



Community Radio Fund

Grant Report Form

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Issue 1

Community radio fund: grant report form

2.1 Station details:

Licence Number

CR024

Station Name

Wythenshawe FM

2.2 Please set out the designated purpose of the grant and the amount awarded. If this was for more than one purpose or post, please set out the different purposes and grant allocated for each.

Grant 1. To contribute towards the cost of Wythenshawe FM's Station Manager

Grant awarded = 13,959

Grant 2. To enable the co-ordination of a North West of England Community Radio Network

Grant awarded = 6,980

2.3 Please explain how the award was spent, setting out the details separately for each post or purpose. If it was for a member of staff please include a summary of work carried out and the main achievements of the post-holder (see also section 2.5). For example, if it was for a fundraiser, please say how much money they have raised. If the grant was awarded for any other (non-staff) purpose please provide a breakdown of costs incurred with the date of the relevant expenditure.

Grant 1. Contribution to cost of Wythenshawe FM's Station Manager

The grant contributed 56% towards the cost of Wythenshawe FM's Station Manager from Apr 2007-Mar 2008. There was a change in personnel in the period, with Christine Cox (who only worked 4 days a week) leaving the station in May 2007, to be replaced by Anne-Marie Marshall as full-time Station Manager in June 2007.

Station Manager

Responsibilities and achievements of the Station Manager have included:

- Recruiting two new members of staff – a Children in Need-funded Youth Engagement Officer and a Scott Trust-funded Speech Radio Coordinator;
- Line managing the station staff (6 posts at the end of the period);
- Liaising with external agencies in Manchester and Wythenshawe e.g. local community groups and businesses;
- Overseeing the management of and liaison with the station's volunteers. This included excluding two volunteers for breaches of volunteer regulations;
- Overseeing the implementation of the station's editorial policy and the broadcast of a diverse range of programmes including focus weeks covering subjects such as refugees, domestic abuse and sustainable transport, and a total of six outside broadcasts, including from a 'One World' event and an NHS 'Stop Smoking' event;
- Managing the recruitment of new volunteers for the three Level 2 accredited radio training courses ("Introduction to Radio Skills") that were delivered in the period;
- Ensuring that effective monitoring of the station's activities took place;
- Working with the station's Business Development Officer to secure contracts for advertising, outside broadcasts and other service delivery at the station totalling £35,000;
- Securing a Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) grant of £11,432 to run a sustainable transport awareness-raising project across Wythenshawe, which included broadcasting an information week and developing a poster campaign with a local secondary school;
- Securing a £500 grant from the Hilton Foundation to purchase a portable hard disc audio recorder;
- Overseeing the Youth Engagement Officer in developing a new programme of youth activities at the station, including delivering a variety of radio training courses for young people and implementing a revised Child, Young People and Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy;
- Overseeing the delivery of a variety of other contracts and grant-funded projects e.g. a 'Sense of Place' research project for Manchester City Council on the subject of people's perceptions of Wythenshawe (to feed into the regeneration plan for the area); the station's Defra-funded Climate Challenge project; a 'Healthy Bites' diabetes project with children from a local secondary school.
- Starting a business planning process to enable the station to move towards local control and independence from Radio Regen.

The Station Manager played a vital role in co-ordinating and managing the station, and without the post the following outputs would not have been achieved:

- Approximately 100 regular station volunteers making an average of 280 volunteer visits each month to Wythenshawe FM;
- 166 new local people involved in Wythenshawe FM's activities;
- 1,500 training hours delivered;
- Approximately 60 local groups supported through the provision of training and publicity for their activities.

Grant 2. Co-ordination of North West Community Radio Network (NWCRN)

During 2007/08, Radio Regen organised three meetings of the NWCRN - two Skills Days and a half day stations' meeting - and co-ordinated and hosted a meeting of the National Steering Group. Each NWCRN event had about a dozen stations represented, and the feedback from participants was mostly in the 'very good' category. Radio Regen also created a website for the NWCRN at www.radioregen.org/nwcrn where most of the presentations from the events as well as meeting minutes can be found.

