



Community Builder Factsheet

What is ABCD?

Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) is a neighbourhood-based approach to community building that starts with **what's strong and not what's wrong**. Key to the approach is the belief that, given the tools and the opportunity, small groups of citizens can change the things that they believe need changing in their community better than anyone else.

What is an ABCD Community Builder?

An ABCD Community Builder is a paid member of staff (usually from a third sector organisation) and is focused on engaging the skills, knowledge and talents of citizens living in a community.

Community Builders are out and about, getting to know and engaging the local community, groups, and associations. They support an equal partnership between residents, groups and social networks of the community and the institutions that serve them.

They are networkers, they are relationships builders.

Community Builders **build connections** through social interaction, activities, having conversations and creating space to explore and discover skills, gifts (assets) of local people, and the associational, physical, economic, and cultural resources that are part of every community and find out what people care about in the area they live.

They work with the community to develop a vision and a plan, asking:

- What is best done by the community themselves?
- What is best done by the community with support?
- What does the community need outside help with?



Community Builders **create spaces** where interested community members can come together to share their gifts, ideas and build their own relationships. They **connect and support communities** who are interested in making change happen on things they believe needs to change.



Community Builders focus on supporting **citizen led action**.

Community Builders foster celebration of **people's gifts and skills**.