



Sponsored by

'CAFE CONVERSATIONS'

A unique conference with a unique format of

17th MAY 2007 – LEICESTER

Putting Community Engagement into Action

BOOKING FORM

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Closing date: 1st May 2007
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Please send completed application forms to:

Offshoot Events
102 Woodside Business Park,
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Wirral CH41 1EP
Tel: 0870 0663627 Fax: 0870 010 4934
Email: info@offshootevents.com

Free places are available for people who use services and family carers. Please ring or details.

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Office use only

This conference is managed by **offshoot events** on behalf of Paradigm

Focus

This event will help teams of people working with individuals with Learning Disabilities, Autistic Spectrum Disorders or Mental Health Issues to move forward their efforts for community inclusion in dynamic and creative ways.

Context

Today most people with Learning Difficulties, Autistic Spectrum Disorders or Mental Health Issues live amongst us with their families or supported in their own homes. As a result, our communities are growing in their abilities to include everyone in meaningful ways. However, there is still plenty of room for growth in demonstrating that our schools, communities and workplaces are enriched by full inclusion. Making sure that all people live integrated lives in our communities remains a major thrust for all of our efforts in the 21st Century.

About Asset Based Community Development

Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) is a novel approach to community development, originally conceived by John McKnight in Chicago. It has since been developed and practiced widely, often with a very positive impact in ensuring that marginalised groups are active members of their communities. ABCD assumes positive capacity in every community and has a very similar value base to Person Centred Approaches.

Speakers include:

- **Nan Carle** – Commissioner for Developmental Disabilities, Arizona, USA
- **Carl Poll** – Director of Communications, In Control
- **Patrick Kenny** – Freelance Consultant
- **Streets Alive Theatre Company**

Format

This conference is different. As well as keynote and plenary sessions, delegates will have opportunities to form their own discussion groups around the topics and people which most interest them. As a participant, you will be fully engaged and participate in the outcomes that you take away with you. We call this format 'Café Conversations'; it will offer you opportunities to:-

- determine the conversations that are most meaningful to you and your team
- design work plans that will best drive your efforts in your own local communities.
- expand your networks with others interested in community inclusion

Conference Purpose

- To create opportunities for teams of people working around the UK to deepen their understanding about how to engage with the wider community
- To experience community building in the design of the day
- To develop action plans with teams for community engagement and greater social inclusion

Who is it for?

- People who use services
- Relatives
- People who work in services for people with learning difficulties, Autistic Spectrum Disorders or Mental Health Problems – Support Workers, Managers, Support Brokers, Care Managers, Commissioners, Community Team Staff, Advocates
- Community Workers
- Teachers and school staff
- People working in mainstream services

Format of the day

The day has 4 sessions (see programme), each having two components:

- An input session of a presentation from international leaders
- Café Conversations* where people will select the topics they most want to discuss and the people they wish to talk to. This will require that participants declare the issues that interest them and are willing to 'host' conversations. Each conversation group will select a 'host' and a scribe to take notes for feedback. Nan will be available to join conversations or to host separate ones.

The 4th session will be for regional/interest groups to get together and discuss action plans

About the Conference Convener

Nan Carle

Nan Carle is a champion for inclusion of people with learning disabilities in our communities. Nan continues to grow her knowledge about how to strengthen our communities by serving as a reflective practitioner of community services. Her reflections focus on how we can promote more inclusive communities and relationships from all vantage points – especially in the face of chaos and conflict. She shares what she is learning through her articles in *Community Connecting* and as a coach and consultant with managers, policy makers, families and others who are allies of individuals with disabilities.

Nan is based in Tucson, Arizona and works regularly in the United Kingdom. Nan particularly enjoys coaching and consulting using Asset Based Community Development as a framework for changing our leadership practices to include all of us – people with and without disabilities alike

Programme

9.15am	Registration & Coffee	
9.45am	Welcome Conference Chair: Patrick Kenny	
9.55am	Introductions to the day and each other	
Session 1	Community Partnerships that Work	
10.15am	Keynote Presentation Overview of Asset Based Community Development: Finding and mobilising the assets in your communities Nan Carle	
10.40am	<i>Café Conversations</i> : Examples of good practice already in place and that are ready to be taken to the next level of inclusion	
11.20am	Break	
Session 2	Finding What People Care Enough to Act	
11.40am	Streets Alive Theatre Performance debriefing with the company and Mike Green	
12.20pm	<i>Café Conversations</i> : building unusual relationships – getting beyond our comfort zones	
1.00pm	LUNCH	
Session 3	Moving Beyond What We Already Know	
2.00pm	Keynote presentation Action in Unusual Places Carl Poll	
2.25pm	<i>Café Conversations</i> : Moving from Consumers to Agents: Moving beyond parallel communities	
3.05pm	Break	
Session 4	Action for Change	
3.20pm	Keynote Presentation It takes both programmes and relationships to make our communities work Nan Carle	
3.45pm	<i>Café Conversations</i> : Action Plans – New frameworks for leadership	
4.25pm	Community Engagement in Action	
4.45pm	Finish	