

North Lanarkshire Council Report

Communities Committee

Does this report require to be approved?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Ref SP/LP

Date

28/10/24

Access to Free Period Products (Period Dignity Initiative) – Annual Update

From Stephen Penman, Chief Officer (Strategic Communication & Engagement)

E-mail penmanste@northlan.gov.uk
pollockle@northlan.gov.uk

Telephone 07947 997750

Executive Summary

This report provides an update on the activity relating to the delivery and further development of the Access to Free Period Product / Period Dignity initiative.

Members will be aware that since August 2018 all local authorities in Scotland were provided with funding to introduce access to free period products in schools.

From January 2019 the Scottish Government provided additional funding to all local authorities to increase the number and range of places where period products are available free of charge to those who need them, with a focus on publicly accessible buildings.

The purpose of the funding for schools remains to support equality, dignity and rights for those who menstruate and to ensure that lack of access to products does not impact on an individual's ability to fully participate in education, at all levels.

The main intent of the wider roll out for community provision remains tackling poverty but also wider need and to address the overarching gender equality and dignity issues that affect all of those who menstruate regardless of income. Currently, spending is split between school and community provision. This approach has been designed to reflect the needs of communities across the council area.

The Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 12th January 2021, became legislation on the 15th of August 2022 and fully into force in January 2023.

This important work will continue to be informed by the findings from online consultation with residents.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Community Committee –

- (1) Acknowledge the significant work carried out to date across key council services and partner agencies
 - (2) Endorse the planned developments for delivery of the project outlined in this report dependent on funding availability.
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The Plan for North Lanarkshire

Priority	All priorities
Ambition statement	(20) Improve the involvement of communities in the decisions, and development of services and supports, that affect them
Programme of Work	All Programmes of Work

1. Background

- 1.1 From August 2018, all local authorities in Scotland were allocated funding to provide access to free sanitary products in schools. The Scottish Government made a new commitment in the 2018 funding year to expand this provision beyond schools. In November 2018 COSLA Leaders agreed to this proposal and developed 'Guiding Principles' in partnership with Scottish Government. Since then, North Lanarkshire Council has been allocated a share of funding annually to further develop the initiative.
- 1.2 The focus for this initiative is creating access to free period products, and by doing so tackling the impact of poverty or low income, which can often mean people are unable to afford the essential products needed while menstruating.
- By ensuring access to free products, many local people have some relief from the high costs of purchasing period products and the potential stigma of not being able to afford them.
- 1.3 Annual funding from the Scottish Government has enabled the council to continue to develop the network of public building access points, to work with local community partners to target support across priority communities and to develop a campaign to raise awareness of the offer available and encourage a more open dialogue around periods and period products.
- 1.4 The council has undertaken a community consultation to find out residents' views on the current offer, improvement ideas, and early experiences of the initiative. The findings from the consultation, along with feedback from other stakeholders, will be used to lead the 'Statement of Intent', which the council is required to publish and submit to Scottish Government to confirm the council's commitment to supporting the new law and the continued wider access to products
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2. Report

- 2.1 The main objective for this initiative is to create access points where residents can access a range of free period products and in doing so support people experiencing poverty. Consistent with the Plan for North Lanarkshire, the North Lanarkshire model has been developed with community planning partners to ensure wide reach and accessibility from public buildings and facilities, as well as distribution by local anchor organisations.
- 2.2 The approach reflects the principles of:
- Protecting people's dignity, avoiding anxiety, embarrassment and stigma.
 - Making a range of products visible in places that people use.
 - Reflecting community views and needs.

- An efficient and effective approach that 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/nonbinary individuals and that language is gender inclusive.
- Awareness raising and education to both promote the 'offer' and attempt to change cultural norms.

North Lanarkshire Council Funding Allocation (2023-24)

2.3 Table 1

Financial Year	Amount of Funding
2023-24	£336,000

Key highlights from 2023/24

- 2.4 The number of period products distributed from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 numbers of period products distributed via schools, public buildings or community anchor organisations is as follows:
- Single-use period products – (includes all single use sanitary products e.g., towels, tampons, liners): North Lanarkshire Total – 876,919 this has is an increase from the previous year (686,592).
 - Number of Period Products distributed through public buildings or community anchor organisations – 731,008 this is an increase from the previous year (608,196).
 - Number of Period Products distributed through schools – 145,327 this is an increase from the previous year (78,390).
- 2.5 From January 2024 the Education Establishment element of the period dignity project was transferred to the Community Partnership Team, This was to mainstream the project by having one overall lead, to dictate time and resources to develop the approach to delivery of the project with Educations Establishments and to build stronger links between the Education Establishment and local community venues to provide a better overall offering to the local community, young people and their families.
- 2.6 The introduction of a new online order form was introduced to make ordering products easier and more accessible for community and education establishments. This process was also developed to provide the Community Partnership Team with a better mechanism for tracking stock and reporting data on the project.

Community Projects

- 2.7 Throughout the reporting period the council continued to work in partnership with nine community anchor organisations to ensure effective targeting of support to priority communities within their area and to support individuals who are unable to attend local access points due to personal circumstances including. This is an increase from eight organisations in 2022-23.
- Mobility and health.
 - Being unable to afford the cost of public transport.
 - Distance from home to the nearest access point for example living further than 20- minute return journey, which will be more likely for those living in rural communities.

