

# ABCD in Action: A Workshop for ABCD Practitioners in the Field



New Training Programme

# The Trainers

**Nurture Development is a training and consultancy organisation that works with interested groups who want to learn more about ABCD. We are the only strategic partners of the ABCD Institute in Europe. Our core team is:**



**Cormac Russell** is a respected social innovator, author, adviser and keynote speaker.

He is a recognised leader in the Asset-Based Community Development movement, and a faculty member of the Asset-Based Community Development Institute. Over the last 20 years Cormac has worked in over 30 countries around the world. He is passionate about the proliferation of community-driven change and citizen-centred democracy, and has supported hundreds of communities to make ABCD visible through what he calls ABCD Neighbourhood Learning Sites. His motto, paraphrasing Benjamin Franklin, is: 'When it comes to Community Building, well done is better than well said'.



**Shaun Burnett** is the most recent addition to the Nurture Development team.

He balances his time between mentoring community building initiatives and practising as a community builder closer to home in North Ayrshire, Scotland. He has a passion for community-driven change, in particular, how communities harness and nurture the energy of young people to drive change.

With a varied background, Shaun's previous experiences include stabilisation at a local level in Afghanistan and youth work in various settings including working with young people with disabilities. His experience to date has left him with the firm notion that 'the wise need the young, as much as the young need the wise.'



**Paul Macey** has delivered presentations, trainings and workshops across the UK in places such as the Isle of Wight, Bangor and Ayrshire.

Paul has been a Community Builder in Croydon Voluntary Action for over four years. His work in Croydon has played a major part in a range of community-driven activities, including the annual Thornton Heaths Arts Week and the Valley Park Healthy Living Space.

Paul has been a Community Development Worker for over 25 years. He has worked as an equalities consultant, a trainer, and a journalist. He has also written for publications that include *The Voice*, *The Guardian* and *The Independent*.



**Jennine Bailey** has been mentored by Cormac Russell since 2010 and she now mentors and coaches other

Community Builders in areas such as Cirencester, Thurrock and Matson.

Jennine has delivered training sessions and workshops for commissioners, councils and voluntary sector organisations. She has also worked as a Community Builder in various ABCD initiatives with Croydon Voluntary Action. Her work in the West Croydon Social Recovery initiative developed a movement of citizen-led action, lauded by the Greater London Authority as a huge success. She is also a Director of Success Through Art, which works to support children and young people to gain qualifications through the arts.

# The Experience

We bring the following to our training:

## We are recognised thought leaders

Our thinking on ABCD has been published in academic journals and publications in the UK and abroad. Cormac continues to work with Professor John McKnight and other members of the ABCD Institute faculty on the ongoing development of the approach. We have a conceptual and on-the-ground understanding of ABCD that ensures that we can advise and train at both policy and practice levels.

## We are established trainers in both the UK and abroad

During 2015 we delivered over 100 workshops and keynotes to 10,000+ people. We have worked on a diverse range of subject matters, including public safety, public health, inclusion, children and young people, older people, social care, community housing, prison reform, recovery and many others besides. All of our workshops are informed by what we are learning in neighbourhoods throughout the UK and beyond, where we have spent several years working side by side with practitioners and local residents.

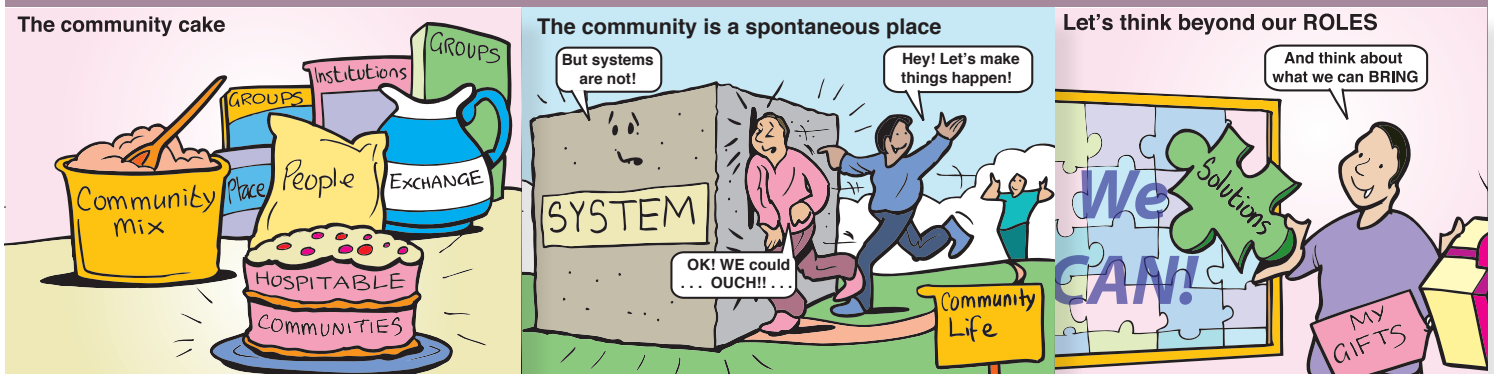
## We understand what works (and what doesn't):

