

Background

Bishop FM is the community radio station for Bishop Auckland and the surrounding area. It launched in 2009 and is mainly ran by volunteers; it is broadcast live for 16 hours a day, 7 days a week. It is ran as a company limited by guarantee with charitable aims.

Support from DCA through the Village SOS Scheme

Bishop FM were put in touch with DCA after attending a Village SOS event. Village SOS was a national scheme ran by our umbrella body ACRE which helps organisations with an issue to resolve apply for bespoke support to help with this. The key issues facing Bishop FM were inappropriate studio space, lots of volunteers but no clear direction and they needed help to grown the business to increase its sustainability.

DCA ran development sessions and produced an action plan of key areas to focus on. As a result, funding was sourced to employ a part time development officer who focuses on generating income for the station and improving community relations. Communications between the board and volunteers have improved and there is a rota and policies and procedures in place. The studio is now located in a more fit for purpose room and the overall direction for the station is focused and positive.

"The workshops were really useful; they took us out of our normal routine and enabled us to have a conversation that focused on the future of the station. It's really unlikely that we'd have been able to do that without external support."

Gillian Campbell,
Finance Director,
Bishop FM

