

# Shaid Mahmood

Chief Officer, Communities



# Community Capacity/Social Capital/Asset Based Community Development: Why is it important?

**“No society has the money to buy, at market prices, what it takes to raise children, make a neighbourhood safe, care for the elderly, make democracy work or address systemic injustices.....**

**The only way the world is going to address social problems is by enlisting the very people who are now classified as ‘clients’ and ‘consumers’ and converting them into co-workers, partners and rebuilders of the core economy”**

*Professor Edgar Cahn, US-based civil rights lawyer and inventor of Timebanks*



# Asset Based Approaches in Leeds

- Implementing asset based approaches in Leeds
- Recognising that ABCD work is a spectrum of approaches and ways of working
- Establishing Pathfinder sites
- Hard-wiring asset based approaches into how we do things in Leeds
  - Building into Existing Contracts/Specifications/ Relationships
  - Buy-in from Council Directorates
  - Infrastructure and support



# Helen Binns

Project Manager  
Leeds Families First Programme



# What has been different during COVID?



- Working with Community Leaders across Leeds
- Offering practical support & removing the red tape
- Working as a 'bridge' with other directorates



# What have we learnt?

- 'It takes a village to raise a Child'
- Working together for better outcomes
- Support to develop trust in services



# Carmel Langstaff

Chief Officer, Transformation and Innovation,  
Adults & Health



# Key learning so far

- Investment in ABCD Pathfinders
- System wide approach
- It takes time:
  - To work differently with citizens and communities
  - To develop different approaches internally and externally
  - To see the impact in terms of reducing demand





# Next Steps for ABCD in Leeds

## We are already:

- Strengthening partnerships
- Developing additional pathfinder sites
- Developing a different approach to commissioning
- Measuring impact

## We plan to:

- Co-produce our plans with communities and the third sector
- Articulate our ambition more clearly
- Develop our workforce
- Consider how to use our resources differently

