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Building Community Resilience – a Community Development Perspective

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The research…

- Helps us to consider resilience in its broadest terms
- Challenges resilience as an individual trait
- Asserts that individual resilience and community resilience are inter dependent

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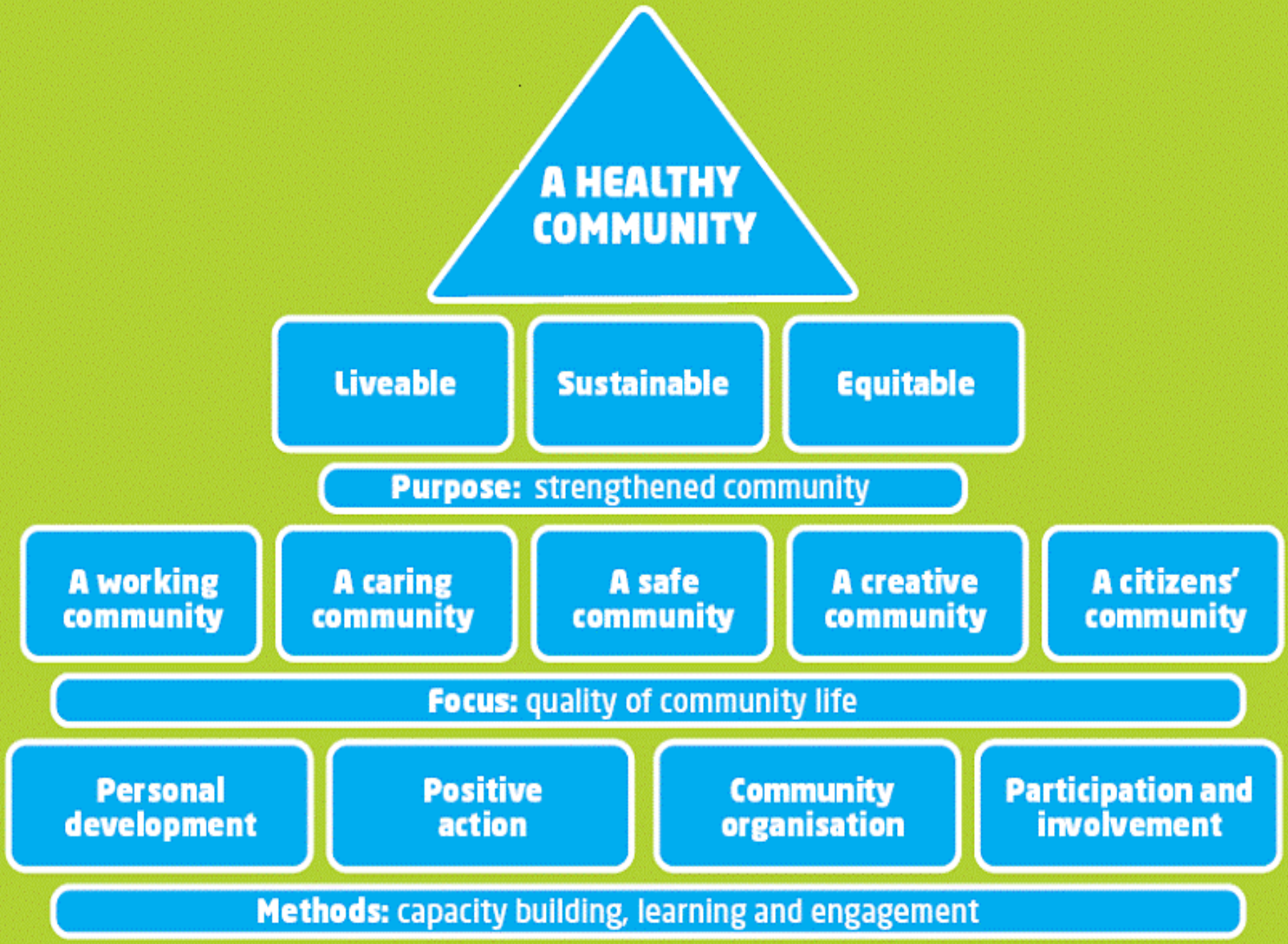
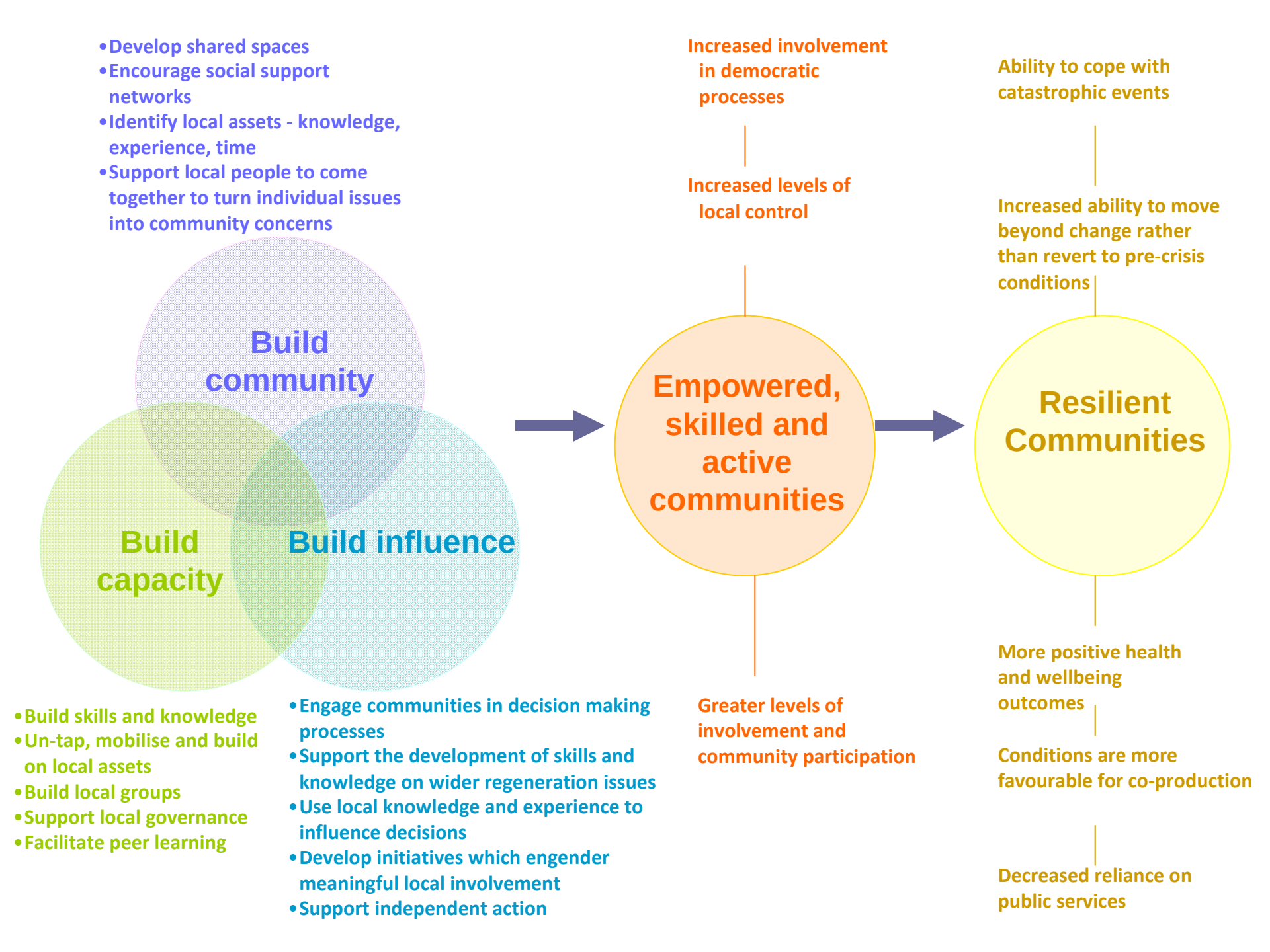
Individual and community resilience are inter-dependent

