

**Social Care and Health
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Agenda
Item No.**

DATE: 26th February 2019

6b.

Period Poverty

Ward(s) All

Report:

I have been asked by Scrutiny to provide information on Local Authority provision for sanitary facilities. This is with a particular focus on “period poverty”.

Period Poverty is defined as having a lack of access to sanitary products due to financial constraints.

The Council does not provide free or paid for sanitary products at its facilities, including leisure centres. The Council is aware that some of its partners provide sanitary products. In particular, the Night Shelter, Feed Groups and Foodbanks for vulnerable people provide donated sanitary products at no cost to the service user. However, these products need to be requested rather than being freely requested and available on display.

If the Council made a decision to provide free sanitary products this would cover all state funded schools in the borough

Recent developments in some Councils:

Stoke City Council- Free sanitary towels and tampons will be available to anyone accessing toilets in Stoke-on-Trent City Council buildings as part of a partnership that aims to end period poverty in Stoke-on-Trent.

Buildings owned by the authority will be stocked with free menstrual products in staff toilets or publicly-accessible toilets after the authority teamed up with North Staffordshire charity Period Power.

Period Power has donated 360 packs of sanitary towels and 180 packs of tampons to get the project off the ground and the city council will replenish the stock as needed.

Sunderland City Council – has pledged to provide free sanitary products in council buildings and schools to those in need.

Bristol City Council - have pledged to end “period poverty” by September 2019.

Recommendations:

That:

The briefing is noted.

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