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**REPORT TO: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE ON  
29 MAY 2018**

**SUBJECT: DELIVERY OF FREE SANITARY PRODUCTS THROUGH THE  
SCHOOL ESTATE**

**BY: ACTING CORPORATE DIRECTOR (EDUCATION AND SOCIAL  
CARE)**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the project to provide free sanitary protection to all pupils eligible throughout the school estate.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (D) (1) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to exercising all the functions of the Council as an Education Authority.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 It is recommended that Committee considers and notes the contents of the report.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1. The Scottish Government gave a commitment in their Programme for Government 2017/18 that pupils and student in schools, colleges and universities should have access to free sanitary products. This proposal and the proposed distribution method were agreed to by Leaders, and local authorities were provided with funding to deliver this commitment from the beginning of the academic year in August 2018.

- 3.2 The criteria for this delivery included:

- Protecting students' dignity
- giving students choice about the products they want to use
- An efficient and dignified approach which demonstrates value for money
- An offer for all eligible students throughout the year to include both term time and holidays
- Ensuring sanitary products are easily accessible to meet individual needs

- Individuals being able to get sufficient products to meet their needs
- Gender equality, ensuring anyone who menstruates can access products, including transgender men and non-binary individuals, and that language is gender neutral. The roll out of gender neutral toilets should also be taken account of.
- Awareness raising and education to both promote the 'offer' and change cultural norm

3.3 The initial roll out of products and storage was completed by the end of the October term 2018/19. Visits were made to every school to outline the scheme, what was involved and options for storage. Posters have been made available to all schools promoting the initiative. Young people access products once they have been distributed to the relevant schools in the following ways.

- In secondary schools they are available in suitable locations such as toilets, guidance bases and if necessary school office or medical rooms. All trans gender pupils are also catered for under existing school guidelines.
- In primary schools it has been left to the head teacher as to where the best place was to put the product. The majority of primary schools already offered sanitary protection so the free product has replaced the school expenditure already in place.

3.4 The supplier currently being used are Hey Girls who appear on the procurement framework. They provide sustainable biodegradable and reusable products. They also provide a wide range of educational support.

#### 4. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

**(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))**

This report supports the Council's corporate working principles of ensuring caring and healthy communities and Education and Social Care's objective of building a better future for our children & young people in Moray

**(b) Policy and Legal**

This is currently a short term scheme and is being dealt with as such; if this becomes permanent a policy will need to be written

**(c) Financial implications**

The initial budget from Scottish Government was £31,902, which is broken down to £8,243 for set up costs and £23,659 for Product purchase. To date £633 has been spent on storage and £9,700 on products in 2018/19.

**(d) Risk Implications**

There are no risk implications arising directly from this report.

**(e) Staffing Implications**

There are no staffing implications associated with this report.

**(f) Property**

There are no property implications other than those detailed in the report

**(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact**

The inclusion of all eligible pupils within the school estate including those transgender pupils has been assessed and considered and arrangements at each school have been put in place. The delivery of free sanitary products can contribute to reducing inequalities that are a result of socio-economic differences. Careful consideration has been given to ensuring that the implementation promotes equality of opportunity on the grounds of sex and gender reassignment.

**(h) Consultations**

Consultations have been undertaken with Lindsey Stanley, Business Support Manager; Paul Connor, Principal Accountant, Legal Services Manager; Equal Opportunities Officer; Education and Social Care Senior Management Team and Tracey Sutherland, Committee Services Officer. Where comments have been received, these have been included within the report.

**5. CONCLUSION**

**5.1 That Committee considers and notes the report and the associated budgetary information.**

Author of Report: Fiona Grant, Educational Resources Officer

Background Papers:

Ref: Delivery of free sanitary products through the school estate