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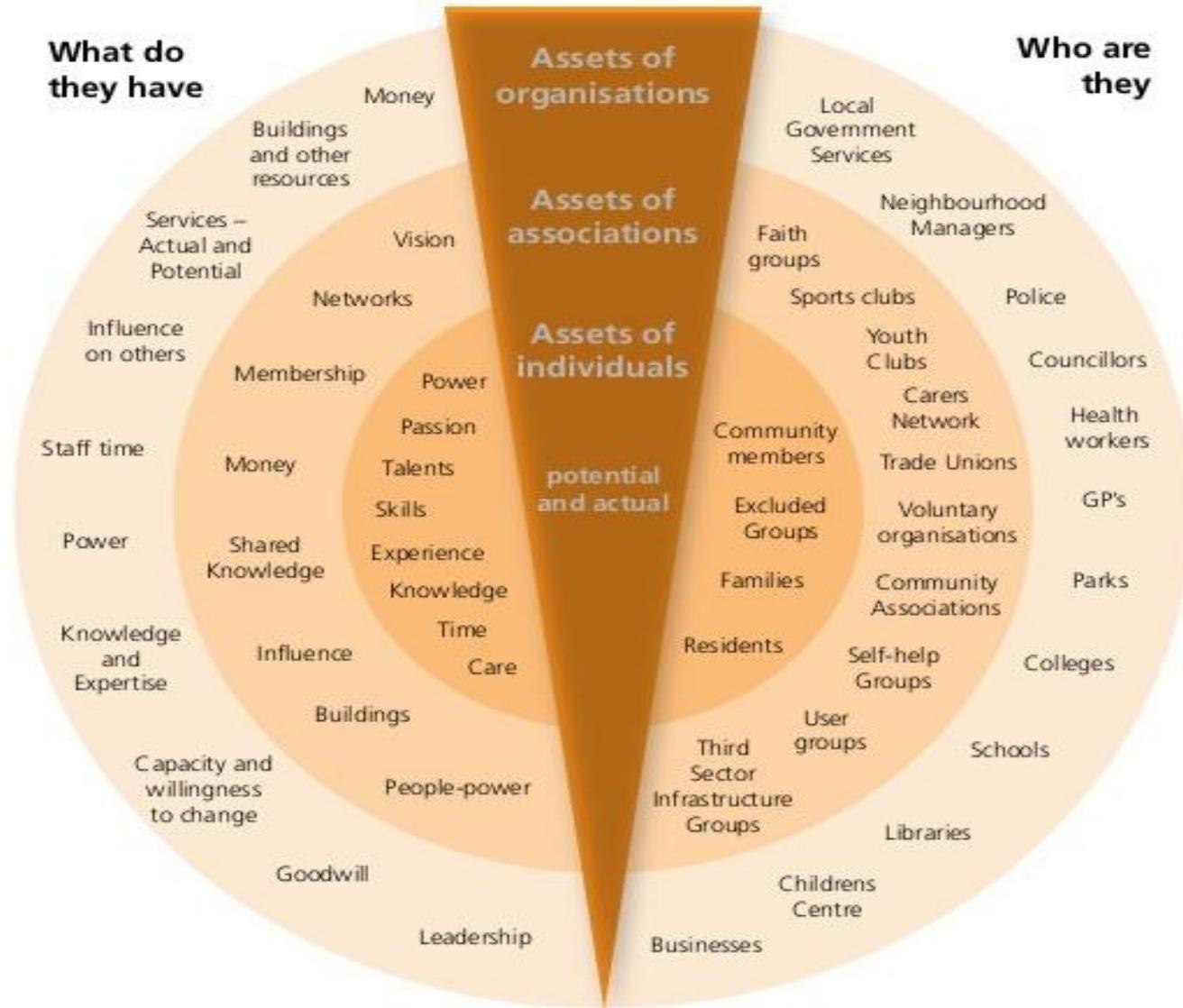
A strategic look at how local councils can help their communities overcome the health challenges in their areas when the current pandemic eases.

vision on the future health challenges for communities and how local councils can support their communities to manage these issues.

