

North Lanarkshire Council Report

Communities Committee

Does this report require to be approved?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Ref SP/LP

Date

18/08/25

Access to Free Period Products (Period Dignity Initiative) update

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Executive Summary

This report provides an update on the activity relating to the delivery and further development of the Access to Free Period Products / Period Dignity initiative.

Members will be aware that since August 2018 all local authorities in Scotland were provided with funding to introduce access to free period products in schools.

From January 2019 the Scottish Government provided additional funding to all local authorities to increase the number and range of places where period products are available free of charge to those who need them, with a focus on publicly accessible buildings.

The purpose of the funding for schools remains to support equality, dignity and rights for those who menstruate and to ensure that lack of access to products does not impact on an individual's ability to fully participate in education, at all levels.

The main intent of the wider roll out for community provision remains tackling poverty but also wider need and to address the overarching gender equality and dignity issues that affect all of those who menstruate regardless of income. Currently, spending is split between school and community provision. This approach has been designed to reflect the needs of communities across the council area.

The Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 12th January 2021, became legislation on the 15th of August 2022 and came fully into force in January 2023.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Communities Committee:

- (1) Acknowledge the significant work carried out to date across key council services and partner agencies.
- (2) Endorses the outline of the planned developments for the one-year period, this being dependent on continued Scottish Government funding for the year 25/26.

The Plan for North Lanarkshire

Priority All priorities

Ambition statement (20) Improve the involvement of communities in the decisions, and development of services and supports, that affect them

1. Background

- 1.1 From August 2018, all local authorities in Scotland were allocated funding to provide access to free sanitary products in schools. The Scottish Government made a new commitment in the 2018 funding year to expand this provision beyond schools. In November 2018 COSLA Leaders agreed to this proposal and developed 'Guiding Principles' in partnership with Scottish Government. Since then, North Lanarkshire Council has been allocated a share of funding annually to further develop the initiative.
- 1.2 The focus for this initiative is creating access to free period products, and by doing so tackling the impact of poverty or low income, which can often mean people are unable to afford the essential products needed while menstruating. By ensuring access to free products, many local people have some relief from the high costs of purchasing period products and will be less self-conscious about not being able to afford them and the stigma attached to this.
- 1.3 Annual funding from the Scottish Government has enabled the council to continue to develop the network of public building access points, to work with local community partners to target support across priority communities and to develop a campaign to raise awareness of the offer available and encourage a more open dialogue around periods and period products.
- 1.4 The council has undertaken a community consultation to find out residents' views on the current offer, improvement ideas, and early experiences of the initiative. The findings from the consultation, along with feedback from other stakeholders, will be used to lead the 'Statement of Intent', which will confirm the council's commitment to supporting the new law and the continued wider access to products.

2. Report

- 2.1 The main objective for this initiative is to create pick up points where residents can access a range of free period products and in doing so support all who menstruate in North Lanarkshire no matter their economic situation. Consistent with the Plan for North Lanarkshire, the North Lanarkshire model has been developed with Community Planning partners to ensure wide reach and accessibility from public buildings and facilities, as well as distribution by local anchor organisations.
- 2.2 The approach reflects the principles of:
 - Protecting people's dignity, avoiding anxiety, embarrassment and stigma.
 - Making a range of products visible in places that people use.
 - Reflecting community 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/nonbinary individuals, and that language is gender inclusive.
 - Awareness raising and education to both promote the 'offer' and attempt to change cultural norms.
- 2.3 North Lanarkshire Council Funding Allocation (2024-25)