- Individual resilience is underpinned by strong social networks and other external factors such as positive community experiences

- Conversely*; 'an individual's ability to participate meaningfully in common issues is imperative for building social solidarity, trust and therefore community resilience'.*


A HEALTHY COMMUNITY
Liveable
Sustainable
Equitable
Purpose: strengthened community
A working community
A caring community
A safe community
A creative community
A citizens' community
Focus: quality of community life
Personal development
Positive action
Community organisation
Participation and involvement
Methods: capacity building, learning and engagement


•Develop shared spaces
•Encourage social support networks
•Identify local assets - knowledge, experience, time
•Support local people to come together to turn individual issues into community concerns
Build community
Build capacity
Build influence
•Build skills and knowledge
•Un-tap, mobilise and build on local assets
•Build local groups
•Support local governance
•Facilitate peer learning
•Engage communities in decision making processes
•Support the development of skills and knowledge on wider regeneration issues
•Use local knowledge and experience to influence decisions
•Develop initiatives which engender meaningful local involvement
•Support independent action
Increased involvement in democratic processes
Increased levels of local control
Empowered, skilled and active communities
Greater levels of involvement and community participation
Ability to cope with catastrophic events
Increased ability to move beyond change rather than revert to pre-crisis conditions
Resilient Communities
More positive health and wellbeing outcomes
Conditions are more favourable for co-production
Decreased reliance on public services

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What can we do now?

- engage the motivation and capacities that already exist
- properly design and resource neighbourhood work
- reduce the barriers we put in place to prevent communities from doing good things
- divert resources away from costly bureaucratic systems to community organisations