

ABCD Training Part 2



An Overview

This workshop builds upon Nurture Development's [ABCD Training Part 1](#). The two day workshop is an opportunity for citizens, practitioners and agency leaders to develop a framework for the effective establishment of Asset-Based Community Development initiatives in the local context.

This facilitated workshop will guide participants through a series of questions as they explore how they can support citizen-driven community building in a way which is timely, proportionate and context specific. Built around our [7 Top Tip for supporting citizen-driven community building](#), we will work with participants to create some actionable next steps in bringing their initiative to life.

What will you learn over the two days?

ABCD Training Part 2 is made of eight learning sessions over the two days:

Session 1: Finding a trusted local association with sufficient infrastructure to act as a host of the work is one of the biggest challenges when attempting to proliferate more citizen led action. This session will explore sustainable means for discovering and supporting hosts, as well as exploring various 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." In this session participants will learn practice based tools for working this way, while also exploring the dilemmas that practitioners and leaders are likely to encounter when shifting their practice and organization in this direction.

Session 3: Effective community building goes at the speed of trust, not a funding cycle or an election cycle. It's messy slow and real. It takes generations, evolving over decades not years. Hence this session explores what that means in practice, at a leadership level (strategically and at policy level), and in terms of commissioning.

Session 4: Start with what's strong to address what's wrong and make what's strong stronger. This session explores the politics of ABCD. We will explore commonly held misinterpretations such as:

- ABCD is a veil for cuts.
- ABCD is a version of Big Society.
- ABCD focuses only on the positive, and minimises community problems.

At the end of this session you will have compelling counter arguments that offer people a deeper more balanced account of the ABCD approach.

ABCD Training Part I

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 collectivizing their efforts. We look at three case studies that illustrate good practice, and examine some examples of poor practice also.

Session 6: Getting the scale right is critical. The optimum population size of a neighbourhood is 3,000 to 5,000 residents. This session asks: “How do we scale-down a culture that tends to scale-up?” This session explains the logic behind this threshold and gets practical about developing frameworks for working at this hyper-local scale, we explore 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 (ABCD). Hence, this session has two objectives:

1. To look at the core purpose of ABCD: support local resident to grow a culture of community.
2. Shifting the focus away from getting people to adopt ABCD, towards proliferating deeper practice and more community-driven action.

We will examine the best means of proliferating practices across a Borough, City area that create citizen led impact and culture change at neighbourhood level. In particular we will examine effective processes to training/organizational development which result in deeper and more widespread community building practice. We will also explore the concepts of Helping 4.0, and Nurture Development’s Theory of Practice Based Change.

Session 8: Designing a process that will work for your area. The aim of this session is to enable each participant to bring their learning from the other 7 sessions together into a coherent local iterative process that will fit their

What will you be able to do after this workshop?

- 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

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