Financial Year	Amount of Funding
2024-25	£346,000

Key highlights from 2024/25

- 2.4 The number of period products distributed from 1st of April 2024 to the 31st of March 2025 via schools, public buildings or community anchor organisations is as follows:
- Single-use period products (includes all single use sanitary products e.g., towels, tampons, liners): **1,213,171**, an increase from the previous year's 876,919.
 - Number of period products distributed through public buildings or community anchor organisations: **862,889**, an increase from the previous year's 731,008.
 - Number of period products distributed through schools: **350,282**, an increase from the previous year's 145,327.
- 2.5 In January 2024 the education element of the period dignity project was transferred to the Community Partnership Team. A project officer was recruited on a temporary basis to carry out a short-term targeted piece of engagement work with schools to gain a better understanding of the education side of the project along with raising awareness of local community venues to students and families.
- 2.6 This engagement included meetings between school cluster leads, head teachers and targeted focus groups with students within three different high schools.
- 2.7 Key outcomes from this engagement include:
- A 141% increase in distributed products as highlighted above.
 - Increased engagement in orders from 95 in 2023/24 to 182 orders in 2024/25.
 - Agreement that high schools would promote staying open during holiday periods for students to freely access products.
 - Targeted marketing materials to be produced for schools.

Community Projects

- 2.8 The council continues working in partnership with anchor organisations to ensure effective targeting of support to priority communities within their area and to support individuals who are unable to attend local access points due to personal circumstances including.
- Mobility and health.
 - Inability to afford the cost of public transport.
 - Distance from home to the nearest access point for example living further than 20-minute return journey, which will be more likely for those living in rural communities.
- 2.9 The current anchor organisations are listed below:
1. Getting Better Together - Shotts
 2. Newmains Community Trust - Wishaw
 3. Glenboig Development Trust – Northern Corridor
 4. Cornerstone House – Cumbernauld
 5. Kirkshaws Neighbourhood Trust - Coatbridge
 6. Diamonds in the Community - Airdrie
 7. Health and Wellness Hub - Motherwell
 8. VIP Arts & Sports Academy - Bellshill
- 2.10 Further details on anchor organisations are available in **Appendix 1**.

Communication and awareness raising:

- 2.11 Awareness raising continues through dedicated marketing materials aimed at promoting the initiative to community residents and all educational establishments. This involves the use of North Lanarkshire Councils online and social media networks, along

with other marketing activity including:

- Posters and leaflets in all public buildings and facilities
- Promotions at local events
- Highlighting of the QR code on all promotional materials (physical and digital) for period product pick-up locations, highlighting all accessible venues across North Lanarkshire.

- 2.12 An online campaign ran from October 24 until March 25, featuring a suite of adverts (including an animation) distributed through multiple channels. This included plasma screens in leisure centres, cultural venues, schools and community centres as well as digital platforms such as Snapchat, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Google – achieving **4.6 million impressions** and 20,000 clicks.

NLC interactive map

- 2.13 The NLC interactive map continues to be updated monthly to ensure all information on community pick-up sites continues to be accurate. For the period of 24/25 the interactive map was viewed 32,094 times by 19,297 users with the top 5 most popular pick-up site locations being:

1. Muirhead Clinic
2. Motherwell Civic Centre
3. Maranatha Centre
4. Airdrie Community Health Centre
5. Buchanan Centre

Partnership Working

- 2.14 Partnership working continues to be an important factor throughout this initiative, liaising with community facilities, library services, Active and Creative Communities, Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire, NHS Lanarkshire, and local community delivery partners this coordinated approach has been established to the development and delivery of the initiative and ordering processes.
- 2.15 Partnership meetings and professional dialogue continues to assist in helping to monitor and review activity, identifying and considering options to improve and develop the service whilst providing updates on any of the project delivery that individual agencies may be leading on.

Education School Cluster Consultations

- 2.16 From October 24 to January 25 – Several consultations took place with school headteachers through the school locality cluster meetings. A total of 31 schools took part in these consultation meetings across North Lanarkshire.
- 2.17 These consultations were undertaken to understand challenges schools face surrounding pupils accessing free period product within North Lanarkshire schools, judge effectiveness of the campaign, along with discussion around how schools can implement this legislation within their establishments.
- 2.18 Focus groups with pupils from three high schools also took place, this was to listen to students about their experiences in relation to access to free products, help create more awareness in relation to product availability and community venues for pick-up. The finding from these consultations will help the shape future planning of the initiative ensuring that provision of accessing free period products better meets the needs of both pupils and staff.

