

North Lanarkshire Council

Report

Youth, Equalities and Empowerment Committee

approval noting

Ref LMcM/LP/EW

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Access to Free Sanitary Products – Expansion of Access to Free Sanitary Products – 2018/19 and 2019/20

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Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of the expansion of access to free sanitary products beyond schools together with details of the associated funding allocated to North Lanarkshire Council to implement this initiative. In line with Scottish Government guidance, the North Lanarkshire approach to delivery will be through the North Lanarkshire Partnership.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Youth, Equalities and Empowerment Committee:-

- (1) note the funding allocation of £268,277 to North Lanarkshire over a two year period (2018/19 and 2019/20) to implement the provision of access to free sanitary products;
- (2) acknowledge initial work to develop an approach to delivery; and
- (3) agree to consider further updates on progress.

Supporting Documents

Council business plan to 2020 The provision of access to free sanitary products within North Lanarkshire supports the delivery of outcomes linked to the following priorities and ambitions:-

Improve relationships with communities and the third sector

Ambition 20: Improvement involvement of communities in the decisions and development of services and supports, that affect them.

Improve the councils resource base

Ambition 24: Review and design services around people, communities and shared resources.

Appendix 1 Local Authority Funding Allocations 2018/19 and 2019/20

1. Background

From August 2018 all Local Authorities in Scotland were provided with funding to provide access to free sanitary products in schools. The Scottish Government made a new commitment in the 2018 Programme for Government to expand this provision beyond schools. In November 2018 COSLA Leaders agreed to this proposal, and developed Guiding Principles in partnership with Scottish Government.

2. Report

2.1 Guiding Principles

Since the rollout of funding to provide access to free sanitary products in schools from August 2018, the Scottish Government has committed to building on this approach aiming to *'increase the number and range of places where sanitary products are available for those who need them...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 main focus for this initiative is to support tackling poverty. However, it is clear that Local Authorities require to consider wider need in order to address matters of gender inequality and dignity, regardless of income. The allocated funding therefore reflects both low income and universal elements. Local authorities are encouraged to develop delivery models through their community planning arrangements to ensure wide reach and accessibility. The delivery model should reflect the guiding principles as agreed by Scottish Government/COSLA namely:-

- protecting peoples dignity, avoiding anxiety, embarrassment and stigma;
- making a range of products visible in places that people use;
- a response that is reflective of communities 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/non binary individuals and that language is gender inclusive;
- awareness raising and education to both promote the 'offer' and attempt to change cultural norms.

2.2 North Lanarkshire Funding Allocation

From the overall initial £4.01m to Local Authorities covering the period 2018-2020 North Lanarkshire Council has been allocated a total of £81,122 for 2018/19 and £187,155 for 2019/20. Whilst there is an indication from Scottish Government that the initiative may be supported until 2021 and beyond, the arrangements and level of funding available for this period has yet to be specified. The initial 2018/19 allocation for North Lanarkshire includes £34,333 for initial set up costs and £46,789 for delivery. A minimum base amount of £15,000 has been provided to all Local Authorities with the remainder of available resources then allocated to reflect:-

- a tackling poverty element reflecting the share of the number of people in an area receiving low income benefits (DWP benefits data). Namely the number of people on the claimant count or claiming Income Support or in – work Universal Credit;

- a wider access element reflecting the female population aged 12-54 (mid – year population estimates);
- a pro-rata payment for January to March 2019 based on a pro-rata of the above methodology;
- an additional one off set up cost allocated on the basis of £3.25 per person eligible for the tackling poverty element.

A breakdown of allocations across Scotland can be found at Appendix 1.

2.3 **Delivery Approach**

Following an initial discussion with community planning partners reflecting the guiding principles for delivery, the Council is engaging across key services and partner agencies through a working group to develop a delivery model. Potential venues and approaches to making sanitary products available stigma free are being explored to reach as wide an audience as possible. Learning from the North Lanarkshire schools model, as well as approaches in other areas, will inform practice. Key areas of focus to support implementation include:-

- mapping and identification of key locations and organisations to support distribution;
- agreement and delivery process and protocol including any necessary training or support for delivery staff;
- ensuring connection and referral to wider support for those accessing the ‘offer’ as required;
- promotion of the initiative and key messages to raise awareness and challenge gender equality matters;
- identifying any barriers to access including stereotyping, cultural sensitivity, language barriers, embarrassment or stigma and identifying actions to address these;
- monitoring and review process to ensure continuous improvement; and
- effective and efficient procurement methodology.