2.8 The 9 organisations included

1. Getting Better Together - Shotts
2. Newmains Community Trust - Wishaw
3. Glenboig Development Trust – Northern Corridor
4. Cornerstone House – Cumbernauld
5. Kirkshaws Neighbourhood Trust - Coatbridge
6. Diamonds in the Community - Airdrie
7. Jervision Community Centre – African Collaboration Group - Motherwell
8. Lanarkshire Community Food and Health Partnership – North Lanarkshire Wide
9. VIP Arts & Sports Academy – Bellshill

2.9 Additional information is contained within **Appendix 1**.

2.10 Over and above delivering against the main objectives for the Period Dignity Initiative, all the organisations involved are committed to taking a sustainable approach to the project delivery.

2.11 Most of the projects have an environmental focus and are delivered by local volunteers using bicycles and e-bikes to reduce the carbon footprint of the projects. Each organisation also acts as a champion for the promotion of the use of sustainable environmentally friendly products.

2.12 Each organisation has also been provided with a new information pop-up with QR codes that link to the NLC interactive pick-up location app.

Communication and awareness raising:

2.13 Work continues to raise awareness raising with dedicated marketing materials in a bid to promote and increase knowledge of the initiative to community residents and all Education Establishments.

2.14 Activities within the campaign include.

- Posters and leaflets in all public buildings and facilities
- Promotions at local events
- Period products pick up location QR code, highlighting all accessible venues across North Lanarkshire

2.15 In October 23 a new marking campaign was launched to raise awareness of free period products across North Lanarkshire. This involved the use of North Lanarkshire Councils online and social media networks.

2.16 A suite of five different adverts versions were created, each promoting a different type of period product available for free, and one with all the products. The adverts demonstrated where to collect products with the primary messaging clearly stating that they are free for anyone who needs them.

2.17 The adverts were promoted across North Lanarkshire via outdoor advertising for example

- bus adverts
- static and digital billboards
- posters and flyers

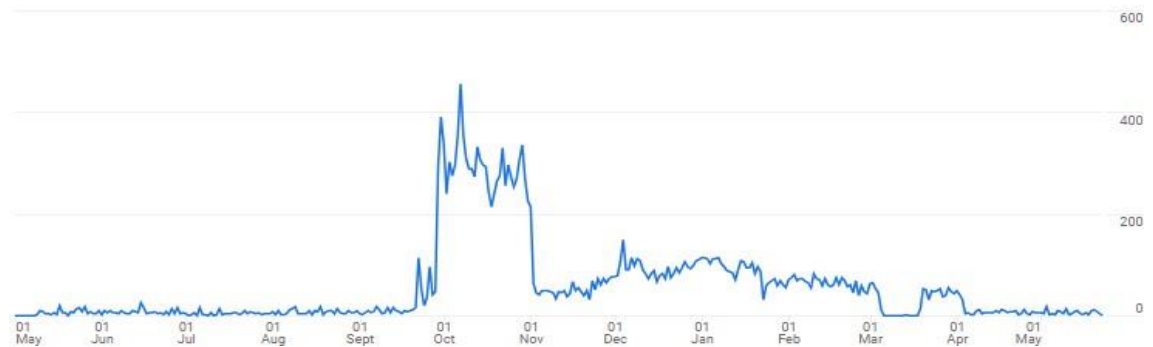
- plasma screens in leisure centres, cultural venues, schools, community centres and GP surgeries
- provision of bespoke pull up banners for the 9 community anchor organisations, online through an animated advert using Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook, Google and YouTube.
- News articles also appeared in local press and an article in the council's tenant's newsletter to reach 36k North Lanarkshire tenants.

2.18 A QR code was used on all offline materials, linking through to the map to “find free period products near you”.

2.19 Since the campaign launched, the website has been viewed 48k times and the pick-up point map has been viewed 63k times. The online advert/animation has been viewed 87k times.

2.20 When polled, 62% of respondents said they knew where to collect free period products from (primary aim) 90% of people said that they felt that seeing the adverts made talking about period products easier and more acceptable (secondary aim).

Views by Page path and screen class over time



2.21 **Appendix 2** provides examples of some of the campaign materials. This marketing and advertising has resulted in a greater awareness of free period products to the residents of North Lanarkshire.

NLC Interactive Map

2.22 The NLC [interactive map](#) continues to be updated on a weekly basis making sure it is fully to date to allow residents access the latest comprehensive list of local access points. North Lanarkshire now has over 100 access points ensuring wide reach and accessibility to the people of North Lanarkshire. This map was viewed over 63,000 times during this period.

Partnership Working

2.23 Partnership working continues to be an important factor throughout this initiative. Liaising with community facilities, library service, Active and Creative Communities, Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire, NHS Lanarkshire, and local community delivery partners have ensured that a coordinated approach to development, delivery and logistical processes have been established.

2.24 Greater links have also been established with Early Years nurseries and family learning centres to promote awareness of the offer.

2.25 We continue to have partnership meetings and professional dialogue has taken place to assist in helping to monitor and review activity and identifying and considering options to improve

and develop the service whilst providing updates on any of the project delivery that individual agencies may be leading on.

Statement of Exercise of Functions

- 2.26 As part of The Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021 local authorities are required to produce and communicate a Statement on the Exercise of Functions to summarise the arrangements in place to meet the legal duties, which includes carrying out one or more public consultations.
- 2.27 The information gained from the public consultation work carried out in March to July 2022 has been used to create the North Lanarkshire Council Statement of Exercise of Functions. The statement is contained within **Appendix 3** and sets out North Lanarkshire Council's commitment to free product provision including provision in education establishments and the wider community.

