

Asset Based Community Development (ABCD)

Masterclass takeaways



Below are notes based on the online ABCD Masterclass run by Nurture Development on 16 March 2023.

Community foundations are ideally placed to mobilise assets, as trusted institutions / convenors with:

- Access to resources (physical, financial, human, technical)
- Connections and relationships with relevant stakeholders
- Local knowledge

Don't look for what's wrong but what's strong in communities. Don't think about what a place was or lacks but focus on what it could be - apply social imagination.

Make the neighbourhood / locality the unit of context, not specific issues but rather the combination in each setting, woven together to form a unique tapestry.

Not about prescribing solutions but supporting a process 'to make visible the invisible':

- Discover
- Connect
- Mobilise

This requires a change of mindset and a new approach to philanthropy, shifting from one of replacing scarcity / filling a deficit, to unlocking potential by identifying and releasing assets.

Building blocks of ABCD:

1. Stories / culture (identity / common bond of place)
2. Institutions involving committed people (with access to assets)
3. Map assets, undertake community conversations (listening campaign), based on a sense of place
4. Build relationships and connect people and assets (public, private and citizen / community)
5. Create a vision and a plan / plans for self-mobilisation / associate action - living labs (offering inspiration and opportunities for engagement)
6. Lever knowledge and community assets to secure resources from within and outside the locality to invest in local action.