



## Andover Town Council end of grant report

Name of organisation and the event/project.	ACE Dress to Impress
Project date & location.	May 23
How much money did Andover Town Council award your organisation and when was it awarded?	£2350 Awarded 24th March 2023

## Proposal vs Results overview

How many people in Andover have benefitted from this project/event?  
If this figure is lower than estimated in the original application, please explain why:

We supported 18 young people in the 2023 prom season.

	Surname	Referral received	Description of hired items	Number of items	D
1					
2		No	Jacket and Tie	2	
3		No	3 piece, tie and bow tie	5	
4		No	2 piece, shirt and tie	4	
5		no	2 piece and shirt	3	
6		No	Blue dress, Tiara and Bag	3	
7		No	2 piece grey and blue pinstripe	2	
8		No	Blue dress	1	
9		Yes	Green dress and shoes	2	
10		No	Red dress, bag and shoes	3	
11		yes	Black dress, bag, Tiara, shoes	4	
12		No	3 piece, bow tie, shoes and cufflinks	6	
13		No	Jacket, shirt and Tie	3	
14		yes	2 piece and shirt	3	
15		No	Jacket and bow tie	2	
16		No	Purple dress	1	
17		Yes	Bag and Balero	2	
18		No	Red dress, bag and shoes	1	
19					

‘we feel a minimum of 198 young people alone will be supported by the Prom facility per year.’

We feel this is likely to be the case when we can offer a more continuous and permanent service. Due to building insecurity over the last 12 months and lack of space, we were not in the position to give this project the visibility it needed to become the reliable service we aim to provide. We are confident that with a solid 12 months of our permanent building and the benefit of experienced and reliable volunteers/paid workforce, the project will flourish.

**How has the organisation measured the success of the event/project?**

We do have our referral information, which includes the back-to-work bundles, but our success is measured by meeting the needs of the people who applied for help of which this was 100%. We did have one young person that couldn’t find trousers that fit that matched his suit jacket but his parents were confident that school trousers could be acquired to match.

But this will be a project that can't be measured by money or even people supported. Enabling our youths to take part in this ‘rites of passage’. Feeling confident and special while surrounded by your peers in this celebration of completing secondary education is not a given. The cost of living crisis has impacted many hard-working families that wouldn’t previously be considered as people in need. A reasonable income is being met by increased mortgage payments, increased utility costs, increased food and fuel costs and no support.

This project not only provides multiple young people with their prom wear but it also provides a safety net of reassurance for those parents concerned if they’ll be able to afford it all.

**Has the organisation seen uptake of new service users/volunteers or contributors since the event/project took place? If yes, please detail.**

We've had lots of requests for DTI and anticipate a good uptake this year. The charity itself and wrap-around services have continued to grow and surpass all expectations despite the building insecurity and multiple closures.

**Has the organisation received feedback on the event/project? If yes, please detail.**

We received verbal feedback from two of the secondary schools and Markway contacted us this year to add their Prom date into our support calendar.

We have had some lovely pictures from teens supported.

**Please let Andover Town Council know a standout moment of the event/project?**

The tears of one of our volunteer models.

He knew nothing about the service; his friends had dragged him along on the promise of an Amazon voucher for some of his time.

Only after trying on dozens of suits did he start asking about how the service works. He asked his mum to call me. I got off the phone and told him he could select the suit he wanted. He was very emotional when he got to take some shoes, too. He said he didn't realise how stressed he was about the costs until the stress was removed.

**Were there any lessons learnt that can be taken forward to your next event/project? If yes, please detail.**

We were aware when we took the project on that we would only be helping a small proportion of the community for a very short period of time and that we would have to work hard to make this project sustainable. The launch of the hire Library later this year will help to make this project sustainable. Publishing the catalogues of stock will be key to this.

Not having our own building caused difficulties with donations and returns. The return facility wasn't happy to hold deposit money, and as payments were made via online transactions, they were difficult to identify and match to names on hire documents, which made it difficult to return deposits. As returns will be made directly to ACE this year, systems and processes will be clear, and deposit returns will be efficient.

Due to our building situation again this year, time frames for try-ons and hire is short but we are confident that due to further awareness of the service and improved communication with the secondary schools, we will be able to access and support more young people this year.

**Did the organisation manage to keep to the estimated budget provided in the application form?**

We were a little over predicted costs but ended up purchasing slightly less than anticipated. While the dry cleaning costs were higher than predicted, this

included lots of Back to work items, too.

Item	Predicted Cost	Actual cost
Starting stock- suits, accessories, and shoes	£600	Vinted = £280.37
		Charity shops: £70.50
		Car Boot sales: £120.52
		Total = £471.39
70 x dry cleaning	£1400	£1,593.00
Mannequins, hanging rails, garment bags and Mirrors	£350	Rails = £80
		2x Changing rooms =£238.94 1@£98.95 +1@£139.99
		Mirrors £40
		Mannequins = £25.00
		Total = £383.94
Total Expected Project costs	£2,350	£2,448.33
Unexpected costs		
Van hire		£174.25
Venue Hire	0	£70 1@£50 + 1@£20
Storage		£75 per month = £150 so far
Amazon vouchers for students		£180
Printing		£10
Oopsie with Hire vehicle	Incident with Van	⊖ £500 excess ⊖ ⊖
		Total = £1267.50 ⊖
	Total project costs	£3,715.83

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<p>Are photographs of event/project attached to report.</p> <p><a href="https://www.facebook.com/ACEFACEBOOKPAGE/videos/804262157850764">https://www.facebook.com/ACEFACEBOOKPAGE/videos/804262157850764</a></p>	

**Please return your completed report to:**

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