Education Establishments Consultation

- 2.28 In February 2024 consultation surveys were issued to all education establishments and school parent councils. The survey was designed to capture the views of the schools with a particular focus on how the project is delivered within each establishment. This is so that enhancements can be made to make products more accessible for pupils within schools without facing stigma. Results of each survey can be found in **Appendix 4**.
- 2.29 The school consultation covered the following broad themes:
- Where pupils can pick up products?
 - What type of products do you have available?
 - How do you promote access and pupils know where to pick up free period products?
 - Do pupils find it easy without stigma to pick up products within the school without stigma?
- 2.30 The parent council consultation covered the following broad themes:
- Are you aware if your school currently has stock of free period products and promotes awareness of where to pick up free products?
 - Does the parent council help to promote free period products and where to pick up within school or your community?
 - Do pupils find it easy to pick up products within the school without stigma?
- 2.31 The survey was completed by 84 headteachers and 49 parent councils.

Delivery Priorities for the 2024/25 Period

- 2.32 Using intelligence from previous consultation work as well as other feedback from schools, partners and stakeholders, several key developments are currently underway. These actions will assist with a further targeted expansion and the implementation of improvements aimed to improve the processes, services delivery and the overall experience of the residents of North Lanarkshire.
1. Recruitment for a project officer (due to take up post early October 2024) with a focus on promoting and providing access for young people within education establishments and within the wider community. The focus for this role will be looking at different options for increasing uptake within this demographic and piloting various projects to remove barriers

for different groups to see what works best with an emphasis on school/pupil involvement to design the approach.

2. Continuation of gap analysis and mapping on a year-to-year basis to identify new access sites within each locality. The principal of the 20-minute neighbourhood is being used for this, this is with the aim to have access points for residents within a short walk or cycle lasting no longer than 20 minutes for the journey.
3. Review of existing access points to reduce clustering of sites. To reduce unnecessary duplication or grouping of access points in the location of nearby public buildings. The better used site, with longer opening hours will be preferred. However, where there is a demonstrated need for multiple sites within an area, this can be retained.
4. An evaluation of the current anchor organisation provision partnership to review if the model is working in the locations identified and if improvements or a shift in focus is required.
5. Look to develop a peer- led youth project to deliver period dignity workshops and information sessions within schools and local youth groups.
6. Improve data collection and analysis tools to better inform future developments and improvements. This will help identify the current locations being used and what areas need more targeted development work and support.
7. Undertake a further community consultation online questionnaire. This is to capture the views of the public with a particular focus on views from those currently using sanitary products, those who will use sanitary products in the future and those who may collect sanitary products on behalf of others.
8. Consider options to improve the accessibility of products for residents over the weekend, public holidays, and extended school holiday period when schools and public buildings may be closed.
9. Continue to review the set-up of access points to ensure products can be easily accessed preferably by self-selection or other formats that are viewed as less embarrassing for residents.
10. Continue to develop a community resilience/contingency plan to deal with any event of future civil incident of national emergency.

Further information

2.33 Additional information, including the information pages on the NLC website, the NLC interactive mapping tool and the My Period App can be accessed using the links below:

- [North Lanarkshire interactive map](#)
- [North Lanarkshire Council website](#) – Free Period Products Scottish Government ‘Pick up my period’ app enables someone to put in a town, city or post code and find out where to access products.
- <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/pickupmyperiod/id1500403938><https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.myperiodapp>

3. Measures of success

- 3.1 Number of products distributed.
- 3.2 Number of individuals accessing free products

- 3.3 Number of community organisations partnerships
- 3.4 Number of distribution points across North Lanarkshire

4. Supporting documentation

- 4.1 Appendix 1 - Details of community anchor organisations supporting the initiative
- 4.2 Appendix 2 - Example campaign materials
- 4.3 Appendix 3 - Statement of Exercise of Function
- 4.4 Appendix 4 - Details of School and Parent Council Survey's



Stephen Penman
Chief Officer (Strategic Communication & Development)

5. Impacts

5.1 Public Sector Equality Duty and Fairer Scotland Duty

Does the report contain information that has an impact as a result of the Public Sector Equality Duty and/or Fairer Scotland Duty?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?

An integrated equality impact / Fairer Scotland assessment has been completed during the initial planning of the delivery approach. This will be further informed by our ongoing monitoring, reviews and public consultations and community engagement activity.

If Yes, has an assessment been carried out and published on the council's website? <https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/your-community/equalities/equality-and-fairer-scotland-duty-impact-assessments>

Yes ☒ No ☐

5.2 Financial impact

Does the report contain any financial impacts?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If Yes, have all relevant financial impacts been discussed and agreed with Finance?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?

The period dignity / access to free period products is expected to cost the council circa £336,000 to operate. This is for both existing operations and new developments. However, funding for the initiative has to date been provided through an additional grant from the Scottish Government.

5.3 HR policy impact

Does the report contain any HR policy or procedure impacts?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If Yes, have all relevant HR impacts been discussed and agreed with People Resources?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?

5.4 Legal impact

Does the report contain any legal impacts (such as general legal matters, statutory considerations (including employment law considerations), or new legislation)?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If Yes, have all relevant legal impacts been discussed and agreed with Legal and Democratic?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?

