



Community Radio Fund

Grant Report Form

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Issue 1

Community radio fund: grant report form

2.1 Station details:

Licence Number

CR 024

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 provide funding for the core administrative costs and managerial functions for the running of Wythenshawe FM.

Grant allocated:

- a. Contribution to cost of Station Manager = £11,713
- b. Contribution to cost of Administrator = £4,903

Grant 2. To form and co-ordinate a regional network of the licensed community radio stations in the North West of England.

A joint project to encourage regional collaboration and facilitate networking, training and information sharing through a **North West Community Radio Network (NWRCN)**, with participation open to all stations in the North West. The project will feed into a national working group for community broadcasters, and will also aim to raise the profile of community radio amongst the general public.

Grant allocated = £11,750

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 1a - Contribution to cost of Station Manager

Over the funding period, the Station Manager has played a pivotal role in enabling Wythenshawe FM to continue its busy programme of broadcast, community outreach, training, and volunteer involvement activities.

Responsibilities and achievements of the Station Manager have included:

- line-managing 6 members of Wythenshawe FM staff;
- managing the delivery of two very well-attended accredited radio training courses;
- overseeing the broadcast of numerous themed broadcasts, interviews and debates which have involved local residents and raised awareness of a variety of important issues (e.g. firework safety, healthy eating, recycling, domestic violence);
- securing a grant of £1,430 from Manchester's Community Learning Chest to run a dedicated youth radio course to provide a focused activity for young people over the 2006 summer holidays;
- working with the Radio Regen management team to submit a successful funding application to 'Children in Need' to employ a full-time Youth Engagement Officer at the station for 3 years. The grant (total value = £96,211) will enable Wythenshawe FM to provide a much-needed extension to its youth provision and to involve more young local people in broadcasting, music and drama activities;
- working with the station's Business Development Officer to secure contracts for service delivery at the station totalling approx £17,000. These contracts included community engagement work for the Local Strategic Partnership, a radio training project for the over 50's, and a community consultation for Manchester City Council about a proposed new city park;
- overseeing the delivery of these services and other grant-funded projects e.g. a 3 month broadcast campaign about food issues in support of the Council's 'Food Futures' project, the station's Defra-funded Climate Challenge project.

The Station Manager has a vital co-ordinating and management role at the station, and without this post the following outputs would not have been achieved:

- approximately 80 regular station volunteer presenters making a total average of 228 monthly volunteer visits to Wythenshawe FM;
- 100 new local people involved in Wythenshawe FM's activities;
- 1,000 training hours delivered;
- approximately 70 local groups supported through the provision of training and publicity for their activities;
- approaching 5,000 visits by Manchester residents to the station and other WFM-organised activities.

Grant 1b - Contribution to cost of Administrator

The work carried out by Wythenshawe FM's Administrator over the last year has included:

- collecting and collating vital output monitoring data for funders regarding activities delivered at the station e.g. volunteer and guest visits, training hours, support provided to local groups;
- setting up and managing the stations' 'What's On' guide to promote local community events and services;
- managing the very popular info@wfm e-mail address;
- ordering supplies for the station e.g. stationery, refreshments for volunteers;
- processing volunteer expenses claims;
- booking local groups and bands for interviews;
- co-ordinating communications with volunteers including organising the monthly volunteer meeting, sending out a monthly volunteer newsletter, and providing a Braille version of the newsletter for a visually impaired volunteer;
- recruiting new volunteers for the stations accredited radio training course.

Grant 2 - North West Community Radio Network

The grant has been spent on supporting the development of the fledgling North West Community Radio Network. The activity has been split between working with the existing Greater Manchester Community Radio Network (GMCRN) and developing a new North West Community Radio Network (NWCRN).

GMCRN: This group was already in existence at the time that the CRF grant was approved. The network consists of the 7 licensed full-time stations in the city region - Wythenshawe FM, ALL FM, Pure FM, Oldham FM, Tameside Community Radio, Salford City Radio and Crescent Radio (Rochdale) as well as 'aspirant' groups. The group was established by Radio Regen and the Greater Manchester Council for Voluntary Organisations in response to the likelihood of a 'city region' being established for Greater Manchester and thus the need for there to be an appropriate voice for the sector in that forum. Radio Regen's Director attended several GMCRN meetings in the period and undertook some joint presentations to key agencies such as the Police Authority and the Community Network for Manchester.

NWCRN: Work on setting up the NW Community Radio Network started with Phil Korbel contacting all of the new NW licence holders (except for The Voice in Kirby Lonsdale who did not respond to messages) to survey their initial reactions to such a network. This indicated a demand for the concept, and an introductory meeting was held on 18th September 2006. This was attended by community radio licence holders from Toxteth, the Wirral, Stockport, Oldham, Wrexham and Cheshire. Other attendees were Calon FM, as they are close to the NW, and Preston FM, because of their work on a local network in Lancashire. This meeting identified a number of areas for joint working, although discussions about a Skills Day for volunteers (as envisaged by the original brief) were not fruitful since it was felt that the first priority for the stations was the professional development of their staff. Another comment was that the Network must ensure that it maximises the benefit to its members and should never become an organisation that exists for its own sake.

As part of the project, Radio Regen organised and hosted the first national meeting of the regional community radio network organisers. This meeting was attended by BCB, FOD, Awaz, WFM/Radio Regen and Sound, with the lead officers who attended agreeing that the main priority for development was staff as opposed to volunteers. Other matters discussed included the lack of funding available to the sector and the relationship with the CMA. Phil Korbel was unable to attend the second Network organisers' meeting in Ireland.

Radio Regen also organised a further national Community FM conference in March 2007-06-01. Whilst this activity was not supported by CRF funding, it complemented the activities of the NWCRN, and revisited some of the same themes developed by the Network.

The expenditure breakdown attached shows that only £1,351 of the £11,750 grant was spent at the end of March 2007. This was due to the fact that the amount of activity in the year was not as high as intended, which was in part a result of the changing needs of the project beneficiaries.

Phil Korbel has discussed the project's underspend with CRF panel member Richard Hilton, and proposed that Radio Regen uses the grant balance to enhance the delivery of the NWCRN project in the current financial year. This will entail two regional staff skills days as well as the full complement of network meetings. Radio Regen will also explore the impact of an online community for network members based on the existing infrastructure of www.communityradiotoolkit.net. Another future development may be pioneered in the NW as the NWDA are proposing to fund a NW Digital Community Network that will explore the role of community radio stations in the broader context of digital user generated content. If this materialises as planned, Radio Regen will look at how the two networks could co-operate.

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 1a & Grant 1b - Station Manager & Administrator

The funding environment for community radio continues to be unpredictable at best and gloomy at worst. Even though WFM is one of the longest established full-time stations, it still has no stable core funding. The grant therefore enabled greater productivity at the station as it both funded valuable staff time and meant that less time had to be spent on pursuing funding from other sources. If the grant had not been awarded, the Station Manager would have spent more time on attempting to secure other core funding, and if this had not been forthcoming, staff hours at the station would have been reduced.

Part of the Station Manager's time was spent in developing services that could be delivered to mainstream agencies to boost the sustainable revenue streams available to the station. Development of these income streams should contribute to longer term financial stability for the station.

Grant 2 - North West Community Radio Network

N/a