

# Unlock Local Launch Partnerships

## Why Do It This Way?



### Background to Unlock Local Launches

Unlock (then known as EUTP), founded in 1972, has shared its approach to Bible engagement with oral learners in urban communities in a range of different ways at different times. From 2004 to 2020 Unlock ran short term (2 year) local partnership projects all over the UK. Each one employed a local Unlock worker to enable Unlock work in the project location. Each Partnership was 50% funded by Unlock and 50% by local funding. Unlock was the employer and managed all the legal requirements.

Take up for that model of Unlock Local Partnership Projects was already diminishing and post-pandemic they became impossible to 'sell'. At the same time it was getting harder and harder for Unlock to find funding nationally to cover 50% of the costs of local partnerships.

The world had changed and Unlock needed to adapt.

**We are still called to: -**

**Unlock** real life stories of urban people  
**Reveal** Good News of the Down to Earth  
Christ  
**Release** life changing skills and  
confidence

**We still fully believe in: -**

- our Unlock learning cycle,
- starting with people's own stories
- listening
- learner led content
- local people learning together in small groups
- creative activities

So, the question was just about how we get those tools into local people's hands and enable more people to see the value of those approaches, and to become confident in using them.

We identified a need to shift the focus of how we deliver our approach into the hands of those who want to make and grow disciples locally.

### Unlock Local Launches and Pilot Boats

We call each local partnership an '**Unlock Local Launch**'; the purpose being to set something on its way that will then be able to journey onwards without us.

Have you ever been at a port town or city and watched the local Pilot boat guiding big cargo ships in and out of the port at high tide? The Pilot, in the Pilot Boat, knows the local rocks, sandbanks, channels and tides and is able to guide the bigger vessels through them by a safe route. So the Unlock local workers (local

people, not external 'experts') are 'Unlock Local Pilots'; who know the ways of the local community, and whose role (trained and supported by Unlock) is to guide the '**Unlock Local Launch**' safely to the point where it can voyage onwards on its own.

## **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.

## **How it Works**

### **Unlock provides: -**

- Local training, support and consultancy for two years, including: -
  - 1 day training on site (which can be opened up to the wider area)
  - Unlock staff make 2 further site visits to the Crew in situ over 24 months
  - Free attendance for 2 local Pilots at 2 Unlock National Gatherings (additional attendees and or additional years at cost plus 10%)
  - Unlimited remote support, guidance, review, training and consultation
  - Unlimited access to Unlock Worker resource and training/guidance on the Unlock website
  - Funded attendance at the Unlock London Walk for 1-2 local pilot(s) in their first year (as part of their training) as overall capacity allows.

### **Local Partners pay: -**

- An initial start-up fee of £400 followed by
- 23 payments of £60 per month

### **Local Partners undertake to:-**

- Create a local 'crew' of between 2 and 6 Unlock Pilots (this needs to include one person whose role it is to coordinate and maintain communications).
- Manage their own safeguarding procedures and any remuneration.

### **Local Partners are encouraged to:-**

- Send sessions 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)
- Provide their local Crew with materials, resources and access to workspace as needed.
- Uphold their local Crew with prayer and pastoral support
- Consider paying those members of their local Crew for whom it is appropriate, at least on an hourly basis.

### **Expected Outcomes: -**

- Growing the congregation's confidence and skills in faith sharing.
- Strengthening connections in both church and community.
- Nurturing self-esteem and personal growth.
- Nurturing discipleship and indigenous leadership.
- Recognising ourselves as part of God's big story.

Unlock's initial commitment is for 2 years from the date of the first training. Extensions are negotiable on an at cost plus 10% basis.

ULL6. Dawn A. Lonsdale, Chief Officer, February 2025