<p>5.5 Data protection impact Does the report / project / practice contain or involve the processing of personal data? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, is the processing of this personal data likely to result in a high risk to the data subject? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, has a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) been carried out and e-mailed to dataprotection@northlan.gov.uk Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>5.6 Technology / Digital impact Does the report contain information that has an impact on either technology, digital transformation, service redesign / business change processes, data management, or connectivity / broadband / Wi-Fi? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact? Where the impact identifies a requirement for significant technology change, has an assessment been carried out (or is scheduled to be carried out) by the Enterprise Architecture Governance Group (EAGG)? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>5.7 Environmental / Carbon impact Does the report / project / practice contain information that has an impact on any environmental or carbon matters? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact? Wider use of environmentally friendly products and delivery products is encouraged. This includes looking at testing approaches to increasing access to environmentally friendly products and piloting low carbon delivery mechanisms with local voluntary organisations.</p>
<p>5.8 Communications impact Does the report contain any information that has an impact on the council's communications activities? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact? A communication campaign is outlined in this report</p>
<p>5.9 Risk impact Is there a risk impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the key risks and potential impacts, highlighting where the risk(s) are assessed and recorded (e.g. Corporate or Service or Project Risk Registers), and how they are managed?</p>

5.10 Armed Forces Covenant Duty

Does the report require to take due regard of the Armed Forces Covenant Duty (i.e. does it relate to healthcare, housing, or education services for in-Service or ex-Service personnel, or their families, or widow(er)s)?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the provision which has been made to ensure there has been appropriate consideration of the particular needs of the Armed Forces community to make sure that they do not face disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public services.

5.11 Children's rights and wellbeing impact

Does the report contain any information regarding any council activity, service delivery, policy, or plan that has an impact on children and young people up to the age of 18, or on a specific group of these?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact and the provision that has been made to ensure there has been appropriate consideration of the relevant Articles from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

If Yes, has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) been carried out?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Details of Community Anchor Organisations Supporting the Initiative

Appendix 1

<u>Community Projects</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>
Glenboig Development Trust <i>Period Dignity Project</i>	Glenboig	<p>The programme aims to promote access to period products, promote environmentally friendly period products and ensure dignity to menstruating persons living in Glenboig and surrounding areas whilst respectful of our carbon footprint and the local environment.</p> <p>Improving on last year they added another electric vehicle to their fleet an E-Moped which allows for distribution to a further reach within the community compared to E-Cycles. Worked in tandem with partner agencies and use of social media to spread awareness of the Period Dignity Campaign. Training of 3 volunteers to support the campaign with continued focus on dignity putting in place various methods to procure products from discreet on site pick up to delivery through request from various sources such as email, text and social media.</p>
Kirkshaws Neighbourhood Trust <i>NLC Period Dignity Project (Coatbridge)</i>	Coatbridge	<p>Products provided by North Lanarkshire Council will be distributed freely and delivered to local women, girls, groups and organisations by Kirkshaws Neighbourhood Centre on Electric Bike (to reduce carbon and supporting North Lanarkshire Council to achieve #Act2021). We will encourage women and girls to consider the more sustainable environmental products such as Hey Girls environmentally friendly products by providing information and opportunities for them to try these products, which for many would be unaffordable.</p> <p>Having purchased E-Bikes this has seen the project be environmentally friendly, along with the training of more volunteers there has been more awareness spread for the campaign and helping to reduce stigma around period health as a talking point. Continual strengthening of links with other organisations is helping in delivery of information and sanitary products.</p>

Newmains Community Trust <i>Flo & Go Dignity in Menstruation Project</i>	Newmains	<p>Newmains Community Trust will undertake a Period Product Delivery Scheme within Newmains and Surrounding Areas. The scheme will involve a team of trained volunteers taking orders and delivering re-usable and environmentally friendly Period Products to those who need it in the community. It is the aim of this project to ensure that access to Period Products does not become another source of deprivation to those living in Newmains and that anyone who needs them, can access them in person or through the delivery scheme.</p> <p>Improving on last year the volunteers have been successful in delivering sanitary products to the community with hopes on expanding the reach across Newmains further. There is a focus on delivering more reusable products as they are in demand in the area, this will have a positive impact on the environment, coupled with the use of E-Bikes. Further promotion of the campaign has also been achieved through various events and working in tandem with partner agencies.</p>
Getting Better Together - Healthy Living Centre <i>The Cycle</i>	Shotts	<p>Develop a delivery service by training staff and volunteers to use Electric Bikes to transport orders of Hey Girls environmentally friendly and lifestyle products to people in rural communities. This links in with the council commitment to ACT2021- Action on Climate Together 2021.</p> <p>Following the successful implementation of E-Bikes as well as an E-Van a delivery system has been established in the area. This helps get sanitary products out to households within the remote regions near Shotts as well as those who have trouble accessing drop off points. Increased work to promote the period dignity project as well as how to access the delivery service, along with an increase in attendance of events to further collaborative work and promotion. Aims to increase the reach and scale of those delivered to within the community in the future upon what is already established maintaining healthy growth.</p>
Cornerstone House Centre <i>Period Products Project</i>	Cumbernauld	<p>Promotion of the 'pickup point' using Cornerstone House Centre's marketing materials and social platforms, website and in-house information points. Cornerstone House Centre will raise awareness of the 'app' 'Pickup My Period' which allows users to identify locations across Scotland where Free Period Products will be available. Developed by Hey Girls and funded by the Scottish Government through their education arm</p>

