

# Community-led 'Locality' development



21/01/2014

Responding to the needs of local communities in England, Locality is a leading UK network of community development trusts, social action centres and community enterprises.



The member-led organisation was created in 2012, through the merger of two long established membership organisations, the Development Trusts Association and the British Association of Settlements and Social Action Centres. It has over 480 members who jointly share a combined annual income of some €389 million (over two thirds of which is generated through trading activities) and total assets worth over €784 million.

Locality considers communities as places of many possibilities – from the provision of services, shops, housing, parks etc to places of empowerment, wealth generation or social justice. Its overall aim is to build a movement that is based on the values of social justice and community self-determination.

## Spirit of innovation

The organisation believes in fostering a new spirit of innovation and enterprise to build resilient communities where people are proud to live and work.

Its membership varies considerably in terms of the scope and scale of their activities. Responding to local needs, these typically include initiatives for recycling, environmental improvements, the management of public spaces, micro credit and advice and debt counselling. Other areas of

interest include: family support, child care services, festival and arts events, community grants schemes, affordable housing, volunteering and job training.

Driven by a social justice agenda, the members also largely operate in areas of market failure, where the state and the private sector have struggled. Importantly, members believe that the starting point for overcoming many of the entrenched problems faced by our society is at the neighbourhood level.

## Case studies

Examples of member case studies are:

- Coin Street Community Builders: based at London's South Bank, the enterprise has a turnover of some €9.7m and assets of over €36 m. It runs a neighbourhood centre, a children's centre, 320 housing units, a large retail and office complex (including the iconic landmark Oxo Tower) and arts and cultural events. [www.coinstreet.org](http://www.coinstreet.org)
- Goodwin Development Trust: based in Hull, in the north-east, the trust owns and manages 14 buildings. Employing over 300 people, it is the largest non-public sector employer in the city. Managed entirely by residents of a large social housing estate, it runs a wide range of

services including children's centres, training & enterprise programmes and health & well-being projects.

[www.goodwintrust.org/](http://www.goodwintrust.org/)

- Glendale Gateway: based in rural north England, Glendale manages a community centre, a library, youth hostel, nine housing units and several shops. It also runs business support services, the local tourist information centre, a community website and various leisure projects. [www.wooler.org.uk/glendale-gateway-trust](http://www.wooler.org.uk/glendale-gateway-trust).

### Locality

(England, United Kingdom)

**Contact:** Steve Clare,  
Deputy Chief Executive

**Email:** [steve.clare@locality.org.uk](mailto:steve.clare@locality.org.uk)

**Website:** <http://locality.org.uk/>

