

An invitation to become an Asset Based Community Development practitioner in Leeds and share your passion for building communities

We would like to build a community of **Asset Based Community Development (ABCD)** practitioners in Leeds to help grow community-led action in different neighbourhoods across the city and we are looking for up to 20 community minded individuals to work with us on this.

Asset-Based Community Development is not a model, it is a description of how people join together – at hyper local level – to use what they have, to get what they all agree they want. Importantly it challenges the traditional deficit-based approach that focuses on the needs or deficiencies of neighbourhoods and instead focuses on what a community has – its assets.

We are looking for people who are **passionate about building communities** and supporting people to share and connect around what they like and what they care about, and who are also good storytellers.

Stories (about communities connecting) are at the heart of ABCD, for example in Leeds, a chance conversation by a community worker (community builder) with a retired school teacher led to an exchange of skills with Syrian refugees who wanted to improve their English. In exchange for helping them to improve their conversational English, they volunteered to help older people in their area who struggled to look after their gardens.

If you are interested in reading an example of citizen-led action visit here:

<http://www.nurtureddevelopment.org/blog/live-paper-submarine-building-boats-building-relationships-abcde/>

If this grabs your interest then please read on.....

Who we are looking for?

We are looking for individuals who live in Leeds and are natural communicators who value neighbourhoods and the passions, interests and gifts that lie within them. If this is you then why not take advantage of this free opportunity and join others who are keen to introduce this approach across Leeds. We are looking for people who:

- Fundamentally believe that every person has a gift to contribute
- Understand and value the role of the citizen
- Identify the neighbourhood as the unit of change; where people stay well together
- Have a sound understanding of the theory and practical application of ABCD
- Can facilitate group sessions.

What can we offer you?

The opportunity to be part of an exciting network of ABCD practitioners who are passionate about communities and harnessing their assets to support people to live the life they want to live, with less dependence on institutions. We will provide you with training and mentoring support to enable you to deliver ABCD introductory sessions from leaders in the field on working in an asset based way.

What we will ask of you in return?

The training and mentoring programme will run between September and December 2016. During this time you will need to be able to commit to attending:

- An introductory session on **12th September, 10.00 am – 3.00 pm** @ a venue in East Leeds. The purpose of the session is to find out more about ABCD and engage in a learning conversation. We ask that each participant is prepared to share a story of citizen led action, be it from their home life or their practice. This doesn't need to be written down or in a powerpoint, but you must be prepared to share in a medium you feel comfortable.
- After this introduction session, if it still sounds like an opportunity for you then you will need to attend two days of training which will be held on **21st and 22nd September from 10.00 – 4.00 pm** in Leeds (lunch will be provided).
- A further two days of workshops will take place in Oct/Nov (dates to be agreed with participants).
- Once you have completed the training we ask that over the next two years you deliver a minimum of two ABCD training sessions for free to people in communities that wish to use this approach. Requests may come through Leeds City Council or local groups.

Want to take it further?

If this sounds like an opportunity for you then please contact Emma Carter (emma.carter@leeds.gov.uk or Tel 0113 3783926 or Trudie Canavan (trudie.canavan@leeds.gov.uk or Tel 0113 3783922 to register for the introductory workshop.