		<p>'My Period'. Hey Girls products are all sustainably sourced, reusable and plastic free. Inform local partners and key organisations of the service being provided at Cornerstone House Centre within the Health & Wellbeing focus already in place.</p> <p>Ensure 'anyone who needs them' has access to different types of Period Products 'reasonably easily' and with 'reasonably dignity'. Provide environmentally suitable products provided by an authorised provider. Support other areas, identified if relevant by users of the service as financial or other issues may need support/help.</p>
<p>Lanarkshire Community Food and Health Partnership</p> <p><i>NLC Period Dignity Project</i></p>	<p>Coatbridge (<i>Bargeddie</i>)</p>	<p>Proposal to help provide all participants in our food classes - for themselves and their suitable family members – with free sanitary products. We also aim to supply all eligible community members who receive food parcels with the necessary sanitary products of their need.</p> <p>LCFHP also provide various foodbanks or community groups with a supply of sanitary products as and when they require.</p>
<p>Jerviston Community Centre – African Collaborative Group</p> <p><i>Period Dignity Project</i></p>	<p>Motherwell</p>	<p>The African Collaborative group helped to operate a food bank in the Motherwell region, now looking to expand providing free sanitary products across the region as well. With aims of procuring E-Bikes and establishing a delivery service for those who can't attend the access point due to disability and other issues faced. Including a delivery service and acting as a pick up point there will be a focus on building further relationships within the community to break down stigma around period discussion and continued work to promote the service/project.</p>
<p>Diamonds in the Community</p> <p><i>Period Dignity Project</i></p>	<p>Airdrie</p>	<p>Diamonds in the Community proposed to become an anchor organisation helping to support the period dignity campaign within the Airdrie region. Aims of the organisation are to promote and support NLC's delivery of the period dignity campaign, promotion of the pick up My Period App, promotion of the campaign. Collaborative efforts within the community to raise awareness and combat stigma around periods and period health promoting healthy discussion and inclusion. Collection of data and feeding back key elements to NLC.</p>

VIP Arts & Sports Academy	Bellshill	<p>The project will support the council to continue to supply free sanitary products by advising all participants within the VIP programs and our wider community of our commitment and dedication to helping with this free program, leaflets will be distributed and a designated area and worker within the Centre will be provided, so that people do not feel uncomfortable when accessing products.</p> <p>We will also let partners from our network know we are the Centre for this area, promoting on all our advertising and community window and social media forums.</p>
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Example Campaign Materials

- **Billboard Adverts/Rear Bus Adverts/Railway Station Adverts/Plasma Screen Adverts/Pull up Banners/Posters/Flyers**

The image is a promotional graphic for free period products in North Lanarkshire, presented in two color schemes: green and pink. Each scheme features a central logo of a sun-like shape composed of various period products (pads and tampons) arranged in a circular pattern. Inside the center of this logo is a yellow circle with the text "Taking the pain out of paying". To the right of the logo, the text "Free Period Products" is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font, followed by "For whoever needs them" in a slightly smaller font. Below this, a line of text says "Find out more, including collection points:" followed by the URL "northlanarkshire.gov.uk/free-period-products" in a bold font. In the bottom right corner of each section, there are several logos: COSLA, the Scottish Government logo with the text "Scottish Government" and "Riaghaidhais na h-Alba gov.scot", a small logo for "WIP" (Women's Incentive Programme), and the "LIVE HERE" logo. The North Lanarkshire Council logo, featuring a stylized star and the text "NORTH LANARKSHIRE", is located in the top right corner of each section.

**GOT
YOUR
PERIOD?
WE'VE
GOT YOU!**



**PICK UP FREE SANITARY
PRODUCTS HERE**



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot



**Free Period
Products**
For whoever needs them



Find out more, including collection points:
northlanarkshire.gov.uk/free-period-products



LIVE HERE



**Free Period
Products**
For whoever needs them



Find out more, including collection points:
northlanarkshire.gov.uk/free-period-products



LIVE HERE

Digital Billboard – Plasma Screen Adverts – Bus Shelter Adverts



Events 2023-24



The Community Partnership Team attend various events across North Lanarkshire to spread the awareness surrounding the Period Dignity Campaign. As seen in the images provided there was a pop-up banner display created that established the goal of making members of the public aware of free period products in their area. It served as a good platform to have discussions with members of the community, spread awareness, discuss the products we have to offer both single and reusable including my first period kit's and the pad for dad's kit's. We were also able to have a positive impact in diverting people to make use of the NLC Directory Map showcasing all our pickup points across the NLC Vicinity. Not only that but we have had positive engagement with community members since this took place with many querying for more information. Showing a great uptake in community interest.

QR Code



Going forward we are looking to make the following QR code uniform across all our promotional material as it directly leads to the North Lanarkshire Council's website in particular the NLC Directory Map. This is where members of the public can access a map that lists all the period pick up points across the NLC Region. It is easily accessible for all those who have a smartphone as it can quickly be scanned through their camera and have them on the website in a matter of seconds providing valuable information to those who need it.

North Lanarkshire Council
Period Products (Free Provision) Scotland Act 2021
Statement on Exercise of Functions

1. Introduction

The Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021 was passed by the Scottish Parliament on 24th November 2020 and gained royal assent on 12th January 2021. The Act requires local authorities as a responsible body to provide period products free of charge to anyone who needs them, by making products reasonably easy to obtain.

Additionally, as a responsible body – this should be done mindful of respecting dignity and by offering a reasonable choice of types of period products.

Local Authorities are required to produce a Statement on Exercise of Functions to summarise the arrangements that will be put in place to meet the duty, which includes carrying out one or more public consultations.

This statement has been produced in accordance with our statutory duties and outlines North Lanarkshire Council's commitment to free product provision and details current and future provision within education establishments and the wider community.

5. Our commitment

North Lanarkshire Council is committed to providing free period products for those who need them. Our approach involves children and young people having access to products within their school setting and for residents and visitors through a network of local access points within public buildings and community facilities within North Lanarkshire.