2.19 More information is available in **Appendix 2** of this report and on request.

Community Events

2.20 During the period 2024-25 a total of 38 community events were supported with period products across North Lanarkshire, 26 of those events being standalone one-off events being delivered in partnership with local community organisations, schools and our partners within the North Lanarkshire Partnership (NLP) some of these events included:

- Cost of living events.
- NHS National smile month.
- School parent's evenings.
- Police Scotland Lanarkshire Fun Day.
- North Lanarkshire Mosque Bellshill, Ladies Coffee Morning.

2.21 In February 2025 the Community Partnership Team introduced a North Lanarkshire Period Dignity week. This campaign was organised to run alongside over annual event weeks highlighted throughout the year like mental health week, tackling poverty, health and wellbeing. More detailed information on period dignity week is available in **Appendix 3**.

2.22 These events are supported to provide local communities with access to free products and provide information as to where in their local community to access products and services.

Statement of Exercise of Functions

2.23 As part of The Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021 local authorities are required to produce and communicate a Statement on the Exercise of Functions to summarise the arrangements in place to meet the legal duties, which includes carrying out one or more public consultations.

2.24 The information gained from the public consultation work carried out in March to July 2022 has been used to create the North Lanarkshire Council Statement of Exercise of Functions. The statement is contained within **Appendix 4** and sets out North Lanarkshire Council's commitment to free product provision details current and future provision in education establishments and the wider community.

Developments being planned for 2025/26 period

2.25 Using intelligence from consultation work as well as other feedback from schools, partners and stakeholders, several key developments are currently underway.

2.26 This work will assist with a further targeted expansion and the implementation of improvements aimed to improve the processes, services delivery and the overall experience of the residents of North Lanarkshire.

2.27 Recruitment for a project assistant with a focus on promoting and providing access for young people within education establishments and within the wider community. The focus for this role will be looking at different options for increasing uptake within this demographic and piloting various projects to remove barriers for different groups to see what works best with an emphasis on school/pupil involvement to design the approach.

2.28 Development of a student care package, that will be given to female students during the school year to access period products as well as informational pamphlets/leaflets on where to access in the local community outside school hours.

- 2.29 Plans to ensure some schools stay open over summer to allow students access to products.
- 2.30 Look to develop a High School peer-led youth project to deliver period dignity workshops and information sessions within cluster schools.
- 2.31 Continue the review of existing access points to reduce clustering of sites. This is to ensure no duplication or grouping of access points in location of nearby public buildings.
- 2.32 Continue to undertake a full monitoring and evaluation of the current anchor organisation partnership to see if the current model is currently working in the locations identified and that value for money is being achieved.
- 2.33 Continue to hold Period Dignity Week annually to promote and highlight the access to free period products project across communities in North Lanarkshire. Target will be February 2026.
- 2.34 Continue to review the set-up of access points to ensure products can be easily accessed preferably by self-selection or other formats that are viewed as less embarrassing for residents. This will be further improved upon with plans to make access uniform across all NLC sites and information sessions for all pick-up sites.
- 2.35 Undertake a further community consultation online questionnaire to capture the views of the public with a particular focus on views from those currently using sanitary products, our who may collect sanitary products on behalf of others.
- 2.36 Continue to improve the accessibility of products for residents over the weekend, public holidays, and extended school holiday period when schools and public buildings may be closed.
- 2.37 Continue to develop a community resilience/contingency plan to deal with any event of future civil incident of national emergency.

Further information

- 2.38 Additional information, including the information pages on the NLC website, the NLC interactive mapping tool and the My Period App can be accessed using the links below:
- [North Lanarkshire interactive map](#)
- 2.39 North Lanarkshire Council website – [Free Period Products](#)
- 2.40 Scottish Government ‘Pick up my period’ app enables someone to put in a town, city or post code and find out where to access products:
- <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/pickupmyperiod/id1500403938>
 - <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.myperiodapp>

3. Measure of success

- 3.1 Number of products distributed.
- 3.2 Number of community organisations partnerships.
- 3.3 Increased in orders from educational establishments.

