
Report To:	Education and Communities Committee	Date:	12 March 2019
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/22/19/RB
Contact Officer:	Ruth Binks	Contact No:	01475 712761
Subject:	Access to Free Sanitary Products		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update and inform the committee on the implementation of the Scottish Government commitment to provide free access to sanitary products in schools and community facilities.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 On 30 May 2018, the Scottish Government committed funding to provide “access to free sanitary products to students in schools, colleges and universities”. To support equality, dignity and rights for those who menstruate and to ensure that lack of access to products does not affect an individual’s ability to participate in education at all levels.
- 2.2 This commitment continues to roll out a Scotland wide initiative with the basis on the main findings of the pilot study from Aberdeen in 2018. A set of Guiding Principles is available to help shape local delivery models.
- 2.3 Using the national framework for sanitary products, a variety of product types are now sourced and available for use in Inverclyde Schools, Libraries, Youth Zones and Community Centres.
- 2.4 Inverclyde Council received a total of £25,733 to set up and provide products from August 2018 to March 2019. The Scottish Government has issued a Monitoring Framework to monitor spend from September 2018 to February 2019. The funding allocation for 2019/20 is £72,947.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Inverclyde Council continues to support the commitment to roll out Access to Free Sanitary Products across schools and increases this in 2019/20 to include a range of places where sanitary products are available for those who need them. Non-school locations should have a range of products available at all times.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director
Education, Communities & Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 On 30 May 2018, the Scottish Government announced funding to local authorities to provide access to free sanitary products to students in schools, colleges and universities and to provide access to products during school holidays and weekends.
- 4.2 The Scottish Government also issued a set of guiding principles which the local delivery model should be based on:
- Protecting student's dignity, avoiding anxiety, embarrassment and stigma.
 - Making a range of products in places that people use.
 - A response that is reflective of communities views and needs.
 - An efficient and effective approach which demonstrates value for money.
 - Individuals being able to get sufficient products to meet their needs.
 - Gender Equality - ensuring anyone who menstruates can access products including transgender men and non-binary individuals and that language is gender inclusive.
 - Awareness raising and education to both promote the 'offer' and change cultural norms.
- 4.3 The findings of the Aberdeen pilot project in 2018 confirmed access to sanitary products as an issue for some people and different groups are affected in different ways. The key learning point from the pilot was that in educational institutions, there was embarrassment about periods generally and having to ask a staff member for products is a particular issue for young pupils. School staff noted a need for education around menstruation and sanitary products to reduce stigma and normalise discussion of menstruation. Provision during school holidays and weekends should also be easily accessible and discreet for people on low income.
- 4.4 Prior to October 2018, schools in Inverclyde held supplies of sanitary products for pupils who asked for them, this was the case in both primary and secondary schools. There was no charge for these products and they tended to be required in one-off emergencies. However, there is a stigma attached to menstruation and some pupils may not have felt comfortable about asking school staff for sanitary products.

5.0 CURRENT POSITION

5.1 Product Sourcing within Inverclyde

This is a national framework, which offers schools a selection of sanitary products across 4 suppliers. An order was placed with Hey Girls and deliveries made to schools in October 2018. Appendix 1 details the types of sanitary products and quantities purchased between September 2018 and February 2019.

APPENDIX 1

5.2 Proposed Delivery Model within Inverclyde

All Head Teachers have received the Scottish Government Guiding Principles and Good Practice information for the provision of sanitary products in schools, to share amongst staff.

Sanitary products are now available in both primary and secondary schools and are located in medical rooms, staff rooms, reception areas, pupil support areas and various toilet areas. Plastic storage boxes are located in each of these areas and are stocked with a variety of sanitary products ensuring accessibility without having to ask a member of staff. Tote bags will be purchased for secondary school toilet cubicles and stocked with multiple types of products that can be accessed in privacy.

Inverclyde has established a short life working group to support the development, delivery and measurement of impact of accessing free sanitary products as part of the tackling poverty and gender inequality agenda. The short life working group has relevant representatives from procurement, children and young people's rights, school nursing, teachers, youth workers, and facilities services.

5.3 Delivery Model - Secondary Schools

Secondary schools have been given a range of sanitary products to choose from, placed in a

variety of discrete and easily accessible locations including gender neutral toilets. The locations within the secondary schools have been identified through engagement and consultation with Pupil Voice representatives coming together to the Inverclyde Pupil Network, to share what is good in their school and how other pupil voice representatives can adapt this practice.

