
NEIGHBORS *FOR* BETTER NEIGHBORHOODS

INCLUSION FOCUSED

NO BOUNDRIES:

Communities have imperceptible boundaries, inside which are those deemed to belong, and outside are those considered to be strangers. ABCD therefore, as well as supporting local residents to discover and connect local assets, is about actively creating a welcome for ‘strangers’ at the edge of those unnamed boundaries. Since there is nobody who’s gifts are not needed, when it comes to creating an environment within which everyone’s gift is given and received.

INCREASING INCLUSION:

Here are the eight touchstones that will increase inclusion:

- Discover and connect an initiating group of local residents
- Recruit a Community Animator
- Host community conversations to discover what people care about enough and the assets they require to address shared priorities with their neighbors.
- Connect and explore with community groups and associations: what have they done? What else would they like to do?
- Build connections through social interaction and shareable opportunities
- Support residents to develop their shared vision
- Support resident led implementation for change (doing and reviewing)
- Fostering celebration

BUILDING NEIGHBORHOODS:

Of course, shifting towards a more inclusive asset-based approach is not achievable where organizers work exclusively in their respective silos, across Health, Social Care and Community Housing, since an asset-based approach is fundamentally place based and therefore requires agencies to work beyond their administrative boundaries to be effective. Nor is it possible if organizers are solely engaging with communities through organizations who are not interested in building neighborhood capacity.

THICK ENGAGEMENT:

Achieving this level of penetration requires a careful balance between community building and person centered services that support the bridge building between people and their communities, but also actively works towards keeping people out of services for as long as possible, not to save the system money, but to save people from the system, crucially not just working with communities to ‘identify the problem’ or even to identify solutions – but to be the solution itself by inviting everyone to take action.