3.4 Number of distribution points across North Lanarkshire.

4. Supporting documentation

- 4.1 Appendix 1 Community anchor organisations supporting the initiative.
- 4.2 Appendix 2 Education School Cluster Consultation.
- 4.3 Appendix 3 Period Dignity Week.
- 4.4 Appendix 4 Statement of Exercise of Function.
- 4.5 Appendix 5 Flash report



Stephen Penman
Chief Officer, (Strategy and Engagement)

5. Impacts

5.1 Public Sector Equality Duty and Fairer Scotland Duty Does the report contain information that has an impact as a result of the Public Sector Equality Duty and/or Fairer Scotland Duty? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact? Fairer Scotland duty will be considered on an ongoing basis as part of the development and implementation of the North Lanarkshire approach to the provision of free period products. An integrated equality impact / Fairer Scotland assessment has been completed during the initial planning of the delivery approach. This will be further informed by our ongoing monitoring, reviews and public consultations and community engagement activity. If Yes, has an assessment been carried out and published on the council's website? https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/your-community/equalities/equality-and-fairer-scotland-duty-impact-assessments Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
5.2 Financial impact Does the report contain any financial impacts? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant financial impacts been discussed and agreed with Finance? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact? The period dignity / access to free period products is expected to cost the council circa £346,000 to operate. This is for both existing operations and new developments.
5.3 HR policy impact Does the report contain any HR policy or procedure impacts? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant HR impacts been discussed and agreed with People Resources? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact.
5.4 Legal impact Does the report contain any legal impacts (such as general legal matters, statutory considerations (including employment law considerations), or new legislation)? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If Yes, have all relevant legal impacts been discussed and agreed with Legal and Democratic? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?
5.5 Data protection impact

	<p>Does the report / project / practice contain or involve the processing of personal data?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Yes, is the processing of this personal data likely to result in a high risk to the data subject?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Yes, has a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) been carried out and e-mailed to dataprotection@northlan.gov.uk</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>5.6</p>	<p>Technology / Digital impact</p> <p>Does the report contain information that has an impact on either technology, digital transformation, service redesign / business change processes, data management, or connectivity / broadband / Wi-Fi?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p> <p>Where the impact identifies a requirement for significant technology change, has an assessment been carried out (or is scheduled to be carried out) by the Enterprise Architecture Governance Group (EAGG)?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>5.7</p>	<p>Environmental / Carbon impact</p> <p>Does the report / project / practice contain information that has an impact on any environmental or carbon matters?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p> <p>Wider use of environmentally friendly products and delivery products is encouraged. This includes looking at testing approaches to increasing access to environmentally friendly products and piloting low carbon delivery mechanisms with local voluntary organisations.</p>
<p>5.8</p>	<p>Communications impact</p> <p>Does the report contain any information that has an impact on the council's communications activities?</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?</p> <p>A communication campaign is outlined in this report.</p>
<p>5.9</p>	<p>Risk impact</p> <p>Is there a risk impact?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the key risks and potential impacts, highlighting where the risk(s) are assessed and recorded (e.g. Corporate or Service or Project Risk Registers), and how they are managed?</p>
<p>5.10</p>	<p>Armed Forces Covenant Duty</p> <p>Does the report require to take due regard of the Armed Forces Covenant Duty (i.e. does it relate to healthcare, housing, or education services for in-Service or ex-Service personnel, or their families, or widow(er)s)?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the provision which has been made to ensure there has been appropriate consideration of the particular needs of the Armed Forces community to make sure that they do not face disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public services.

5.11 Children's rights and wellbeing impact

Does the report contain any information regarding any council activity, service delivery, policy, or plan that has an impact on children and young people up to the age of 18, or on a specific group of these?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact and the provision that has been made to ensure there has been appropriate consideration of the relevant Articles from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

If Yes, has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA) been carried out?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Details of Community Anchor Organisations Supporting the Initiative

Over the last year we continue to work closely with our 8 community anchor organisation partners. These organisations get support in the form of £2000 funding to help us deliver against the main objectives for the period dignity initiative, this funding is to help organisations support/run community events and deliver products to people who can't access any of the local pick-up sites across the authority for health reasons.