Since 1996 we have built up practical knowledge and experience in the implementation of ABCD and other strengths-based approaches in Europe, Africa and North America. We have had successes and failures and believe in sharing our learning from both. There is no one 'right' way to do ABCD and we have learned, through experience, how to navigate the different socio-political environments. We are 'doing it' in a broad range of communities across the UK today.

Currently, as well as delivering workshops, we are working directly with Community Builders, local residents and commissioners to focus on what is strong, not what is wrong. This allows us to bring real examples and stories of how ABCD is working in a wide variety of communities.

## Learning by doing

Our workshops are dynamic and interactive. We believe that people change their lives by doing, not by passively listening, and our workshops reflect that belief. During our sessions we introduce and use the tools, activities and exercises that we have developed, to bring ABCD alive in communities and neighbourhoods.



# Two Day Workshop for ABCD Practitioners in the Field

## An Overview

**"I have been impressed by the urgency of doing.**

**Knowing is not enough; we must apply.**

**Being willing is not enough. We must do."**

*Leonardo da Vinci*

If you have been applying ABCD in your practice and have already completed an ABCD workshop with Nurture Development, it may be a good time to review and consolidate your work and your experiences. This workshop will offer practical examples and excellent course material, making it the ideal way to take ABCD from theory to practice or if already using ABCD to deepen your practice with Europe's leading ABCD support providers.

The workshop will be delivered by members of our team who are working or have worked as ABCD Community Builders in neighbourhoods of all shapes and sizes including Croydon, Thurrock, South Africa, Limerick (Ireland) and North Ayrshire in Scotland. They will share their stories and experiences and advise you on what makes up good practice and how to help bring about deep and sustainable change.

## ABCD in Practice Two-Day Workshop

### What will you learn:

#### This workshop will:

- Identify and illustrate practical ways of starting your ABCD journey in a community, including:
  - how to find connectors
  - have learning conversations
  - conduct community led asset mapping
  - start a small sparks initiative
  - grow the associational base of a community
- Provide tips for convening a connector group and demonstrate how to steadily relocate authority so they take the lead.
- Illustrate ways of supporting young Community Builders to become involved and learn the craft of Community Building.
- Identify processes for working ethically to relocate authority and power.
- Provide a practical pack of ABCD tools for use in your work.

### What will you be able to do?

- You will have a better understanding of the practical application of ABCD and how to put ABCD into action in living neighbourhoods in a way that is respectful of the local context; and ultimately create safer, healthier, more economically and environmentally vibrant places to live. You will be able to use what's strong in the neighbourhood where you live and/or work to deal with what's wrong, but also make what's strong, stronger.

# Our Experience

## Some of the workshops we have delivered:

- Big Lottery Fund
- Local Councils: Glasgow, Isle of Wight, Bristol, Aberdeen, Fife, Gateshead, Croydon, Kirklees etc.
- ABCD Masterclass, Groengin Congress, Scheidam, The Netherlands
- West London Mental Health Trust
- National Social Care, Department of Health
- Macmillan Cancer Support
- NHS Ayrshire & Arran
- Local Government Association
- Scottish Families Affected by Drugs and Alcohol
- National Federation for Social Housing, Denmark
- Wellspring Foundation, Kigali, Rwanda

## Conferences & keynote addresses

- Cambridge Council & Community Engagement Team Directors Conference
- National Federation of Social Housing: Copenhagen, Denmark
- Health and Social care conference at Housing and Community Care: Perth, UK
- Power to the People Conference: Preston, Australia
- Facilitation of the conference for Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust
- CoAction Journeys in Partnership Conference: Cork, Ireland