



**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.

Name of organisation	FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
Contact name	[REDACTED]
Date grant awarded	04/03/2025
Amount awarded	£2000.00

Please describe how your grant was used:

The funds enabled us to provide 11 drama sessions for registered young people between April and July 2025.

The “Friends of Falli” sessions were delivered in partnership with Fallibroome Academy and Ian Mackay, a Lead Practitioner & Lecturer in Applied Theatre and Psychology.

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

The sessions were attended by 16 disabled young people aged between 11 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, and the individual needs of the participants have increased over the past year.

In addition, 10 volunteers (9 of whom are aged 18 and under) supported the group.

What was the outcome of your grant?

The drama sessions provided opportunities for disabled young people to:

- Have fun in a safe setting with friends. They feel more positive and less socially isolated.

- Learn and practice essential life skills, such as listening, working as a team, taking a turn, giving and receiving feedback, and following instructions.
- The young people become more confident as they work through the term and perform in front of their families – something they have often not done before.
- All participants learn to perform in front of each other. This gives a sense of pride and achievement and improves mental well-being.
- Young volunteers have a great opportunity to support their disabled peers. They benefit from improving the communication skills necessary to work with individuals with learning disabilities / difficulties as well as gaining a greater understanding into the unique way many people with a disability see the world around them.

Feedback from parents and carers

"[My son] absolutely loves his drama club! His confidence has increased so much and he has learnt so much about how to act on stage. I love how Ian lets the students lead and lets them choose the words they want to say and the way they want to act out scenes. Most of all, [my son] has so much fun and looks forward to it every week. It's the main, regular social event in his week and he has made lots of friends who he looks forward to seeing. The drama club is a great mix of learning new skills, having fun, and socialising."

"Thank you for all the amazing work you've been doing with the drama sessions."

[My daughter] has absolutely loved being part of the group. It's been a place where she feels safe, accepted, and able to be her true self without any judgment. She's made new friends, grown in confidence, and looks forward to every session with genuine excitement."

I really hope you're able to secure funding for next term—the impact these sessions have had on [my daughter] has been wonderful, both socially and emotionally. It's such a valuable space for young people with additional needs to thrive."

"The drama club has been instrumental in [my son's] development. It's improved his communication, listening, social skills and confidence. [He] used Drama as his skill for both Bronze (completed 2024) and Silver (completed 2025) Duke of Edinburgh Awards."

It's one of the most inclusive clubs I've seen - encouraging children with and without language to contribute towards small productions. Their recent production of Peter Pan was wonderful!

FFL are lucky to have the support, skills, and inspiration from Ian Mac. He really cares about each child's abilities and is excellent at utilising their strengths and ideas. He, and his support team, are truly brilliant. In a time where so many charities, or clubs within them, are closing, it's important to continue supporting as many as possible. This one really can't close! It would be detrimental to the development of those most in need."

NOTE: We have not yet secured funding for the group to continue after October half-term.

What have you learned from this project?

The individual needs of the young people in this group have changed over the years. The current group have a diverse range of disabilities, and some have quite complex conditions, with specific support requirements. We have kept the group quite small to accommodate this.

The session leader, Ian Mackay, is a Lead practitioner & lecturer in Applied Theatre and Psychology. He and his assistant have vast experience of working with marginalised groups.

Ian has said, "I am very proud of the group and of the team. The group has become harder to work with over the last couple of years, but as equally rewarding. They are an amazing group of young people."

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

Activity flyer attached.

Please return this form to helena.gowler@macclesfield-tc.gov.uk