



Job Description: ABCD Community Builder – Chapeltown, Leeds

Employer: Leeds Community Homes in partnership with Unity Housing Association

Location: Chapeltown, Leeds

Contract: 24-month contract for services, 2 days per week, £150 per day

ABCD Pathfinder, Chapeltown - Leeds Community Homes & Unity Housing Association Collaboration

Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) is a neighbourhood based approach to community building, that starts with the strengths and assets that already exist in our communities and seeks to build on and mobilise these assets so that local communities lead on the changes they want to see.

Leeds Community Homes (LCH) and Unity Housing Association (Unity) are collaborating to deliver the ABCD Pathfinder in Chapeltown, Leeds. Both organisations share a commitment to community power, neighbourhood resilience, and supporting residents to shape the future of the vibrant neighbourhood of Chapeltown, Leeds.

Unity brings decades of trusted presence as a Black-led housing association rooted in Chapeltown. LCH brings experience in community-led housing, co-production, and resident-driven governance. Together, we want to build upon the strengths, gifts, skills and passions already present in Chapeltown by facilitating a Community Builder who will work relationally, creatively and at the pace of the community.

The Community Builder

This role will unearth existing skills and resources, nurture them where needed, and help remove barriers that prevent residents from taking action on what they care about.

Purpose of Role

A Community Builder identifies and builds connections through social interaction, activities, conversations, and creating space for discovery. They explore the associational, physical, economic and cultural resources that exist in every neighbourhood and help uncover what people care enough about to act on.

They work with the community to develop a shared vision and 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?**

This role is rooted in listening, noticing, connecting and enabling — not delivering services or leading projects. It is about strengthening what is already strong.



Management, Supervision and Guidance

You will be line-managed by the **Chief Operations Officer at Leeds Community Homes**, with additional support from **Unity's Regeneration Manager** and community team.

You will also receive ongoing guidance from the **ABCD in Leeds team**, including induction support, training, and participation in the citywide Community Builder network.

Duties and Responsibilities

A continuous journey of discovery

- Actively listen to residents with no preconceptions about what the area needs.
- Spend most of your time out in Chapeltown, meeting people where they are.

Identifying and nurturing strengths

- Identify and nurture the passions, ideas and gifts of local people.
- Ensure the focus remains on what is already strong in Chapeltown.

Working with partner organisations

- Work closely with Unity Housing Association, Leeds Community Homes, and local partners such as Caribbean and African Centre, Chapeltown Cohousing, local VCSE organisations, faith groups and grassroots networks.
- Build strong relationships with organisations that serve or influence the neighbourhood.

Finding and using “bumping spaces”

- Identify local places where residents naturally gather.
- Maximise time spent in these spaces to build trust and connections.

Strengthening neighbourhood networks

- Identify and build upon existing connections with local organisations, businesses and services.
- Uncover untapped connections and strengthen networks across Chapeltown.

Supporting Community Connectors

- Identify, bring together and support Community Connectors — residents who naturally link people, ideas and opportunities.
- Help them connect regularly to share learning and map community assets.

Creating opportunities for connection



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- Work with residents to create opportunities for people to come together to share thoughts, passions and ideas.
- Arrange events shaped by what emerges through your journey of discovery.

Supporting resident-led action

- Work with residents to make things happen using small, trust-based pots of funding (“Small Sparks” style).
- Help remove barriers to participation and ensure inclusivity.

Asset mapping

- Create an evolving asset map of Chapeltown based on your conversations, research and discoveries.
- Share this map with partners and residents.

Showcasing community stories

- Work with residents to showcase their journey and celebrate achievements through social media, websites, newsletters and events.

Community spaces

- Work with residents to understand how local community spaces could be used effectively and safely.

Collaboration and representation

- Work collaboratively with all our Chapeltown communities to support cohesion, sustainability and vibrancy. Ensure projects and events are inclusive all for members of the community, identifying potential barriers to participation and work to remove them accordingly.
- Coordinate, attend and actively participate in community panels, internal/external meetings and events.

Ripple-effect mapping and monitoring

- Begin capturing ripple-effect stories from conversations and community-led action.
- Attend ABCD in Leeds training, Community Builder meetings, and ripple-effect mapping workshops.
- Contribute to six-monthly monitoring meetings with the ABCD in Leeds grant manager and complete relevant monitoring paperwork.

Person Specification



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We welcome applications from anyone passionate about working in communities and empowering residents to create self-sustaining opportunities. We are not looking for specific qualifications — transferable skills and lived experience are valued.

We strongly encourage applications from individuals of **Black, Asian and other ethnically diverse backgrounds** and from **disabled people**. We value lived experiences of inequality, exclusion, or under-representation as powerful assets in community-building work, and we are dedicated to ensuring our recruitment process reflects the rich diversity and strengths of the Chapeltown community.

You must be:

- Highly competent in collecting and organising information.
- An excellent communicator.
- An excellent listener.
- Able to identify strengths in people and communities.
- Approachable, warm and trustworthy.
- Passionate and empathetic about people and their community.
- Flexible and able to attend community meetings where necessary.
- Knowledgeable of Chapeltown and its communities.

Preferable (training can be provided):

- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion training or experience.
- IT skills and understanding of social media to extend reach.
- Previous experience of community work/development (paid or voluntary).

General

- Adhere to Leeds Community Homes and Unity Housing Association policies and procedures at all times.
- Contribute to the success of the wider LCH & Unity partnership.
- Undertake any other duties as appropriate to the post or which may from time to time be reasonably determined by the Chief Operations officer of LCH or Unity leadership.
- A Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check against the Children's and Vulnerable Adults barred list will be carried out on the successful candidate.
- This role is funded through the ABCD Pathfinder Grant administered by Leeds City Council for 2 years with possible extension of 1 year.



Leeds Community Homes



Closing date: Tuesday 15th September 2026 11.59pm

To apply, please send your CV and a covering letter explaining your interest in the role and how your skills and experience meet the requirements of the job description to:

cynthia@leedscommunityhomes.org.uk

For further information about the role, the ABCD Pathfinder or the partnership between Leeds Community Homes and Unity Housing Association, please contact:

cynthia@leedscommunityhomes.org.uk

Cynthia Brathwaite

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