Support is available through an Officer within COSLA appointed to support the work.

3. **Equality and Diversity**

3.1 **Fairer Scotland**

Fairer Scotland duty will be considered as part of the development and implementation of the North Lanarkshire approach.

3.2 **Equality Impact Assessment**

An equality impact assessment will be completed during the planning of the delivery approach, informed by consultation on the proposed arrangements.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial Impact

The funding for 2018/19 has been paid to North Lanarkshire Council through an adjustment to the 2018/19 Local Government Finance Order. Finance for 2019/20 will be through the Local Government Finance Order.

4.2 HR/Policy/Legislative Impact

No direct HR or policy implications.

4.3 Environmental Impact

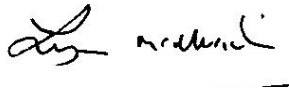
No direct environmental impact.

4.4 Risk Impact

No direct risks.

5. Measures of success

- 5.1 More targeted approaches and interventions across partnership priorities to reduce inequalities within communities.
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Lizanne McMurrich
Head of Communities

LOCAL AUTHORITY FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

2018/2019

Local Authority	Set-up and Development Funding	Sanitary Products Allocation	Total for 2018/19
Aberdeen City	£24,313	£22,624	£46,937
Aberdeenshire	£24,588	£17,541	£42,129
Angus	£10,374	£14,267	£24,642
Argyll and Bute	£7,145	£6,793	£13,938
Clackmannanshire	£4,885	£9,820	£14,704
Dumfries and Galloway	£12,890	£13,637	£26,526
Dundee City	£15,581	£28,360	£43,941
East Ayrshire	£11,734	£22,872	£34,606
East Dunbartonshire	£9,697	£9,986	£19,683
East Lothian	£10,043	£17,069	£27,112
East Renfrewshire	£8,931	£6,295	£15,226
Edinburgh, City of	£57,078	£43,155	£100,232
Eilean Siar	£2,281	£3,750	£6,032
Falkirk	£15,669	£19,423	£35,092
Fife	£35,594	£56,180	£91,774
Glasgow City	£69,078	£101,005	£170,083
Highland	£21,411	£32,873	£54,284
Inverclyde	£7,496	£18,237	£25,733
Midlothian	£8,776	£14,039	£22,815
Moray	£8,749	£8,107	£16,855
North Ayrshire	£12,750	£26,696	£39,446
North Lanarkshire	£34,333	£46,789	£81,122
Orkney Islands	£1,951	£3,750	£5,701
Perth and Kinross	£13,598	£10,650	£24,248
Renfrewshire	£17,418	£22,585	£40,002
Scottish Borders	£10,060	£9,174	£19,234
Shetland Islands	£2,090	£3,750	£5,840
South Ayrshire	£9,982	£13,868	£23,850
South Lanarkshire	£30,682	£46,965	£77,647
Stirling	£9,651	£11,737	£21,388
West Dunbartonshire	£8,851	£14,988	£23,839
West Lothian	£18,321	£18,518	£36,839

2019/2020

Total

Local Authority

Aberdeen City	£90,496
Aberdeenshire	£70,164
Angus	£57,069
Argyll and Bute	£27,172
Clackmannanshire	£39,278
Dumfries and Galloway	£54,546
Dundee City	£113,440
East Ayrshire	£91,488
East Dunbartonshire	£39,943
East Lothian	£68,277
East Renfrewshire	£25,179
Edinburgh, City of	£172,618
Eilean Siar	£15,000
Falkirk	£77,693
Fife	£224,721
Glasgow City	£404,019
Highland	£131,493
Inverclyde	£72,947
Midlothian	£56,155
Moray	£32,426
North Ayrshire	£106,783
North Lanarkshire	£187,155
Orkney Islands	£15,000
Perth and Kinross	£42,600
Renfrewshire	£90,338
Scottish Borders	£36,696
Shetland Islands	£15,000
South Ayrshire	£55,472
South Lanarkshire	£187,861
Stirling	£46,948
West Dunbartonshire	£59,953
West Lothian	£74,070