

# Shetland Partnership

Asset Based Community Development Workshops  
January 2019



Participation



People



Place



Money

*A Shetland Partnership Report*  
*March 2019*

[www.shetlandpartnership.org](http://www.shetlandpartnership.org)

# Partnership Workshop – 21 January 2019

## Asset Based Community Development

Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) is an approach to sustainable community-driven development. It is based on the premise that communities can drive the development process themselves by identifying and mobilising existing, but often unrecognised assets. Thereby responding to challenges and creating local social improvement and economic development. The emphasis is on first understanding ‘what’s strong’, rather than ‘what’s wrong’ and using this as the basis for dialogue between communities and public service organisations.

ABCD seeks to ‘build community’ and encourages communities to think about three main questions:

1. What can we do ourselves?
2. What can we do with the help of service providers?
3. What do we need service providers to do for us?

The ABCD approach has been developed by Nurture Development. Their Managing Director, Cormac Russell, visited Shetland on 21 January 2019 to lead two workshops on ABCD to introduce people to the ABCD approach and to consider its application within the Shetland context.

For more on the ABCD approach please read this paper: [\*The Four Essential Elements of an Asset-Based Community Development Approach\*](#)

## Who participated?

Around 120 people from across the Shetland Partnership and Shetland communities, attended to take part in conversations about what we could learn from the ABCD approach and some of the examples from around the world that Cormac shared.

## Evaluation feedback

Feedback on the event has been positive with many people noting there are good examples of ABCD already in action across Shetland. Participants have been enthused by the concept of ABCD and there was some interest in applying the approach further and deeper in professional practice and communities across Shetland, to grow more citizen-led, community-driven change.

## What next?

From a community Planning perspective, ABCD is particularly thought-provoking in relation to the ‘Participation’ Priority in Shetland’s Partnership Plan – how can we build on our wealth of community assets to improve relationships between communities and service providers and make people’s lives better? It is hoped that a two-day, bespoke training workshop on ABCD will be arranged with Nurture Development for later in the year.

The purpose of the two day training will be to explore how the approach can be applied in practice and by communities across Shetland.

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