**Learning Site Programme**

**Appendix A : Favourable conditions for community building**

Nurture Development has been supporting learning sites in the United Kingdom since 2011, in that time, we have identified some key conditions in which citizen-led action has the strongest environment to build upon. As the existing network of Learning Sites has grown in the UK and Australia there have been some important learnings around what constitutes ‘favourable conditions’ at the beginning of the learning journey.

These favourable conditions are not intended to be selection criteria or a prescription, they are offered as a self-appraisal tool to support understanding regarding optimal starting point.

The favourable conditions we propose are not to create a barrier; they are to identify readiness.

From our experience these conditions provide a nurturing environment for citizen led action to flourish. We invite the reader to be honest and reflective of the conditions that they find locally in the community they serve.

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| **Favourable Conditions – Local Community** |
| 1. Community Building efforts makes sense within the current context of the community; they fit with and are supported by other resident-led efforts. |
| 2. There is willingness on the part of a small group of local residents, ideally between 8 and 15, to engage, develop and shape the inclusive community building efforts in the future . The initiating group would be willing to form some sort of circle of connectors (tailored to the local context) with a commitment to weave together other residents in their neighbourhood, with the ongoing support of a Community Animator. |
| 3. There is clear evidence of a genuine hospitality for the stranger, demonstrated through acts of welcoming those that sit on the fringes of community life into associational life with other local residents. |
| 4. There is a commitment to connect directly with residents and associations towards the goal of support local residents in defining a community-driven agenda for change. |
| 5. There is a willingness to come together to host local gatherings sharing stories and celebrating the success of the local citizen led activity. |
| 6. There is evidence of buy in from local organisations and business to support citizen led action. |

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| **Favourable Conditions – Host Organisation** |
| 7. There is an organisation(s) that is rooted in the community. There is no requirement for the host to have a premises locally; they must however have an understanding of and deep connections in the community. |
| 8. The Support Agency has an understanding of the principles and methodologies of Asset Based Community Development. |
| 9. Share the values of Asset Based Community Development and Community Building;   * Dedicated to the values of inclusion, social justice and the relocation of power to citizens. * A genuine commitment to "Whats strong, no what's wrong"      * Residents are seen and treated as citizens and co-producers, not clients or consumers of programmes * Explicit acknowledgement that local families and communities have unique competencies that cannot be replaced by professional intervention, or service and program based responses |
| 10. There is the ability locally to host and support a paid Community Animator. This will include an ongoing commitment to support reflective and critical analysis of practice. This process is a learning experience, sharing the practice of the community animator and the supporting team. |
| 11. The potential host acknowledges that the community building process is one of mobilisation by local residents and organising for change and is therefore committed to a ‘leadership by stepping back’ approach in order to fully support the community to begin its intentional journey of discovery and action. In this instance their role would be a facilitative rather than a delivery one. |