



**Macclesfield Town Council  
Community grant feedback form  
End of project report**

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. If you have not yet spent the entire grant, we are asking you to return this form with a progress report and an explanation of when the money will be spent.

The form will be shared with the Finance Committee, in committee papers and on our website.

<b>Name of organisation</b>	FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
<b>Contact name</b>	GILLIAN JONES
<b>Date grant awarded</b>	04/07/2023
<b>Amount awarded</b>	£2000

**Please describe how your grant was used:**

The grant has contributed to the cost of our "Friends of Falli" drama group. 14 sessions were held on Monday evenings during term time, between November 2023 and March 2024.

**How many people benefited from your project/activity or attended if it was an event?**

The sessions were attended by 13 disabled young people aged between 12 and 20 – a total of 118 attendances.

The group was kept quite small because of the individual needs of the young people. Disabilities include Autism, ADHD, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome and Learning Disabilities. Some young people have multiple conditions.

In addition, 5 young volunteers (aged 17 years) supported the group.

The group is led by Ian MacKay and Kathryn Howden. They are experienced in working with disabled young people.

**What was the outcome of your grant?**

The activities are designed to push people out of their comfort zone in a safe and supporting space. Young people learn skills that can be transferred to different situations e.g. work, new school etc.

The people in the group already have a shared interest in gaining a gateway into expanding social networks (by being part of FFL) and drama is the perfect opportunity to practice social skills; not just by getting together, but also by being able to act out and share other potential social situations.

A parent has recently said, ***"Drama has increased [my son's] confidence, helps him speak out, to work as a team and to follow instructions. He loves the group he is with and talks about the people there."***

The group does a lot of debriefing and reflective work which are also good skills to have when navigating the world.

Many of the games are for the 'fun element' but also group challenges. Young people increase their confidence and self-esteem by their sense of accomplishment and .

They all learn to perform in front of each other, and to parents and carers in their termly showcase. All the young people and volunteers feel part of a group and help each other if needed. All participants are encouraged to give feedback to each other. This has a very positive impact on mental well-being.

Over the last few months, two young people have been participating in community-based drama activities outside of Friends for Leisure. Their families have told us that the drama sessions with us have given them the confidence to do this.

Young volunteers have a great opportunity to support their disabled peers. They are more aware of the challenges faced by people with disabilities and learn how to offer the best support and encouragement.

One volunteer has said, ***"Overall I love the sessions. I'm not a "drama" person; however, I find the sessions to be rewarding. It's nice to be a role model for the kids and it's never the same twice! It's nice to work alongside someone to get them involved and see them slowly become more confident in themselves and start to put themselves out more. One thing that was really a pleasant surprise was just how kind the kids are to each other, they are all extremely patient and work their best to get those less confident than them involved."***

The staff and volunteers provide lots of support. This enables parents and carers to have some well-deserved respite.

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

The level of ability and challenging needs have meant that we could not allow any more young people to join the group.

The session leaders need to know as much as possible about each young person. This means a lot more work for FFL staff who are in contact with the families. This cost has therefore risen. We have increased subs to help pay for this.

**Please insert at least one photograph of your project/event here:**



**Please also attach evidence of the promotion you have carried out for this project (press articles/screenshots of social media posts etc).**

We send out a reminder before every session. These e-mails include details of funding.

Hello,

Just a reminder that you have booked a place on this evening's drama session