Representatives from the Inverclyde Pupil Network attended a training workshop facilitated by Hey Girls and the Children's Rights Officer in December 2018. Pupils were given an action sheet to complete and return at the end of February 2019. The views and needs detailed in the responses will be collated and will inform future planning.

It was anticipated that there may be an increase in the number of sanitary bin uplifts and possible increase in the number of sanitary bins around school toilets. There have been no reported increases between October 2018 and February 2019.

APPENDIX 2

5.4 Delivery Model – Primary Schools

Primary schools are more likely to know which pupils may require the products, because the numbers are likely to be low and they have been given a smaller range of sanitary products to be made freely available for pupils to access when they need them. Pupils in Primary 6 and 7 will learn about the changes in their body as part of the Curriculum of Excellence and the offer of free sanitary products and how to access them will be raised at this time. Parents will receive letters and notification from schools on how they can access the free sanitary products on behalf of their child. The short life working group will have responsibility to gather information from all the primary schools to share with the Scottish Government as part of the national framework agreement.

5.5 Delivery Model in the Community for evenings, weekends and holiday periods

In addition to school sites, sanitary products are now available in Libraries, Youth Zones and Community Centres throughout Inverclyde to cover weekends and school holidays.

FUTURE PROPOSAL 2019/20

5.6 Funding Allocation for 2019/20

On 30 November 2018, COSLA Leaders agreed to the proposed funding to expand access to free sanitary products and “aim to increase the number and range of places where sanitary products are available for those who need them. We will do this through working with a range of public and private sector organisations and with additional third sector partners to expand the geographical spread of support”. The budget allocated for 2019/20 is £72,947.

5.7 Product Sourcing within Inverclyde 2019/20

A mini competition is required using the National Procurement Framework of suppliers, through the Scotland Excel Framework as the allocated budget for 2019/20 exceeds £25,000.

5.8 Reusable Products

The Scottish Government support the principle of reusable products on both value for money and environmental grounds. Two types of reusable products are within each secondary school however a local delivery plan needs to be developed to consider how to make products available and educate those pupils who wish to use them.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

6.1 Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A		2018/19	£25,733		Set up and Development Funding - £7,496 Sanitary Products Allocation - £18,237 Total for 2018/19 (August 2018 to March 2019) - £25,733
		2019/20	£72,947		

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

Legal

6.2 None

Human Resources

6.3 None

Equalities

6.4 Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

Yes See attached appendix

No This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Repopulation

6.5 N/A

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 Young People
Other Local Authorities
Health & Wellbeing Coordinators
Health & Wellbeing Collaborative
Head Teachers

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Inverclyde Council will continue to expand on the access to free sanitary products initiative by increasing the geographical spread of locations where products are available for those who need them during 2019/20.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 Access to Sanitary Products Aberdeen Pilot: Evaluation Report

**PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT
 PROVIDING ACCESS TO FREE SANITARY PRODUCTS TO STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS,
 COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
 ACADEMIC YEAR 2018-19
 REPORTING PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 2018 – FEBRUARY 2019**

Reporting period: 1st September 2018 – 1st February 2019

Name of Council: Inverclyde Council

Date of reporting (07/02/19):

1. Products	
1.1. Types and varieties of available products	
What types of sanitary products were available to students during this reporting period? Please comment on the availability of sanitary towels, tampons, reusable products etc.	Daytime Sanitary Pads Overnight Sanitary Pads Organic Regular Digital Tampon Organic Super Digital Tampon Reusable Large and Regular Sanitary Pads Wet Bags Menstrual Cups with Bags

1.2. Total number and cost of different types of products purchased						
If possible, please complete the below table detailing the number and cost of products purchased during this reporting period (including reusable products). Please provide costs per unit or per box . Please indicate if you have included VAT as part of this figure. <i>Note:</i> 'unit' refers to one sanitary towel/tampon/reusable product.						
Product name	Cost per unit		Cost per box			Including VAT? (Yes/No)
	No. of units purchased	Cost per unit	No. of boxes purchased	No. of units per box	Cost per box	
Day Time Sanitary Pad Carton of 45 Boxes of 10			20	450	36.00	yes
Sani Pads daytime Loose Sanitary Pads Carton of 500 loose pads			92	500	37.50	yes
Daytime Sanitary Pads Caron of 24 boxes of 10			11	240	18.00	yes
Wet Bags	28	1.50				yes
Menstrual Cups with Bag	14	3.59				yes
Overnight Sanitary Pads carton of 24 boxes of 8			72	192	18.00	yes
Reusable Sanitary Pad Regular	70	2.15				yes
Reusable Sanitary Pad Large	70	2.15				yes
Digital Tampons Super Digital tampons 24/16			28	384	40.70	yes