Each of the 8 organisations are also committed to taking a sustainable approach to the project delivery, with most of the organisations having an environmental focus with products being delivered by local volunteers using bicycles and e-bikes to reduce the carbon footprint of the project. Each anchor also promotes the use of sustainable environmentally friendly products for each community such as reusable period pants and period cups.

To help support the initiative each organisation has also been provided with a new information pop-up stand with QR codes that provides links to all the NLC interactive pick-up points within the location app.

For the period 24-25, a total of **162,097** products were distributed to community members by our anchor organisations contributing to improved menstrual health equity and awareness, ensuring sustained improvement in achieving the goals of the Period Dignity Initiative across North Lanarkshire.



Figure 1: Sample display of free single-use and reusable period products from one of our partner Anchor Organisation's Diamonds in the Community.

Period Dignity Education Consultation

Since the education side of the initiative was undertaken by the Community Partnership Team in January 2024, it was highlighted when reviewing the ordering figures from previous years that a targeted work would need to be undertaken with schools to review how schools delivered this initiative and how students accessed these products daily.

Through extensive engagement with Cluster Improvement & Integration Leads (CIILs), school leadership, and students, consultations took place around the projects aims to address accessibility issues, raise awareness, and tackle cultural sensitivities around menstrual health. This was undertaken in the following format:

Development of Discussion Guides

To facilitate structured consultations, discussion guides were developed to gather feedback, identify challenges, and explore opportunities for further improvement. This ensured consistency and focus during discussions with school leadership and students.

Facilitating Leadership Consultations

Meetings were held with education and family manager and curriculum manager who facilitated the meeting with CIL leads to plan and support leadership consultations.

Consultation with CIL Leads

This meeting was held to evaluate the integration of the Period Dignity Initiative into schools. The primary concerns raised included inconsistent school engagement, a lack of accountability in stock management, and limited student awareness of the initiative.

Some Key findings from the consultations are included below:

School Leadership

- Recognition of the need for consistent communication about product availability.
- Need for proper management of distribution logistics and maintenance of regular stock levels.
- Emphasis on embedding period dignity messaging within wider health and wellbeing education.
- Requests for more resources and guidance to support staff awareness and student engagement.
- Support for whole-school approaches to normalising conversations about menstruation.

Students

- Greater awareness of product availability, though access varied between schools.
- Persistent stigma around periods, with peer-led discussions seen as effective in reducing it.
- Mixed preferences for feedback methods, with QR codes and online forms gaining popularity.
- Barriers related to privacy and confidence when picking up products.
- Suggestions for clearer signage and discreet access points within schools.

More information on this report can be accessed on request.

Period Dignity Week February 2025

North Lanarkshire's first Period Dignity week took place between 17 – 21 February 2025, this event was organised and promoted by the Community Partnership Team.

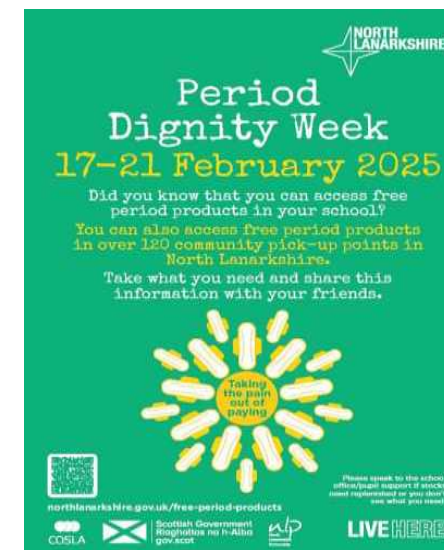
The aim of the week was to promote access to free period products in North Lanarkshire available in over 100 sites in our local community including community centres, sports and leisure centres, libraries along with NHS Health Centres, community and voluntary organisations.

Throughout the week 12 pop-up stalls across 12 different venues in North Lanarkshire across 9 localities to provide a wide range of free period products, raise awareness of the initiative and promote pick-up points. In the lead up to this event there was a promotional push through our NLC social media channels and within partner networks such as Anchor Organisations, Schools and NHS partners.

