



**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.

Name of organisation	Refugees Welcome
Contact name	Mark Buttle
Date grant awarded	9 th February 2026
Amount awarded	£1,950.00

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

Refugees Welcome has made good progress with the activities we set out in our proposal to Macclesfield Town Council in February 2026.

Since 9/2/26:

- Our 51 volunteers have engaged with refugee families to understand the services available to them; and we have repeatedly shared information to help refugees access services, via our website and social media.
<https://www.instagram.com/refugeeswelcome.uk/>
- Multiple English Language learning opportunities were organised: 14 volunteer-led group English language sessions have been held at Macclesfield Methodist Church attended by 10-15 refugees, every week. In the wider area 12 people received one-to-one English language tuition, and 30 people used an online language learning tool "Lora" to practice their skills.
- Our "Furnishing Service" which uses RW's own bespoke App to help people select the items that they need has taken off and we are confident that we will reach the target figure of 50 families.
- Several events are planned for the summer, a garden party among other events, which will bring refugees and local residents closer together.

As an additional activity, an outing to Quarry Bank Mill was organised in March 2026, not directly funded using MTC funding - but which would not have been possible without MTC's contribution. 21 people from Macclesfield attended and the trip was a particular success, with one person writing on a Ukrainian refugees' "Telegram Group" (translated):

"Allow me to express my sincere gratitude to the organizers and Brilliant Volunteers from Refugees Welcome Charity of yesterday's trip to Quarry Bank (Manchester)! An unforgettable, informative and quite instructive excursion was conducted at the highest level and inspired new thoughts and plans!"

What have you learned from so far from this project?

For Refugees Welcome, lessons learned, to date (May 2026), include:

1. We consider the project to be on track, with only minor challenges encountered, so far.
2. RW's resilience as a voluntary organisation has indeed been significantly boosted by our partnership with CVSCE, significantly helped by MTC's funding. This has increased our capacity to manage our volunteers and to monitor our activities. Macclesfield Town Council's decision on 9/2/26 to allow Refugees Welcome to consider its contribution as "unrestricted" has been incredibly helpful to our tiny organisation, enabling us to prioritise this basic support.
3. So far very few (of our targeted 10 poorer families) have needed any emergency small grants (normally £100 maximum). We will keep an eye on this activity as we predict an increased need for expensive items, like school uniforms, as we approach the new school year in September.

When do you expect the project to be complete?

31st December 2026

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