Individuals unable to attend a local access point can contact the council so that alternative arrangements can be made, which may include postal delivery or delivery by our local community partner organisations. Funding has been made available by the Scottish government to enable this.

In providing this free service, it is our aim to ensure that:

- A range of period products, including single use items and re-usable environmentally friendly products are available to those who need them via all secondary schools and a network of local access points.
- Our local access network is kept under review and developed further where appropriate. It is our commitment to do this in conjunction with community planning partners and third sector organisations, mindful of geographically gaps in provision and also of the 20-minute neighbourhood model.
- Barriers to access are minimised and removed and that people can access products with dignity and without stigma.
- Consideration is given to additional support for those who may require it.
- Product demand is regularly monitored so that public buildings and community facilities do not run out of stock.
- Residents and visitors are aware of our free provision. This will involve a range of advertising and promotional campaigns. Information will also be available on the council website; through social media platforms and through other communications such as posters and informational flyers.
- Regular feedback is sought from service users so that improvements can be identified.

- Public consultations and community engagement is carried out to inform our provision

6. Public Consultation

The North Lanarkshire public consultation took the form of an online questionnaire. This was launched in March 2022 and ran until the end of July 2022.

The survey was designed to capture the views of the general public with a particular focus on views from those currently using sanitary products; those who will use sanitary products in the future and those who may collect sanitary products on behalf of others.

The consultation covered the following broad themes:

- a. General awareness of the availability of free period products and advertising campaigns
- b. Types of products currently used and views on accessing environmentally friendly products
- c. Locations of access points used and suggestions for new sites
- d. Availability of products and views on service received at access points

The survey was completed by 288 people and the findings from the consultation will be used to inform the provision within North Lanarkshire.

Full details of the findings are contained within the 2022 update report which can be accessed on our website.

7. Community Based Provision

North Lanarkshire Council has developed a large network of community access points. The access points are in all 9 towns and many local communities within public buildings, and community facilities. To date we have over 100 local access points throughout North Lanarkshire which we will continue to monitor, review, grow and update accordingly. The access points have been established in public buildings and community facilities.

North Lanarkshire Council have also partnered with eight local community anchor organisations who will provide local services within a cluster of priority communities.

This also includes a fast free local delivery service for those who cannot attend our centres and access to environmentally friendly period products.

Local food banks and organisations providing emergency food aid are also part of our network and on request can provide products to vulnerable individuals and families.

Additionally, residents can contact the council directly by email to request products. In doing so the quickest method of delivery will be selected.

Products available within our community access points include single use pads (with and without wings, regular, super and long) and tampons (regular and super) the various

sizes/ absorbencies provided allow us to accommodate individual needs and preferences. The type of products available will be regularly reviewed to meet the needs and wants of the community. Environmentally friendly products are available on request.

Products are available for collection by anyone who needs them, or by anyone collecting on behalf of another person. Products will normally be available within toilet facilities of a building, unless otherwise stated. Those who wish to access products can do so without having to ask a member of staff and in a way that respects their dignity. A person may access as many products as required.

Information on stocked venues can be accessed via the PickUpMyPeriod App and North Lanarkshire Council Directory website. This allows users to enter a postcode or location to see where free period products are available in their area.

8. Provision within Education

North Lanarkshire Council provide free products in all secondary school establishments and on request will be made available to primary schools.

Products will be available in a way which respects the dignity of the pupil and can be accessed without having to ask a teacher.

Products will be available during term time in at least one part of the school, normally the toilet facilities or from the school reception. Some schools may have products available in multiple locations.

North Lanarkshire Council will provide ongoing support to its education establishments to ensure every pupil who requires products is able to obtain them easily.

9. Communication

Information on our free period product initiative is available on the North Lanarkshire Council website. Details are provided on how, where and when people can obtain free products via our own easy to use app and the official Period Products Locator app.

Enquiries can also be submitted at any time and will be dealt with by our Community Partnership Team.

It is our intention to regularly promote and raise awareness of the free access to period products. This will involve advertising and marketing campaigns using digital and traditional methods. Information posters are also posted on notice and information boards in all our public buildings and community facilities.

10. Future Provision and Improvements

North Lanarkshire Council recognises the importance of securing period dignity for all and will commit to using intelligence from our consultation work as well as other feedback from partners and stakeholders, to continue to develop our approach to providing free period products within North Lanarkshire.

From our recent consultation and engagement work a number of key developments are currently underway. Completion of which will assist with a further targeted expansion and the

implementation of improvements aimed to improve processes, service deliver and the overall offer for residents and visitors. Further details are provided within the 2022 update report which can be accessed on our website.

11. Further information

Additional information can be found on the NLC website [free period products](https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/free-period-products)
([northlanarkshire.gov.uk](https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk))

The NLC interactive mapping tool can be accessed using the following link:

[Directory records | North Lanarkshire Council](#)

Scottish Government 'Pick up my period' app enables individuals to put in a town, city or post code and find out where to access products.

[PickupMyPeriod on the App Store \(apple.com\)](#)

[PickupMyPeriod - Apps on Google Play](#)

Index - MyPeriod (myperiodlive.azurewebsites.net)

***Please Note some questions were omitted due to personal information e.g. names and email addresses.**

Access to Free Period Products School Survey

84 Responses

08:05 Average time to complete

Active Status

1. School Name

84
Responses

Latest Responses
"Glengowan PS"
"Dalziel High School"
"Newarthill Primary School"

4. Does your school currently have stock of free period products?

Yes

81

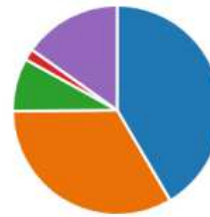
No

3



5. Please tell us where pupils can pick up products (select all that apply)

Toilets	71
School Office	57
Pupil Support	14
Classrooms	3
Other	26



6. If 'other' in questions 5 above, please provide details

27
Responses

Latest Responses

8 respondents (30%) answered **office** for this question.