The week was a success with an average of 90 people attending each venue to discuss and access free period products as well as highlighting each venue as one of our established pick-up sites. In doing so there were over 1,000 bags of products given out to the public for the week along with a donation from our single-use product supplier adding more products for the public to access.

The event was highlighted as a success internally and externally with the event acting as a good stigma breaking session as well as it allowed for the discussion to take place on a wide-open scale surrounding period health, as well as functioning as a valuable source for consultation and feedback on the service as well.

This event enabled more information to be shared with the public and emphasise that the initiative is there to be used, that it is ongoing, and the services are there for everyone. There is no pre-requisite necessary to access these products.



Pop-Stalls Set-Up Across Locations for the Period Dignity Week



North Lanarkshire Council

Period Products (Free Provision) Scotland Act 2021

Statement on Exercise of Functions

1. Introduction

The Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021 was passed by the Scottish Parliament on 24th November 2020 and gained royal assent on 12th January 2021. The Act requires local authorities as a responsible body to provide period products free of charge to anyone who needs them, by making products reasonably easy to obtain.

Additionally, as a responsible body – this should be done mindful of respecting dignity and by offering a reasonable choice of types of period products.

Local Authorities are required to produce a Statement on Exercise of Functions to summarise the arrangements that will be put in place to meet the duty, which includes carrying out one or more public consultations.

This statement has been produced in accordance with our statutory duties and outlines North Lanarkshire Council's commitment to free product provision and details current and future provision within education establishments and the wider community.

2. Our commitment

North Lanarkshire Council is committed to providing free period products for those who need them. Our approach involves children and young people having access to products within their school setting and for residents and visitors through a network of local access points within public buildings and community facilities within North Lanarkshire.

Individuals unable to attend a local access point can contact the council so that alternative arrangements can be made, which may include postal delivery or delivery by our local community partner organisations. Funding has been made available by the Scottish government to enable this.

In providing this free service, it is our aim to ensure that:

- A range of period products, including single use items and re-usable environmentally friendly products are available to those who need them via all secondary schools and a network of local access points.
- Our local access network is kept under review and developed further where appropriate. It is our commitment to do this in conjunction with community planning partners and third sector organisations, mindful of geographically gaps in provision and also of the 20-minute neighbourhood model.
- Barriers to access are minimised and removed and that people can access products with dignity and without stigma.
- Consideration is given to additional support for those who may require it.
- Product demand is regularly monitored so that public buildings and community facilities do not run out of stock.
- Residents and visitors are aware of our free provision. This will involve a range of advertising and promotional campaigns. Information will also be available on the council website; through social media platforms and through other communications such as posters and informational flyers.
- Regular feedback is sought from service users so that improvements can be identified.
- Public consultations and community engagement is carried out to inform our provision.

3. Public Consultation

The North Lanarkshire public consultation took the form of an online questionnaire. This was launched in March 2022 and ran until the end of July 2022.

The survey was designed to capture the views of the general public with a particular focus on views from those currently using sanitary products; those who will use sanitary products in the future and those who may collect sanitary products on behalf of others.

The consultation covered the following broad themes:

- General awareness of the availability of free period products and advertising campaigns
- Types of products currently used and views on accessing environmentally friendly products
- Locations of access points used and suggestions for new sites
- Availability of products and views on service received at access points

The survey was completed by 288 people and the findings from the consultation will be used to inform the provision within North Lanarkshire.

Full details of the findings are contained within the 2022 update report which can be accessed on our website.

4. Community Based Provision

North Lanarkshire Council has developed a large network of community access points. The access points are in all 9 towns and many local communities within public buildings, and community facilities. To date we have over 100 local access points throughout North Lanarkshire which we will continue to monitor, review, grow and update accordingly. The access points have been established in public buildings and community facilities.

North Lanarkshire Council have also partnered with eight local community anchor organisations who will provide local services within a cluster of priority communities.

This also includes a fast free local delivery service for those who cannot attend our centres and access to environmentally friendly period products.

Local food banks and organisations providing emergency food aid are also part of our network and on request can provide products to vulnerable individuals and families.

Additionally, residents can contact the council directly by email to request products. In doing so the quickest method of delivery will be selected.

