

## ITEM No ...2.....

**REPORT TO:** CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES COMMITTEE – 14 MAY 2018

**REPORT ON:** PROVISION OF FREE SANITARY PRODUCTS IN SCHOOLS

**REPORT BY:** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICE

**REPORT NO:** 154-2018

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The Scottish Government has committed to providing access to free sanitary products to pupils in schools to support equality, dignity and rights for those who menstruate. This report seeks approval from the Committee to engage with pupils and key stakeholders to create a Dundee delivery model that will begin to be implemented from August 2018.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that Committee:

- i note and approve the contents of the report;
- ii instruct the Executive Director to implement the proposals and report back on progress in 12 months.

### **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 The financial implications for the delivery model would be fully funded by the Scottish Government. Funding will be based on population and an amount per pupil per year. The Scottish Government will provide further details of the allocation for Dundee by the end of May.

### **4.0 BACKGROUND**

4.1 Since June 2017, “Ending Period Poverty” has been high on Scotland’s public policy agenda. Easy access to period products is fundamental to the health and wellbeing of those who menstruate. With one in four children in Scotland living in poverty, the cost of essential sanitary products is yet another expense that low income families struggle to meet.

The Scottish Government has therefore committed funding to all Local Authorities to ensure that lack of access to products does not impact on an individual’s ability to participate fully in learning in education at all levels. National Guiding Principles have been developed which include:

- **Protecting students’ dignity**, avoiding anxiety, embarrassment and stigma
- Making a range of products with different absorbencies 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 regardless of whether it is term time or 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/non-binary individuals, and that language is gender neutral. The roll out of gender neutral toilets should also be taken account of and the provision of sanitary bins to be available within each cubicle.
- **Awareness raising and education** to both promote the ‘offer’ and change cultural norms

- 4.2 The Scottish Government are keen to explore the feasibility of a national delivery model which may potentially involve a payment or entitlement card. In the absence of this the Scottish Government expect all Local Authorities to have an interim Local delivery model in place ready for implementation in August 2018.
- 4.3 In relation to procurement of products, the Scottish Government officials have met with Colleagues from Scotland Excel and APUC. It is currently recommended that each Local Authority creates their own system for procuring the products and are advised to steer away from vending machines at this early stage of implementation. It is anticipated that Scottish Government will create a National Framework including a monitoring and evaluation framework.
- 4.4 This programme relates well to ongoing work in the council around the Cost of the School Day a report on which will be brought to committee shortly.

## **5.0 PROPOSAL – DUNDEE DELIVERY MODEL**

- 5.1 The Local delivery model must be eligible for all Primary and Secondary School pupils who menstruate, including those Pupils who are Educated at Home.
- 5.2 It is proposed that Dundee Officers engage with key stakeholders including Neighbourhood Services, NHS (Tayside), Third Sector, Dundee Youth Council, City Wide Pupil Council, Dundee and Angus College and the universities to create a delivery plan and model, including Policy Guidelines for all Schools that will begin to be implemented from August 2018.
- 5.3 The roll out of the full programme will be in place by the end of session 2018/19. It is likely that the programme will be subject to modification based on ongoing feedback from young people and levels of uptake.

## **6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 This Report has been screened for any implications in respect of sustainability, strategic environment assessment, anti-poverty, equality impact assessment and risk management. There are no major issues.

## **7.0 CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The Council Management Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

## **8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1 None.

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Executive Director  
April 2018