

Unlock Local Launch Partnerships Development Strategy



Though the local contexts and details will vary there are common criteria and approaches, which define this type of partnership for Unlock. For each **Unlock Local LAUNCH Partnership** four distinct elements need to come together. These are:-

- Locality
- Funding
- Unlock Local Crew
- Leadership

In different locations these elements may emerge in a different order but all will need to be established for an **Unlock Local LAUNCH Partnership** to go ahead.

Unlock is looking for churches or groups of churches of any denomination to work with; Churches which have:-

- A heart for the most marginalised of local people
- A desire to set the Gospel free within their local community
- A commitment to overcoming exclusion
- A desire for stronger connections within their local community
- Some community engagement and social action already in place that they wish to grow, particularly in missional terms
- A desire to grow the church family; spiritually at least as much as numerically
- Capacity to build a small team of support (not necessarily hands-on helpers) within the church & community
- Leadership that is expected to remain mostly stable for the next 2-3 years
- An urban area that can easily be identified with locally recognised boundaries.

The agreed process is outlined below.

Step 1) Enquiry. Local individuals, or groups, who believe that they may have the potential to pull these elements together (*Sponsors*) may apply, in the first instance, to the Unlock Chief Officer, for an **Unlock Local LAUNCH Partnership** to be considered for their area. Where the *Sponsors* are a group, rather than an individual, it will be helpful for them to appoint a single spokesperson for this process.

Step 2) Agreement - will need to be established, both nationally (within Unlock) and locally, that this is an appropriate and viable locality and that funding and appropriate support can be arranged. The current cost (2025) is £1,800 over two years: a down payment of £400 then 23 monthly payments of £60. The *Sponsors* are responsible for ensuring that the finance has been secured,

however the Unlock National office can provide some support for this process in cases where there is clearly potential.

Step 3) Funding. The sponsors establish that they can access the required funding over two years, and pay the initial £400 to Unlock. This stage must be completed *before* your **Unlock Local LAUNCH Partnership can begin.**

Step 4) Recruitment. The Sponsors (with guidance from the Unlock Chief Officer as needed) bring together a crew of pilots for the work. These people can be known or recruited, paid or voluntary, but they should receive working expenses as a minimum and, if paid, they should receive a living wage (pro rata) as defined by <https://www.livingwage.org.uk/news/real-living-wage-vs-government%E2%80%99s-minimum-wage-rates-what%E2%80%99s-difference> Decisions will need to be made about the hours expected of both paid and voluntary staff.

An application form, and job description (templates are available from Unlock), are sent to those who apply for details. The Administration for this process will usually be handled locally but support is available as needed from the Unlock National Office and the Chief Officer can be consulted at any stage.

A recommended appointment process is laid out in document ULL17.

Step 5*) Training. An Unlock Training day is arranged and delivered in your local neighbourhood. This can be for anything from 4 to 30 people but your local Pilots need to attend. You can invite people from other local churches or a wider area, if you want to.

Step 6*) Meet with Unlock Chief Officer to Negotiate Details. Once the above has been achieved the following issues will need to be discussed and resolved between the Chief Officer and the *Sponsors* or their representative: -

Local Partners undertake to:-

- Create a local Crew between 2 and 8 Unlock Mission Pilots
- Ideally, the Crew should include 1 licensed/authorised person and
- one person whose role it is to coordinate and maintain communications (not necessarily the person who is licensed!).
- Manage their own safeguarding procedures and any employment or remuneration.

Local Partners are encouraged to maximise their benefits from the partnership by:-

- Providing their local Crew members with materials, resources and access to workspace as needed.
- Upholding their local Crew members with prayer and pastoral support

- Consider paying those members of their local Crew for whom it is appropriate, at least on an hourly basis.
- Sending session outlines, frontline stories and updates to Unlock regularly (this will allow them to get the most out of the consultancy and develop local skills, it will also enable Unlock to replicate their local success in other communities)

Other matters to consider at the planning stage include: -

- Working pattern.
- Management.
- Remuneration of expenses
- Local support and development.
- Access to local networks.
- Spiritual objectives.
- Division of responsibilities between the Sponsors and Unlock (see attached document ULL5)

** steps 5 & 6 will usually take place within a 36 hour Period.*

The following documents exist to support this process and are available on request from the Unlock National office: -

- ULL1 Sponsors Partnership Application (for Sponsors to complete)
- ULL2 Unlock Local Launch Strategy
- ULL3 Role of the Unlock local Crew (ULC)
- ULL5 Support and supervision roles
- ULL6 Strategy document – Why Unlock Pilots?
- ULL17 Notes on Appointment Processes for staff and volunteers
- ULL8 Unlock Local Pilot Terms and Conditions including Contract of Employment
- ULL9 Support for Unlock Pilots
- ULL10 Unlock Local Pilot Job Description
- ULL12 Unlock Local Pilot Job Application Form
- ULL13 Funding Agreement

These can be regarded as templates that can, by negotiation, be adapted to the local context, within financial constraints.

ULL2. Dawn A. Lonsdale, Chief Officer, March 2025