Products available within our community access points include single use pads (with and without wings, regular, super and long) and tampons (regular and super) the various sizes/ absorbencies provided allow us to accommodate individual needs and preferences. The type of products available will be regularly reviewed to meet the needs and wants of the community. Environmentally friendly products are available on request.

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. A person may access as many products as required.

Information on stocked venues can be accessed via the PickUpMyPeriod App and North Lanarkshire Council Directory website. This allows users to enter a postcode or location to see where free period products are available in their area.

5. **Provision within Education**

North Lanarkshire Council provide free products in all secondary school establishments and on request will be made available to primary schools.

Products will be available in a way which respects the dignity of the pupil and can be accessed without having to ask a teacher.

Products will be available during term time in at least one part of the school, normally the toilet facilities or from the school reception. Some schools may have products available in multiple locations.

North Lanarkshire Council will provide ongoing support to its education establishments to ensure every pupil who requires products is able to obtain them easily.

6. **Communication**

Information on our free period product initiative is available on the North Lanarkshire Council website. Details are provided on how, where and when people can obtain free products via our own easy to use app and the official Period Products Locator app.

Enquiries can also be submitted at any time and will be dealt with by our Community Partnership Team.

It is our intention to regularly promote and raise awareness of the free access to period products. This will involve advertising and marketing campaigns using digital and traditional methods. Information posters are also posted on notice and information boards in all our public buildings and community facilities.

7. **Future Provision and Improvements**

North Lanarkshire Council recognises the importance of securing period dignity for all and will commit to using intelligence from our consultation work as well as other feedback from partners and stakeholders, to continue to develop our approach to providing free period products within North Lanarkshire.

From our recent consultation and engagement work a number of key developments are currently underway. Completion of which will assist with a further targeted expansion and the implementation of improvements aimed to improve processes, service deliver and the overall offer for residents and visitors. Further details are provided within the 2022 update report which can be accessed on our website.

8. **Further information**

Additional information can be found on the NLC website [free period products](https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/free-period-products)
([northlanarkshire.gov.uk](https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk))

The NLC interactive mapping tool can be accessed using the following link: [Directory records | North Lanarkshire Council](#)

Scottish Government 'Pick up my period' app enables individuals to put in a town, city or post code and find out where to access products.

[PickupMyPeriod on the App Store \(apple.com\)](#)

[PickupMyPeriod - Apps on Google Play](#)

Index - MyPeriod (myperiodlive.azurewebsites.net)

Period Dignity Campaign 24/25 Highlights

Distribution Figures

- Total distribution figure for period products is **1,213,171**. An increase of **336,252** on 23/24's figures.
- Community side of project distribution total is **862,889**. Previous year was **731,008**.
- Education side of project distribution total is **350,282**. Previous year was **145,327**.

Education Key Outcomes

- Increased distribution on products from previous year.
- Increased engagement in orders, **95** in 23/24 up to **182** orders in 24/25.
- Agreement in place for High Schools to remain open during Summer to allow students a familiar place to access products.
- Targeted marketing materials to be produced for schools.

School Cluster Consultations

- From October 24 to January 25, 31 schools engaged in several cluster meetings.
- Consultations were to understand challenges facing schools and students regarding the initiative.
- Three schools used as a focus group to receive feedback from students regarding access and how to improve awareness.
- Feedback will shape the campaign going forward.

Community Projects

- Council continues to support and partner with 8 Anchor Organisations to support the local community where access might be difficult providing a delivery service in most cases.
- Access difficulties can be due to:
 - Ill health, disabilities.
 - Cost of public transport.
 - Distance to venue particularly in rural areas.

Community Anchor Partners

1. Getting Better Together – Shotts
2. Newmains Community Trust – Wishaw
3. Glenboig Development Trust – Northern Corridor
4. Cornerstone House – Cumbernauld
5. Kirkshaws Neighbourhood Trust – Coatbridge
6. Diamonds in the Community – Airdrie
7. Health and Wellness Hub – Motherwell
8. VIP Arts & Sports Academy – Bellshill

QR Codes that
support this
intiative.

