

## **Community Committee Chairs Forum 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

### **Period Poverty Briefing Note**

Work on developing a sustainable, city wide scheme to tackle period poverty in Leeds has been undertaken over the past 12 months. As a result Executive Board agreed an approach to tackling period poverty in Leeds in December 2018. This work has been developed underneath the city's child poverty work. Period poverty is one area of poverty led social exclusion which has had raised national attention over the last two years

Community Committee Chairs have previously discussed this issue in September 2018 as initial discussions on the approach to tackling period poverty were taking place where they indicated financial support for this scheme.

A joint approach between Communities and Environments and Children and Families has been developed that encompasses both supplying products and tackling the stigma around period poverty in schools and community settings. This approach has been developed with children, young people and adults in the city, and shaped by good practice from a range of organisations and will ensure there is one joined up approach across the city.

Work to date has included identifying and working with a product supplier for 'Leeds' branded product which could include helplines, websites, information (foodbanks) on packaging

A competition is currently underway to find a winning design for the period products. There is also ongoing discussion with a company that is interested in working in partnership to develop an app. This app will pin point the location of products and help indicate when products are running low

The Leeds specific products will be launched in early 2020, until then Children's and Families have ordered products in plain packaging to be used in schools from September- January and have identified funding to provide these plain products for this period.

The intention is that period products that have a Leeds specific design will be available from January 2020. Children's and Families have identified internal funding and secured funding from partners to enable the roll out of the scheme from September 2019.

Also the Government have announced that they are planning to run a 'Period Products' scheme, which will be launched early 2020. This scheme will commission one national provider and fund them to provide sanitary products to all schools and 16- 19 settings. At this stage there is no further information available on how many products will be provided, guidance on how many times a year it will be restocked or details on how long the funding will be available for this scheme. This scheme will not provide period products in community settings.

The council scheme will overlap with this national scheme.

Children's and Families have put in an order for unbranded products for the period September to December 2019. The costs of these are:-

£0.55 per pack which will supply enough towels for 21,000 packs. So a total order value of £11,550 ex VAT. There are 14 products in each pack. At this stage an order has been made for sanitary pads only as there is a higher cost implication for repackaging the tampons and the lead time for these is slightly more. However, tampons will be available for the branded products.

During October to January work will be undertaken to assess the impact of the scheme in community settings including analysis of take up and demand to determine future funding and provision for the roll out of the branded products.

Costs for branded products are:-

	Price per pack of pads (£)	Price per pad unit (£) There is 14 pads in a pack	Price per pack of tampons (£)	Price per tampon unit (£) There is 12 tampons in a pack	Total amount of product available for £60,000 (units)	Tampon units available to each school and hub in the city (per year)	Tampon units available to each school and hub in the city (per month)	Pad units available to each school and hub in the city (per year)	Pad units available to each school and hub in the city (per month)
Branded own products through TSL	£0.48	£0.04	£0.65	£0.05	1,428,846	5,034	419	7,954	662

It is proposed that each ward is requested to provide £500 from their Well Being Budgets as a contribution to provide period products with plain packaging from half term in October 2019 to January 2020 for unbranded products and from January 2020 onwards for branded products in community settings.