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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Education and Communities Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>3 September 2019</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Corporate Director Education, Communities &amp; Organisational Development</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>EDUCOM/58/19/NH</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Ruth Binks</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712761</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Access to Free Sanitary Products Update</b>		

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## 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 places where those who need them can access them.

## 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 Inverclyde Council received a total of £28,075 to set up and provide products in schools from August 2018 to March 2019. An additional amount of £25,733 was allocated from January 2019 to March 2019 to increase the number and range of places where sanitary products could be available for those who need them in the community.
- 2.4 Using the national framework for sanitary products, varieties of products are now sourced and available at a number of locations throughout Inverclyde.

## 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Committee notes that:
- Inverclyde Council continues to support the commitment to roll out Access to Free Sanitary Products across schools.
  - This provision will increase in 2019/20 to include a range of places in the wider community where sanitary products are available for those who need them.
  - Community Access locations will have a range of products available during term time, weekends and school holidays.

**Ruth Binks**  
**Director of Education**

## 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 holidays and weekends.
- 4.2 The Scottish Government also issued a set of guiding principles which the local delivery model for access to free sanitary products in schools should be based on:
- **Protecting students' dignity**, avoiding anxiety, embarrassment and stigma
  - Making a range of products and different quantities available, giving students **choice** about the products they want to use
  - A response that is **reflective of students' views and experiences**
  - An efficient and dignified approach which demonstrates **value for money**
  - An offer for all eligible students **throughout the year** to include both **term time and holidays**
  - Ensuring sanitary products are easily accessible to **meet individual needs**
  - 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 neutral. The roll out of gender-neutral toilets should also be taken account of.
  - **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 the holiday and weekend periods should also be easily accessed (without having to ask a member of staff) and discreet for people on low incomes.
- 4.4 Prior to October 2018, schools in Inverclyde held supplies of sanitary products for pupils who ask 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.
- 4.5 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".
- 4.6 The Scottish Government also issued a set of guiding principles which the local delivery model for access to free sanitary products in the wider community should be based on:
- **Protecting people's dignity**, avoiding anxiety, embarrassment and stigma
  - Making a range of products available 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**
  - Individuals being able to get sufficient products to **meet their needs**
  - **Gender Equality** - ensuring anyone who menstruates can access products, including transgender men/non-binary individuals, and that language is gender inclusive
  - **Awareness raising and education** to both promote the 'offer' and change cultural norms.

## 5.0 CURRENT POSITION

### 5.1 Product Sourcing within Inverclyde

There is a national framework, which offers a selection of sanitary products across 4 suppliers. Hey Girls have been the supplier used for all product orders for both schools and community locations. The previous understanding that a mini competition would be required, is not now the case due to the ranked one supplier going out of business and the very competitive rates of the nearest ranked supplier.

### 5.2 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 ASN, primary and secondary schools and are located in medical 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 are also on the back of most secondary school toilet cubicle doors and stocked with multiple types of products that can be accessed privately and discreetly.

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 for Excellence and the offer of free sanitary products and how to access them will be raised at this time.

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.

There is now access to sanitary products at a number of different community accessible locations throughout Inverclyde. Products are available in female, gender-neutral and accessible toilets. Storage of sanitary products is the same as school based delivery methods, plastic boxes or tote bags.

### 5.3 Funding Allocation 2018/19 & 2019/20 – School Access

An allocation of £28,075.00 for 2018/19 (August 2018 to March 2019) for school access to sanitary products. The budget consisted of 2 elements: £7,254 for set up & development and £20,821 for sanitary products.

Initial orders of £9k on sanitary products and £2k for set up processed in October 2018, leaving £17k in the budget. The supplier could not fulfil the final order placed, to the value of £17k, before 31 March 2019. The order was for educational resources, tote bags and 'First Period Kits'. This resulted in the budget carrying forward and orders raised again in May 2019 when the items became available.

The CLD Youth Work Team and the Health & Wellbeing Co-ordinators in schools will use the educational resources purchased. CLD have developed a proposal to roll out educational activities and workshops in all Youth Projects. In September 2019, 'Hey Girls' will be running a workshop with all Health & Wellbeing Coordinators to give an overview of the educational resources available and tips for product distribution. Guidance will be given on how to distribute the 'First Period Kits' purchased for P6-S6 pupils and how best to encourage pupils to utilise the products available within school. The purchase of tote bags, for hanging on the back of toilet cubicle doors, allows private and discreet access to multiple types of products.