Leadership office
aid room member of staff girls toilet
room next to toilet staff office pupils
staff supply DHT offices Staff Toilets Medical room HSPO office
Cleaners office Accessible Toilet SMT office
Teacher's office
Janitor's office
Disabled toilet

7. If 'no' in questions 5 above, please let us know why

9
Responses

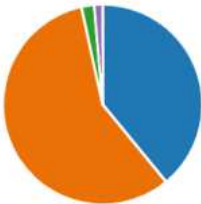
Latest Responses

3 respondents (33%) answered **placed** for this question.

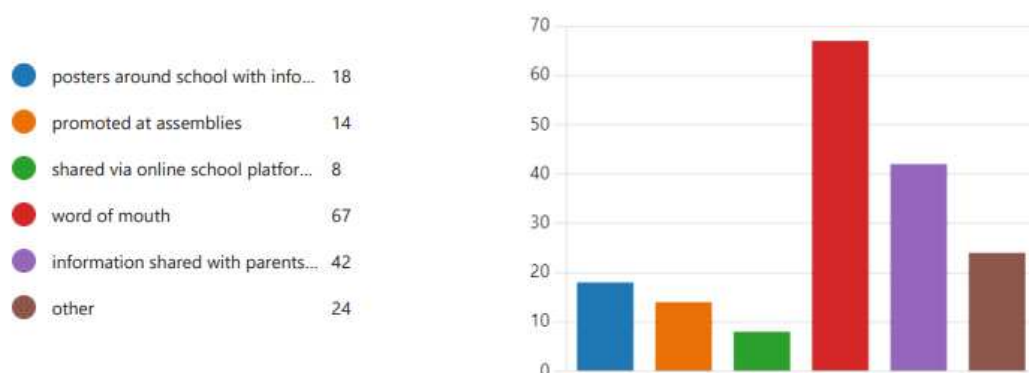


8. What type of products do you have available? (select all that apply)

	Tampons	57
	Pads	84
	Reusable Pants	3
	Period Cups	0
	My First Period Kit	2



9. How do you promote access and pupils know where to pick up free period products? (select all that apply)



10. If 'other' in question 9 above, please provide further details

25
Responses

Latest Responses
"During relationship, sexual health and parenthood lessons"

6 respondents (24%) answered **class** for this question.

Word cloud content:

- available in toilets
- network from class
- girls
- posters in toilets
- sexual health
- works with pupils
- discussed in class
- class teacher
- pupils from P5
- P5 class
- pupils
- support
- health and parenthood
- Conversations with pupils
- Parent Bullitins
- senior pupils
- Discussion with P5
- pupils in groups
- toilets

11. Do pupils find it easy and without stigma to pick up products within the school? i.e. they don't need to ask permission, they can just take what they need, whenever?

84
Responses

Latest Responses

"Yes"

"They don't need permission - they take what they need"

"They dont need to ask permission"

17 respondents (20%) answered **needed** for this question.

A word cloud for question 11, where the word 'needed' is the largest and most central. Other prominent words include 'Pupils', 'products', 'toilets', 'access', 'permission', 'no need', 'Pupils are comfortable', 'Pupils are available', 'pupil survey', 'products are accessible', 'school staff', 'girls', 'stock of products', 'female pupils', 'younger pupils', 'Children', 'available for pupils', 'pupils', and 'toilets'.

12. Please tell us about any difficulties you have in promoting free period products or in making them accessible to pupils

84
Responses

Latest Responses

"None"

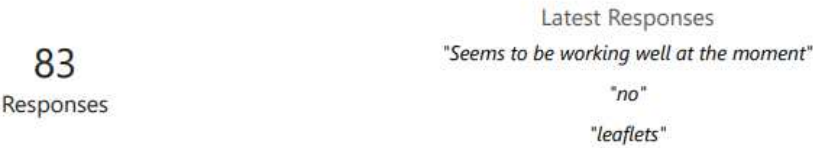
"Its been quite difficult to get products to the school. For a while we were uns...

"none"

26 respondents (31%) answered **None** for this question.

A word cloud for question 12, where the word 'None' is the largest and most central. Other prominent words include 'products', 'toilets', 'pupils', 'products are available', 'appropriate with the products', 'senior girls', 'girls', 'toilets for both infant', 'accessible to pupils', 'period products', 'stock of these products', 'Toilets are used by P2', 'pads', 'toilet checks', 'free products', 'Younger pupils', 'pupil toilet', 'girls toilets', 'younger children', 'misuse of products', and 'girls'.

13. Is there anything that we can do to help promote products? i.e. leaflets, peer education, talks, home delivery

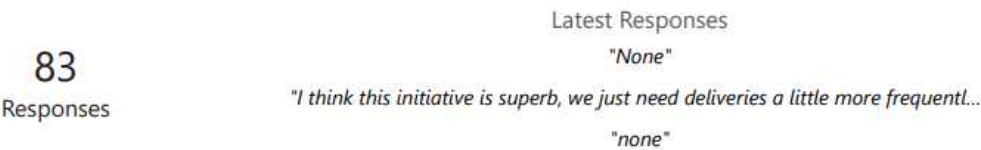


Update

31 respondents (37%) answered **leaflets** for this question.



