



**Macclesfield Town Council  
Community grant feedback form  
Interim project update**

It is a condition of Macclesfield Town Council community grants that a report of how the grant was used is given to the council on request.

Therefore, when requested, you are asked to complete the below form and return to the Assistant Town Clerk. The form will be shared with the Finance Committee and in the committee reports which are put onto our website.

**We are requesting an interim progress report.**

<b>Name of organisation</b>	The Parochial Church Council of Ecclesiastical Parish of Holy Trinity Hurdsfield
<b>Contact name</b>	James Gibson
<b>Date grant awarded.</b>	07/09/22
<b>Amount awarded.</b>	1940

**Have you made any progress on your project so far? If so, tell us about this below:**

Since our first update on the 24/01/23, we have continued to make considerable progress in engaging with community of Hurdsfield. The intern programme has now meant we have better resources available to us to reach out into the community in a positive and safe way.

The interns have increased our capacity to visit more people, and this has meant we now know more people as a result. We are continuing to offer the support to many people through our activities which are listed below:

- a weekly 'drop-in' on a Wednesday afternoon,
- a monthly community meal,
- schools' family work
- a detached visiting programme
- training sessions for our interns and others who want to learn more about community engagement and

Thanks to our new community hub which opened in Sept 2022 we now have a great resource available to help us support people in our community. The community hub was built out of a vision to help serve and support the local community. The Drop -In is one of the initiatives we started as a response to the Cheshire East Warm Spaces initiative.

Since opening our doors, we have seen a great response from people in our locality. Due to its popularity, we have kept the 'Drop in' open because people have told us just how much they value the friendships they are making there.

The drop in operates each Wednesday at 1pm -4pm. We continue to average 20-25 people attending each week and have made the space open to all with a space for children to play, free hot drinks, games for anyone to play together and people to chat with. The interns continue to support this work and play a key part in this project. They assist us in building relationships and people.

As part of this, at Drop In they have been helping attendees with practical tasks such as filling out forms which might be complex or difficult, installing and helping with apps such as the chemist for repeat prescriptions and provided a couple of visitors with print outs as they had no access to a printer. All these seemingly small tasks can be very difficult if you don't have the knowledge or equipment to complete them so this can be vital for those finding life difficult. Since beginning, we have welcomed 103 unique visitors.

Our community meal continues to be a popular monthly event and we are now seeing some who come to Drop-In come along to the meal and vice versa. Those who attend enjoy the opportunity to eat with others, have a free hot meal and have food prepared for them. Many of those who attend would be eating alone and enjoy eating with others.

We have continued to support Hurdsfield Primary School provide support for some of their more challenging pupils and families. One of our interns has spent one day per week providing out of class support for children and working with families with school refusers.

Both our interns have attended our 8 session Community Engagement training course. This has looked at values, safeguarding, communication, and empathy.

### **What have you learned from so far from this project?**

Having two interns available throughout the week has helped us to reach more people and meant we can visit more people in the community and do this safely. They have assisted in visiting people but also regularly make calls through the week. This has helped us build relationships quicker and helped to draw people into the weekly drop in. It has also meant those that have little family around or those who have poor mobility can be visited or called which has given them real encouragement whilst ill or isolated.

We have found over the months people needing help with forms or getting online which, we have been able to do either when visiting or when we have met them at the Drop In.

We have seen the importance of networking and have worked alongside East Cheshire NHS Trust (Macclesfield Care Community). We signpost people we engage with to things they are doing and at times they have made us aware of vulnerable people in our community. We recently assisted them in a presentation to Cheshire and Merseyside NHS Trust to highlight what work they have been doing in our community. The local PCSO has conducted two surgeries from our 'Drop-In' and we have links with Edge 360 who now have Drop-In and our community meal as part of their running schedule.

We see though the problem coming in the months ahead once the interns leave us, we will lose that connection we have made with people in the community especially those we are visiting. As a church we are eager to employ a full-time community worker so this work can continue.

### **When do you expect the project to be complete?**

Both our interns are finishing their roles with us on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July, and they will be deeply missed by the team and the community. This grant has enabled us to have a more visible presence in the community throughout the week and people are aware of what we do and can offer in terms of support.

One of our interns has shown an interest in staying on for another year so we are also looking for funding to see if we can offer that from September.

We will also continue to look for funding especially considering our hopes of recruiting a full community worker.

**Please return this form to [helena.gowler@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk](mailto:helena.gowler@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk)**