### 5.4 Funding Allocation 2018/19 & 2019/20 – Community Access

There was an initial budget allocation for 2018/19 (January 2019 to March 2019) of £25,733. The budget consisted of 2 elements: £7,496 for set up and development funding and £18,237

for sanitary products.

In 2018/19 expenditure on sanitary products totalled £15k for Foodbanks, Public Toilets and Spring Holiday Hubs. COSLA agreed to the £10.5k (£7.5k set up/£3k sanitary products) underspend being carried forward to 2019/20. During May/June 2019, additional locations have been stocked with sanitary products. This has used the remaining product budget and £2k of the set up & development budget used to purchase storage for the additional locations.

Of the £5k left for set up & development, posters, window stickers, drawer labels and cubicle stickers will be purchased for each location.

A funding allocation for sanitary products has been set at £72,947 for 2019/20. To date, there is expenditure of £12k on sanitary products. Additional locations have been identified and will be stocked with sanitary products once the needs of the location have been established (**Appendices 1 & 2**).

#### 5.5 Development Required 2019/2020

The Scottish Government supports 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.

A communications plan has been developed to promote the initiative and will start in August 2019. Posters, window stickers, social media and plasma screens are some of the methods that will be utilised.

## 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	£28,075		<p><b>School Access</b> Set up and Development Funding - £7,254 Sanitary Products Allocation - £20,821 Total for 2018/19 (August 2018 to March 2019) -</p>
			£25,733		<p><b>Community Access</b> Set up and Development Funding - £7,496 Sanitary Products Allocation - £18,237 Total for 2018/19 (January 2019 – March 2019)</p>
		2019/20	£31,000		<b>School Access</b>

			£72,947		<b>Community Access</b>
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Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

<b>Cost Centre</b>	<b>Budget Heading</b>	<b>With Effect from</b>	<b>Annual Net Impact £000</b>	<b>Virement From (If Applicable)</b>	<b>Other Comments</b>
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 / Youth Council  
 Other Local Authorities  
 Health & Wellbeing Coordinators  
 Head Teachers  
 Education Services  
 HSCP  
 COSLA  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector  
 CLD  
 SCEN

## **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

**Public Toilets**

Coronation Park, Port Glasgow  
 Hunters Place, Greenock  
 Kilblain Street, Greenock  
 Campbell Street, Greenock  
 Gourock Walled Gardens (Bunny Park), Gourock  
 Shore Street, Gourock  
 Albert Road, Gourock  
 Inverkip Road, Inverkip

**Community Centres**

Belville Community Gardens  
 Gibshill Community Centre  
 Craigend Resource Centre  
 Broomhill Gardens and Community Hub  
 Auchmountain Halls  
 Grieve Road Community Centre  
 Branchton Community Centre  
 Wemyss Bay Community Centre  
 Kilmacolm Community Centre  
 Inverkip Community Hub  
 Clune Park Resource Centre

**Foodbanks**

Inverclyde Food Bank  
 Church Angels

**I Youth Zones**

Greenock I Youth Zone  
 Port Glasgow I Youth Zone  
 Youth Connections

**Libraries**

Central Library  
 Gourock Library  
 Inverkip & Wemyss Bay Library  
 Kilmacolm Library  
 Port Glasgow Library  
 South West Library

**HSCP / NHS**

Fitzgerald Resource Centre  
 Inverclyde Centre for Independent Living  
 Crown House  
 Wellpark Centre  
 Inverclyde Homelessness Centre  
 Port Glasgow Health Centre  
 Ardgowan Medical Practice  
 Roxburgh Practice  
 Mount Pleasant Practice  
 The Medical Centre  
 The New Surgery  
 Dr Rai & Goyal  
 Dorema Surgery  
 Greenock Health Centre  
 Gourock Health Centre  
 Princes Street House  
 Skylark Child Development Centre  
 CAMHS Larkfield Child and Family Centre

