

Unlock Local Projects

Why Development Workers?



In 2003 The National Council commissioned an experienced consultant to assess the organisation and recommend some possible future strategies. Council considered his final report in great depth and concluded that, what came to be known as the 'Corner Shop' model, was the best way forward for the organisation, these initiatives are now referred to as **Unlock Local Projects** which include an **Unlock Development Worker**.

This approach is defined in the following terms: -

- Unlock seeks outlets for its approach and principles
- Unlock seeks to deliver high quality and intensive work in a limited number of locations.
- This is achieved through a dispersed team of local workers.
- Each development will be based around one worker paid for at least one day a week.
- Line management is delivered by the national office.
- Each Development needs to be supported by a local support group and sponsor (or sponsoring organization).
- The local sponsor(s) will find half of the funding for each development.
- Partnership between the local and the national
- Paid workers will work proactively to create opportunities to run workshops and courses in their area.
- Paid workers will develop resources, and deliver Unlock work, appropriately in their particular area, and enable local leadership.
- Unlock's financial commitment to each development is time limited (1-2 years) enabling a rolling program of development which will continue to reach new areas of need.

The advantages of this approach are seen as:-

- concentrating on what we are good at
- capitalizing on energy and opportunity in the local context
- playing to our strengths on the ground
- the approach is potentially transformative
- being realistic about the level of funding we can access
- work is delivered by those who are familiar with, and have credibility in, each local context
- does not narrow the current scope of the organisation
- creating the possibility of new areas of strength on the ground
- maintains an emphasis on depth of engagement
- focusing on the areas of work where Unlock can offer the greatest added value.

FW6. Dawn A. Lonsdale, Chief Officer, November 2007