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Digital Tampons Organic regular digital tampon carton of 24 boxes of 16.			48	384	30.72	yes
Notes						

2. Total Spend	
What was your total expenditure on delivering access to free sanitary products during this reporting period? Please include product costs, delivery costs, marketing costs etc. (please indicate if you have included VAT as part of this cost) (This included the storage units and boxes)	£10,548.42
	Including VAT (<u>yes</u>):
What was your total expenditure on sanitary products only during this reporting period? (please indicate if you have included VAT as part of this cost)	£9,105.01
	Including VAT (<u>yes</u>):
Did your local authority claim back the VAT of the sanitary products purchased during this reporting period? (yes/no)	Yes

3. Estimate of Uptake	
3.1. Number of products distributed	
If possible, please complete the below table detailing the number of product type distributed to schools. <i>Note:</i> 'unit' refers to one sanitary towel/tampon/reusable product.	
Product type	No. of units distributed to schools
Reusable products	182
All sanitary products	100,648

3.2. Provision	
Were free sanitary products available in all eligible schools in the local authority during this reporting period? (Yes/No)	YES – from October 2018 to February 2019
If free sanitary products were not available in all schools during this reporting period:	
Please provide the numbers of primary and secondary schools in which free sanitary products were available during this reporting period:	Primary schools: 20 Primary Schools + 2 Additional Support schools
	Secondary schools: 6 Secondary Schools

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For what reason was it not possible to make sanitary protection available in all schools?	N/A
Were products made available in any non-school setting(s)? If yes, please provide details.	Yes – Products are available in Libraries, Youth Zones and Community Centres across Inverclyde to ensure availability during school holidays and weekends.

4. Delivery and Purchasing Models

What was your delivery model during this reporting period? Please discuss any changes in your delivery model from your original implementation plan.	Hey Girls were the company that won the contract and they include delivery to the schools and libraries as part of their costs of the sanitary products.
Were free sanitary products made available during the school holidays during this reporting period? If so, please provide details of holiday provision.	Products are available in Libraries, Youth Zones and Community Centres across Inverclyde to ensure availability during school holidays and weekends.
Did you achieve the full extent of your planned delivery during this reporting period? If not, please detail the extent of coverage achieved during this reporting period and, if possible, when full coverage will be achieved and on what basis you will phase implementation going forward.	Full extent of the 1 st Term were distributed to the schools to ensure young people could access the sanitary products when they required.
Were there any times during this reporting period in which students could not access the sanitary product provision (e.g. during holidays or any other disruptions to provision)? If possible, please provide the dates and reasons.	The sanitary products should be available to all young people at all times.

5. Additional Costs (Including Setup Costs, Delivery Costs) – Optional

Please complete the below table detailing the any additional costs incurred (excluding expenditure on sanitary products, as detailed in Table 1.2) during this reporting period.

Details of Expenditure	Total cost	Does this cost include VAT? (Yes/No)
Plastic storage boxes for school toilets	£1,877.00	No

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6. Notes – Optional

Please use this section to provide any additional information about factors that could have influenced uptake or a note of any other reflections.

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Action – Period Poverty

Each school has the same action to explore within their schools.

The focus of today's workshop with Hey Girls was to provide you with information and learning around Period Poverty and how this is an equalities issue. Some examples of good practice have been shared today and **we encourage you to try these ideas and develop new ones that may meet the needs of your own schools.**

Action 1. Please explore the questions over leaf within your school.

You can email your response to the Action to Nicola.Hurrell@inverclyde.gov.uk or return via the pre –paid envelope.

Please return your responses and any feedback regarding ideas you have tried/ would like to develop by_____.

If you require further information regarding Period Poverty and the Action outlined above, please contact:

Nicola Hurrell -HSCP

Nicola.Hurrell@inverclyde.gov.uk

Molly Brown – Hey Girls

education@heygirls.co.uk



School Name:

Name and Year Group of School Representatives:

Date:

1. What is currently offered in your school that would help impact on inequalities around period poverty?

2. What do you think would help people to access the sanitary products that they need?

3. How can we encourage people to use the products that are available within the school when they need them?

4. What would stop people from accessing the free sanitary products in schools and how can we overcome this challenge?

5. How aware do you think your school is about accessing free sanitary products either in school or in the community (libraries and youth zones)?

6. How would you feel about talking to people about period poverty or how to access free sanitary products?

7. How else can we communicate with people, parents, teachers and the community on accessing free sanitary products?