Minding the Gap is delighted to present the fifth of a series of events which will re-visit The Marmot Review – Fair Society, Healthy Lives. The focus of today’s conference is ‘Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities’. If we are to build healthier and more sustainable communities we need to invest in our communities differently. One sector alone will not realise the changes necessary to improve healthy and equitable outcomes. Joined-up, respectful and integrative ways of working are the way forward. Cross-sector partnerships and interdisciplinary thinking are vital to the success of communities. Fortunately, Minding the Gap has been able to attract a number of organisations that are working, and have an influence on this policy area in order to help us to formulate a more informed approach.

The conference explored the theory evidence and practice of Asset Based approaches to better health and wellbeing and ask the question *‘what makes us healthy?’* rather than *‘what makes us ill*?’ The conference also focus on Social Prescribing, sometimes referred to as community referral. Social Prescribing recognises that people’s health is determined primarily by a range of social, economic and environmental factors and aspires to address people’s needs in a holistic way. It also aims to support individuals to take greater control of their own health.

Both Asset Based Approaches and Social Prescribing schemes can involve a variety of activities which are typically provided by voluntary and community sector organisations. They often lead to better health outcomes, they are designed to support people with a wide range of social, emotional or practical needs, and many schemes are focussed on improving mental health and physical well-being.