14. Please provide any further comments or suggestions



Update

15 respondents (18%) answered **None** for this question.



Access to Free Period Products Parent Council Survey

50 Responses

07:09 Average time to complete

Active Status

1. School Parent Council Name

50
Responses

Latest Responses
"Our Lady's High School, Motherwell "
"Caldervale Parents in Partnership Council"
"Langloan Primary"



5. Are you aware if your school currently has stock of free period products and promotes awareness of where to pick up free products?



6. If 'no' in question 4 above, please provide any further comments here

19
Responses

Latest Responses

"I think it is available but I don't remember seeing any communication from t...

"My daughter does not have her menstruation yet, so did not really pay atten...

7 respondents (37%) answered **products** for this question.



7. Does the parent council help to promote free period products and where to pick up within school or your community?



8. If 'no' in question 7 above, please tell us why

50

Responses

Latest Responses

"It has not been discussed at our meetings so far"

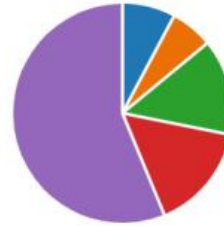
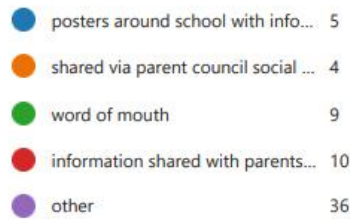
"We have not been asked"

"I do not think that we promote this. I would expect the education team to ha..."

12 respondents (24%) answered **School** for this question.



9. If 'yes' in question 7 above, how do you promote access and pupils know where to pick up free period products? (select all that apply)



10. If 'other' in question 9 above, please provide further details

28
Responses

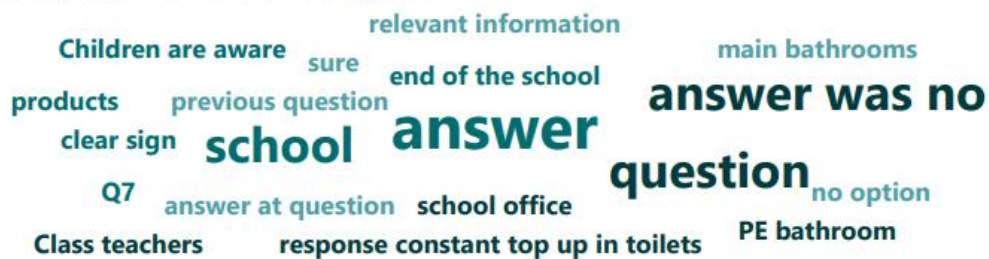
Latest Responses

"Answered no to question 7 but an answer is being requested for question 9 ...

"n/a"

"I have answered 'no' to question '7' but was forced to pick up an answer at...

5 respondents (18%) answered **answer** for this question.



11. Do pupils find it easy and without stigma to pick up products within the school? i.e. they don't need to ask permission, they can just take what they need, whenever?

50
Responses

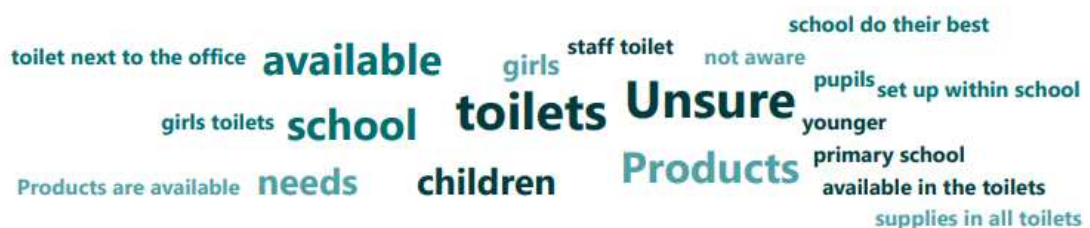
Latest Responses

"Yes, the products are freely available without request"

"Unsure but would hope so"

"No comment."

7 respondents (14%) answered **toilets** for this question.



12. Please tell us about any difficulties you have in promoting free period products

49
Responses

Latest Responses

"None known"

"n/a"

"No comment."

[Update](#)

6 respondents (12%) answered **None** for this question.

Word cloud for question 12:

- school is very good
- provision made available
- extent of provision
- Lack of awareness
- health matters
- parent council
- independent living
- Not aware
- None
- provision
- Lack
- PC have never promoted
- new to the PC
- parental engagement
- Not sure
- council provision
- No difficulties
- information or posters
- young people
- communication channels

13. Is there anything that we can do to help promote products? i.e. leaflets, peer education, talks, home delivery

50
Responses

Latest Responses

"Posters/leaflets within school would be helpful and the potential for home d..."

"We will bring up at next Council meeting and discuss"

"Peer education during the biology course. Social platforms are also another ..."

13 respondents (26%) answered **Leaflets** for this question.

Word cloud for question 13:

- Leaflets would be good
- Peer education
- pupils
- leaflets and home
- school or home
- leaflets within school information
- period products
- Talks
- Leaflets
- school
- share this information
- children
- beneficial to our school
- products
- parents
- home delivery
- Leaflets or posters
- Talks within the school
- Leaflets and talks

14. Please provide any further comments or suggestions

49
Responses

Latest Responses
"No further comments"
"n/a"

"Would it be possible to introduce an in-depth talk about menstruation, if it i...

🔄 Update

9 respondents (18%) answered **school** for this question.

