Nurture Development)

**ABCD sees the world as glass 'half full'**



# What are our assets?

- the skills of local people;
- the power of relationships;
- the input of public, private and non-profit institutions;
- the physical and economic resources of an area;
- the legacy of success in every community

# Neighbourhood

**‘The optimum scale at which to do Asset Based Community Building is in a neighbourhood as defined by local people (not to be confused with an electoral ward) of approximately 3,000-5,000’**

# Community is at the heart





# Steps Community Builders take

- As a Community Builder we walkabout in a neighbourhood finding local Community Connectors
- Find and connect passions finding out what local people care enough about to act on
- Asset Mapping – identify local skills, talents, groups and organisations
- From passion to action – hold an ideas fair to agree what can be done to make the community ever stronger
- HOLD COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE
- Match Funds – not a grant - and other external resources can help the activity already started
- Celebrate the shared vision should be celebrated and disseminated widely

**A Community Connector is trusted,  
passionate, rooted..**



# Connector in New Addington



*“The reason I volunteer is based around my idea of what being a citizen is all about. Knowing your neighbours, how to support them and how they can support you as a community. I seek to learn more about Community, health and education I can honestly say that my knowledge has dramatically improved by working alongside James and local residents.*

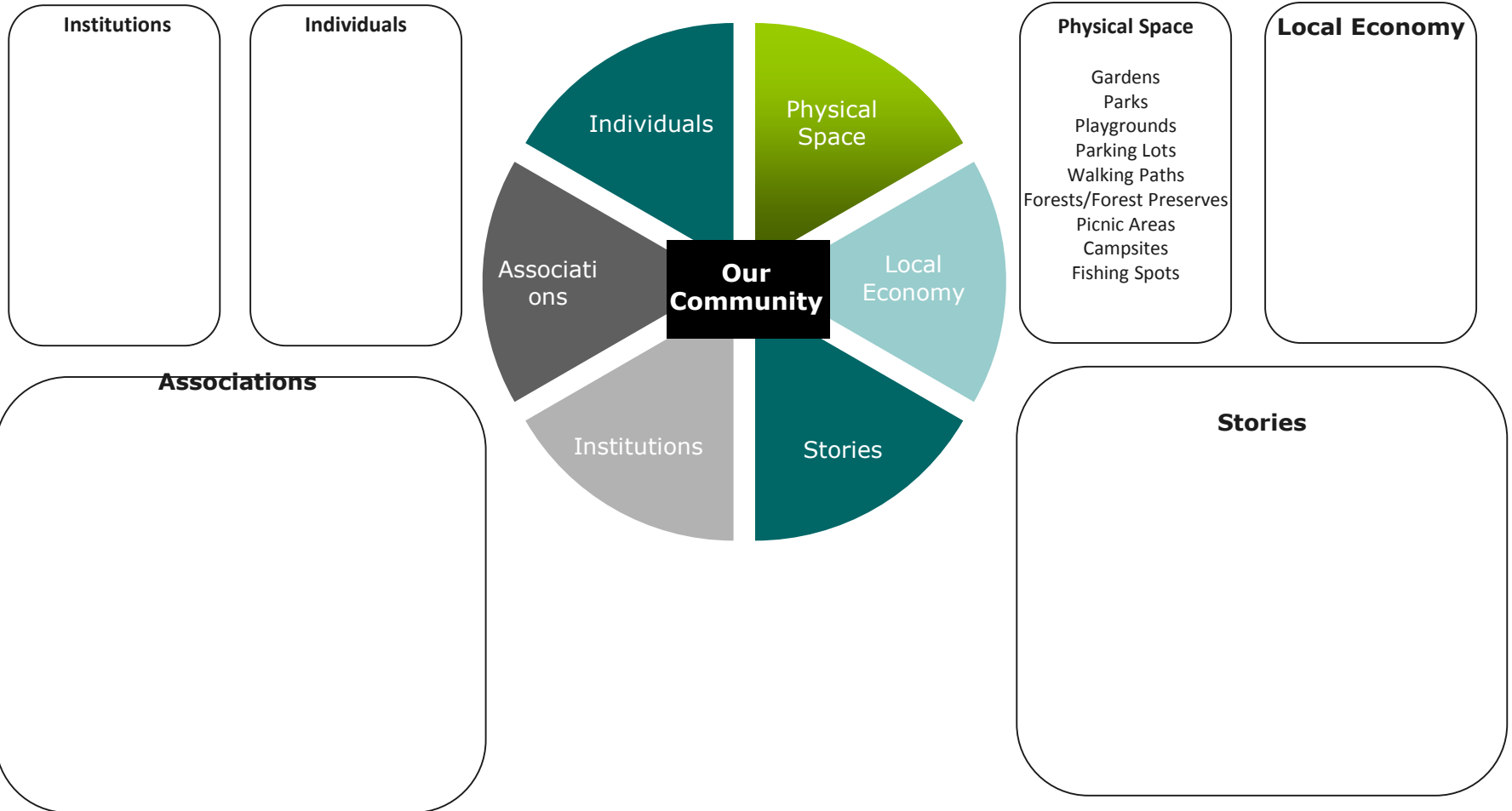
*I only work with people I can trust and rely on. My highlights so far have been meeting the Mayor of Croydon at CVA AGM, being involved in meetings creating partnerships integral to Health in the Community and connecting to new exciting local opportunities”*

**Sahra Ahmed, Health Connector- 08.02.19**

# Community conversations

- What do you care about enough to act upon?
- What gifts, skills and knowledge can you bring to address what you care about?
- What would it take for you to work with others who share your concern?
- Do you know anybody else whose assets you can tap into?

# Asset mapping



# No such thing as 'Hard to reach'

Age

Gender

Sexuality

Disability

Faith

Social Class

Race/ethnicity

# Agencies stepping back

TO

FOR

WITH

BY

# ABCD in Croydon 2011 - 2019

- I Love Thornton Heath;
- Croydon Community Connectors;
- Family Power;
- Making Every Contact Count (Social Prescribing);
- Big Local Broad Green;
- Best Start;
- **Day Opportunities;**
- MOPAC 'Communities Against Hate Crime';
- Young Londoner's Fund (YLF) 'CROYDON: One Post Code'



# ABCD initiative: **Thornton Heath Community Garden**





LIVING IN  
POETRY  
FESTIVAL!



abcdinstitute.org

A Village

17 different countries

ABCD stories

GAPS 2 MAPS

Culture, life not service

politics of small



Community has a Job  
Produce abundance ...

If we don't do it  
it won't get done

friendship  
love ...

\*ABCD\*  
Assets start small



Simple doable universe

\*know what assets are\*

Gifts & Capacities of People

hidden in every team, diversity of DFTs



All around you  
is what you looking for  
not what you buy

Vision  
What we can do  
What help needed  
We are the Producer  
not the Client ...

Empty v's full

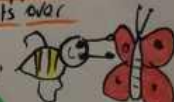
What phrase captures today

What do we want from tomorrow



3?':  
What can people do themselves?  
With some help?  
What do we need others to do?

- all right people are there
- Start is the right time
- Whatever happens is the only thing important
- when over its over



nowadays  
PEOPLE NEED  
A GOOD LISTENING TO



WHAT'S YOUR BURNING QUESTION?

**Gifts shared...**