The first NWCRN Skills Day was held on **16th October 2007** on the theme of 'Sustainable Revenue for Community Radio in the North West – Unlocking Public Service Delivery', a theme that had been previously chosen by Network members. The day concentrated on the process of pitching for Service Level Agreements and building the capacity of the delegates to do this. It included presentations from Phil Korbel and Jaqui Devereux, and a 'Dragons Den'-style workshop where delegates pitched to a panel of 'dragons' for 'wads' of 'Ofcom Pounds'. Full details, including presentations and photos can be found at <http://www.radioregen.org/nwcrn/?q=node/10>

The NWCRN stations' meeting was held on **5th December 2007**. The eleven delegates heard from BBC NW on how they welcomed the boom in community radio and intended to support the sector with a series of workshops at New Broadcasting House (these were delivered earlier this year as the 'Community Radio Boot-camps' – see details at <http://www.crispthinking.org.uk/press.asp?action=view&id=1040>). Issues of content sharing were also discussed and the stations swapped news. The agenda for the next Skills Day was also discussed.

The second Skills Day was held on **20th February 2008** and fifteen delegates attended to examine the issues of Media City, Employment Law and Training. A BBC representative outlined the plans for the BBC's move to Salford and their need for partnership with the community, both as part of their key mission and as a source for new talent. A local lawyer presented an ABC of employment law as it applies to non-profit organisations and offered stations a discounted help line service. Radio Regen's lead trainer, Anne Harbin, discussed her experience of delivering accredited radio training and how that involved stations in partnerships with FE colleges. See details at <http://www.radioregen.org/nwcrn/?q=node/64>

The National Steering Group meeting took place on 17th March 2008 with four of the five CRF-funded Network Co-ordinators attending (Forest Of Dean were not available) together with Jaqui Devereux of the CMA. Much of the meeting was taken up with each Network feeding back to the others on what was being done. Barriers to suitably fast progress were identified as being (a) a lack of readiness in the sector and (b) a lack of capacity in the Network Co-ordinators. The main benefits to participation in the Networks were summarised as follows:

- sharing experiences, skills and information;
- feeling part of a movement/network;
- potential for joint advertising campaigns;
- potential for joint SLAs;
- regional approaches to RDAs;
- sectoral cohesion.

A full report of the National Steering Group meeting is attached.

Grant expenditure on the NWCRN project in the period was **£9,719** (see expenditure details attached) leaving a balance of **£7,659 grant unspent** (combined 06/07 and 07/08 CRN grants). The slow start to the delivery of the project was a result of Radio Regen's over-stretched staff resources, but latterly a specific project co-ordinator has been employed to co-ordinate the various meetings, which has increased Radio Regen's capacity to deliver NWCRN activities.

Work on the project will continue in 2008/09, with a half day meeting of the NWCRN taking place in May 2008 (also attended by the NW NHS) and two more events being planned – one for 'staff', and an event aimed at station volunteers.

Radio Regen believes that the NWCRN project proves the case for regional capacity-building work of this sort in the community radio sector. We hope that the CRF will give greater priority to work of this nature when the demand for funding from new stations abates. We would be happy to work with the CRF panel to devise suitable criteria for the funding of other similar networking projects.

2.4 The Community Radio Fund Panel is interested in how the grant award has made a difference to the operation of your station. Please give us your comments.

Grant 1 – Station Manager

The Community Radio Fund grant has been extremely valuable to Wythenshawe FM. It has enabled the station to operate with more effective leadership and management, since the Station Manager has had to spend less time attempting to secure other funding for the post and has had a greater capacity to manage the station and deliver projects.

Wythenshawe FM still does not have stable core funding, and due to a funding shortfall, other reductions in staffing levels have been made in the period e.g. the station's Programme Manager hours were reduced from 5 days to 4 days a week, and the departing Administrator was not replaced.

It is hoped that other income streams will be developed in the next financial year to replace the contribution of the CRF grant, so that further staff reductions do not have to be made. The capacity of Wythenshawe FM has increased during the year with the employment of a Youth Engagement Officer and a Speech Radio Coordinator (funded by specific funding streams), and this has made the co-ordinating and overseeing role of the Station Manager even more important.

Wythenshawe is currently reliant on its parent charity Radio Regen for additional funding. However the Station Manager is currently undertaking a business planning process which should direct the station towards more sustainable funding and independence.

Grant 2 – North West Community Radio Network

This project would not have taken place without the Community Radio Fund grant. The work has been a valuable exploration of the benefits of regional capacity-building activity which is hoped will lay the foundation for future work of this sort.