



EXERCISE OF FUNCTIONS

Free period products: Statement of provision for Clackmannanshire

July 2022.

The Period Poverty Guidance is published under section 5 of the Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021 (“the Act”) and provides guidance to Clackmannanshire regarding the legislative requirements of the Act.

Building on the existing voluntary provision in education and community settings funded by the Scottish Government since 2018/19, the Act states that everyone in Scotland who menstruates should have reasonably convenient access to period products, free of charge, as and when they are required. This includes visitors to Scotland for the duration of their stay.

Section 1 of the Act places a duty on Clackmannanshire to make period products obtainable free of charge for anyone who needs to use them.

Section 2 of the Act places a duty on education providers to make period products obtainable free of charge on their premises for pupils and students during term time.

The aim of the Clackmannanshire scheme is to help end period poverty, respect the dignity of individuals obtaining period products and the stigma around this. Therefore, the ways in which, and places where, products are available has considered the needs and wishes of users in relation to privacy and avoiding anxiety or embarrassment. We will continue to monitor, evaluate and build on service provision to ensure Clackmannanshire remains Period Friendly where everyone has easy access to products appropriate to their needs.

Actions planned as a result of the consultation

Between January 2022 and June 2022 we consulted with people about the provision of Free Period Products across Clackmannanshire.

These surveys allowed us to capture the views of school pupils, organisations and the general public. The consultation was open to any member of the public regardless of gender, age or menstruating status. We particularly sought views from those who met the following criteria:

- Those currently using sanitary products.
- Those that will use sanitary products in the future.
- Those that may collect sanitary products on behalf of others

The consultation covered:

- Awareness of free product availability
- Types of products currently used
- Types of products wanted



- Venues/buildings where people would like products
- Locations within venues/buildings where people would like products
- Feelings towards accessing free products
- Obtaining products on behalf of others

Respondents supported the approach we are taking and are in favour of our community access. Their recommendations are being implemented as part of the legislative requirements of the Act and include:

Communications

In order to respond to the view that the main barrier was access to products, we will raise awareness by working with partners and stakeholders to continue to promote the service to communities across the Clackmannanshire area. We will also publicise reusable free period product options to obtain a wider uptake.

This will include further promotion on social media, the Clackmannanshire Council website, via our educational establishments and promoting community access via the Period Product Locations App. <https://myperiodlive.azurewebsites.net>

Available products

We will provide a wider range of products, including:

- Re-useable pads and menstrual cups - these will be available in community and council buildings
- Disposable products will continue to be made available
- Continuing to provide period products in all primary, secondary and additional support needs schools across Clackmannanshire.

Methods for obtaining products

Products will be available within local premises. This includes all educational establishments, community locations and council offices. Our list of locations will be reviewed regularly by a Partnership Group of local authority leads and identified stakeholders to ensure that:

- Those accessing the products can take as many or as few of the products as required.
- Expansion of the provision of products can take place through wider engagement and involvement of Third Sector, Voluntary agencies and partners

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.



Education Facilities Provision

Clackmannanshire Council will provide free products in all primary and secondary school establishments. Products will be available in a way which respects the dignity of the pupil and can be accessed without having to ask a teacher or member of staff. For most establishments, products will be located within in the toilet facilities. A reasonable choice will be available to pupils to ensure their needs can be adequately met whilst attending school. This will be monitored and reviewed on an ongoing basis by the Authority Partnership Group. Clackmannanshire Council will provide ongoing support to its education establishments to ensure every pupil in Clackmannanshire who requires products is able to easily obtain them.

Service review

We will review and renew the service consultation every 2 years and use this to inform future provision and action.

Product locations and access points

Any changes to locations and availability will be updated on the Period Product App and via our usual communication networks.

Contact

If you have any questions about this provision or wish to provide feedback please contact education@clacks.gov.uk