Inverclyde Council Customer Service Centre

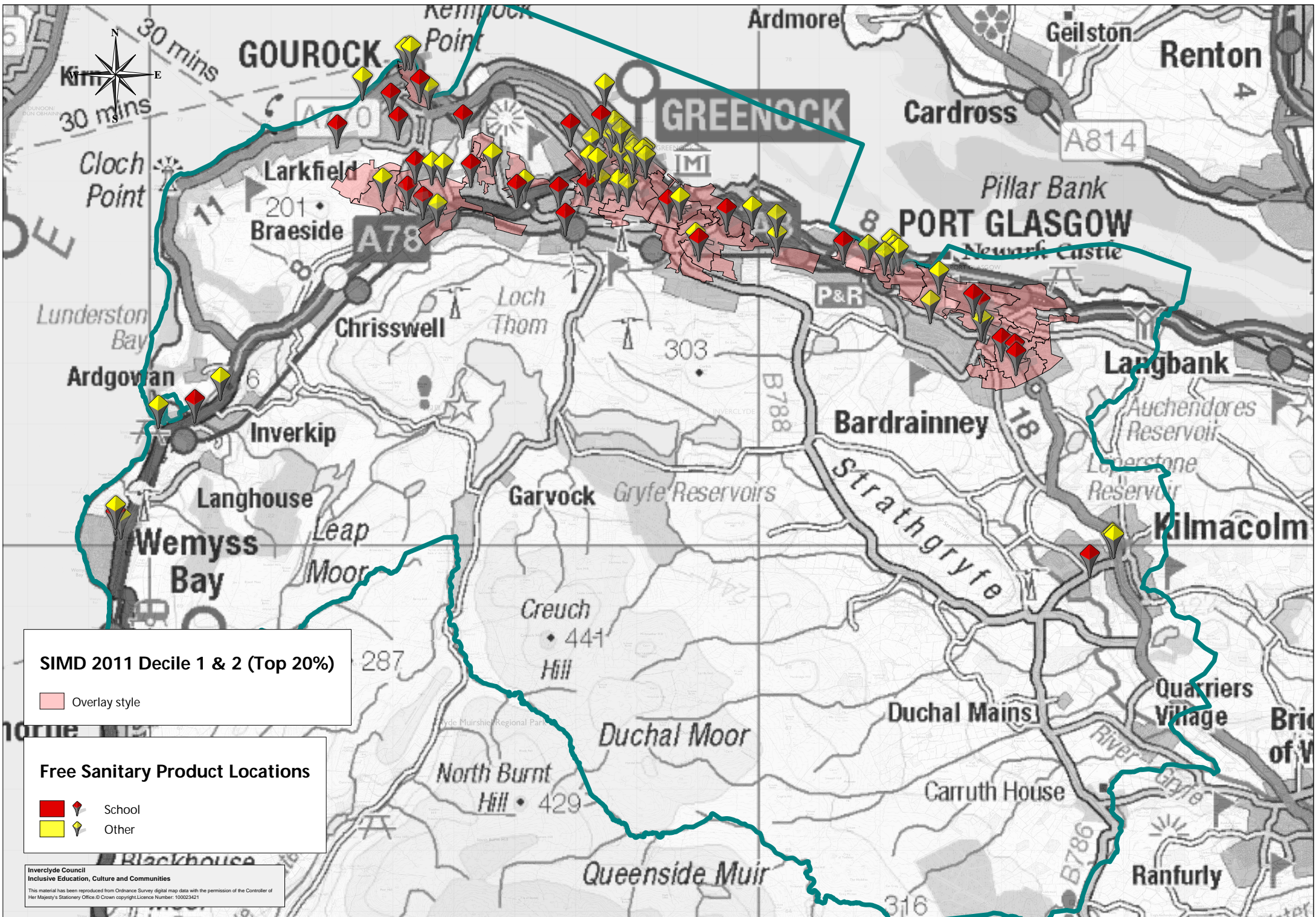
Prospecthill Christian Fellowship

DWP - Greenock Job Centre

Skills Development Scotland

CVS Inverclyde

Inverclyde Community Development Trust - Greenock  
 Inverclyde Community Development Trust - John Wood Street  
 Inverclyde Community Development Trust - Devol



**SIMD 2011 Decile 1 & 2 (Top 20%)**

Overlay style

**Free Sanitary Product Locations**

◆ School  
◆ Other

**Inverclyde Council**  
 Inclusive Education, Culture and Communities

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