- Strong and vibrant Communities are vital to supporting people to live good healthy lives.
- The role Communities can play in improving health outcomes for people has long been recognised, however Covid has further amplified the important role they play in keeping people well and reducing health inequalities.
- Recognising our community assets including people, places and groups is a way of measuring the strength of a community



Asset mapping



Asset Mapping

Community assets – buildings



Our community buildings have always been key to building strong, healthy and vibrant communities. Whether playing host to lunch clubs and coffee mornings or providing a place for families to meet and celebrate etc, all help to support the health and wellbeing of people

Community assets reach beyond our network of Village halls and Community centres. Include (but not exclusive to) Churches, libraries, children's centres, sports clubs, pubs, cafes, shops, nursery's all provide vital hubs for groups and services to deliver from.

These have all played a part and proven their importance to support vulnerable people during covid. Whether a Church creating a hub for food distribution, a library providing befriending calls to isolated people, or community nursery remaining open for key workers.

Looking beyond Covid and What can Parish and Town Councils do to support:

Continue to support and value these buildings:

- Assets of community value registration - https://mycommunity.org.uk/community-assets-and-ownership?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI7ZmZ07PF7AIViZntCh0bbgAZEAAAYASAAEglqzfD_BwE
- Provide funding and strong governance for these to continue to build community infrastructure from

Community assets – groups



Underpinning the importance of our buildings are the groups and organisations who use them to create and deliver the services and activities to build vibrant communities

Social prescribing has become a commonly used way by health and social care agencies of connecting individuals to activities in their community which best meet their health and wellbeing needs and support to keep people well in their communities for longer.

Equally during Covid, the emergence of mutual aid groups setting up in communities led the way of supporting vulnerable people. Some of these groups are now continuing and developing into local good neighbour support groups, matching volunteers to the support vulnerable people need.

Also consider, local businesses, support groups and special interest groups

Looking beyond Covid and What can Parish and Town Councils do to support:

1. Develop or update community emergency planning to reflect the importance that spontaneous groups and volunteers can play in a crisis
2. Provide Good infrastructure, - continue to provide key messages and communications to communities including via local associations EG Suffolk Association of Local Councils
3. Support to ensure that they have robust policies eg safeguarding
4. Support the growth of Community businesses

Community assets - people



One of the positives to come from the Covid crisis has been the overwhelming strength of community and the response that local people developed.

As the public sector was getting to grips with the support it was going to have to provide, our communities were already mobilising and individuals were identifying what they could to support those in need. Central to all of this support was the Volunteers delivering food, collecting prescriptions, and doing welfare checks on their neighbours.

Look beyond traditional volunteers in your community;

Include;

Elected members who have made a public declaration that they will be there for their communities (you! D&B and County elected members.

Police and Fire Service – working in the community and for their communities

Sports coaches, parents, member of the local churches and organisations (environmental groups etc)

Facebook admin in your area – do you know this influential person?

Looking beyond Covid and What can Parish and Town Councils do to support:

1. Support volunteers and volunteering campaigns
2. Get to know the all of the above people!
3. Promote importance of safe and effective practice for volunteers through training and safe governance

Checklist for Local Councils

- Map the assets in your community
 - Add assets to the register
- Know who your vulnerable people are. Low income, additional needs – these people will need special attention. www.healthysuffolk.org.uk
 - Know your population – understand your population health data
- Horizon scanning – what's the next thing to plan for?
 - Have the crazy conversation – what if a plane crashed here?
 - Grenfell Tower – spontaneous volunteering was overwhelming
 - Who are the first aiders, where are the skills in your community and how do get hold of them

Checklist continued

- What comes next – A foot in the present and a foot in the future
- Funding – be a conduit for accessing funds and supporting the community – never underestimate what small amounts of funding can do to support the structure, health and wellbeing of your community
- Maintaining assets – the place, group or building and developing a pipeline of people to carry this forwards.
- Write an action plan for the Health and Wellbeing of your community, challenge yourselves regarding what the role of your local council should be. Are you going to be the hub, the conduit, the backstop? Affecting change or supporting change?
- Engage the D&B and CC partners. Co-produce with your community – what role does the Town or Parish council have here? (population data)