

North Lanarkshire Council Report

Communities Committee

Does this report require to be approved?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Ref SL/LP

Date

10/08/26

Access to Free Period Products (Period Dignity Initiative) update

From: Stephen Llewellyn, Depute Chief Executive

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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 broader need and to address the overarching gender equality and dignity issues that affect those who menstruate regardless of income.

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) Approve the outline of the planned developments for the one-year period budget permitting

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.
- 1.3 Dedicated resource for this initiative 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

2. Report

- 2.1 The main objective for the 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.

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.

2.2 North Lanarkshire Council Funding Allocation (2025-26)

Financial Year	Amount of Funding
2025-26	£346,000

2.3 Key highlights from 2025/26

- 2.4 The number of period products distributed from 1st of April 2025 to the 31st of March 2026 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): **North Lanarkshire Total –1,443,832** this is an increase from the previous year 1,213,171.

- Number of Period Products distributed through public buildings or community anchor organisations – **891,105** this is an increase from the previous year 862,889.
- Number of Period Products distributed through schools – **474,952** this is an increase from the previous year 350,282.

2.5 Education Activity

Work continued throughout the year to develop the education element of the period dignity project. Targeted activity was undertaken to increase awareness of the project, strengthen engagement with pupils, and promote the use of local community venues. This work was informed by intelligence gathered through school **consultations, alongside feedback from pupils, teachers, parents and schools**. Progress for the period includes:

- Increased distribution in products in educational establishments as highlighted above.
- Central high schools per cluster staying open during the summer holiday periods for students to freely access products.
- Creation of e-learning module for staff involved in the distribution of period products to support a consistent implementation of the campaign in schools.
- Targeted marketing materials and resources (leaflets and posters) produced for schools. Examples available at **Appendix 2**
- Period ambassadors starter guide created to support the establishment of peer-led period ambassador roles in schools. See **Appendix 3** and further information available on request.
- Youth Engagement and Consultation Guide created to support the engagement sessions with pupils.
- Period Dignity Policy and Practice Guide created for schools to support the delivery of the campaign.

2.6 Period Ambassadors Starter Guide

A Period Ambassadors Starter Guide was developed to support the creation of peer-led representatives to help normalise period conversations among pupils in schools. It is presented in a comic style to engage young people while increasing awareness, promoting access, breaking barriers, reducing stigma and encouraging supportive conversations about periods across North Lanarkshire schools. See **Appendix 3** and further information is available on request.

2.7 Youth Engagement and Consultation Guide

A Youth Engagement and Consultation Facilitators guide was developed to support the engagement of pupils and young people around period dignity and accessing free period products in schools and within communities. The guide would help facilitators run consistent, safe and meaningful engagement and consultation sessions and obtain young people's feedback as needed.

2.8 Period Dignity Policy and Practice Guide for Schools

A Policy and Practice Guide was created to support the uniform and consistent delivery of the Access to Free Period Products campaign in all schools across the Council. It sets out how schools in North Lanarkshire must provide free, safe and discreet access to period products, support menstrual wellbeing through education, and link students to community access helping remove barriers to attendance, dignity and inclusion.

Further details on education policies and guides developed for schools are **available on request**.

2.9 Community Projects

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.

The current anchor organisations are listed below:

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

Further details on anchor organisations are available in **Appendix 1**.

2.10 Communication and awareness raising

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 network, along with other marketing activity including:

- TikTok video created to increase awareness of the project (currently at 125.1K views)
- TikTok video was also shared to Facebook with a further 57k impressions.
- Period Dignity Week 2026 was promoted through two channels. GovDelivery had 11.4k recipients with 42% engagement. Second channel was Facebook with a post generating 5k impressions.
- Posters and leaflets in all public buildings and facilities
- New branded marketing materials for community events i.e. tablecloths and pull-up's
- 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

2.11 Campaign Website Update

Extensive work has been undertaken to update the campaign website to enhance user experience and increase community engagement. The website now provides clear and accessible information on the different elements of the campaign, as well as details of over 100 locations across the Council area where free period products are available. More information on [Free Period Products in North Lanarkshire | North Lanarkshire Council](#)

2.12 Community and Education E-Learning Modules

Two tailored e-learning modules have been developed to support managers and school staff in implementing the Access to Free Period Products provision across community and education settings. The modules reflect differing operational requirements and support managers and staff to manage stock, hygiene and accessibility while promoting dignity, inclusion and respect. Aligned with the Period Dignity Initiative, the modules help reduce stigma, address period poverty and ensure equitable access to free period products. This approach supports consistent good practice, strengthens managerial leadership and contributes to a person-centred period dignity offer across North Lanarkshire.

The e-learning module is available via LearnNL: **Course: Period Dignity Initiative**

2.13 NLC interactive map

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 25/26 the interactive map was viewed 25,178 times by 15,615 unique users with the top 5 most popular pick-up locations being:

- Motherwell Civic Centre
- Airdrie Community Health Centre
- Cumbernauld Central Health Centre
- Kildrum Health Centre
- Bellshill Health Centre

The Hey Girls, and Scottish Government have created a collaborative mapping tool 'PickUpMyPeriod' where NLC has venues listed for the public to also check where products are available. Throughout its lifetime the tool has been visited a total of 20,874 times with 7,798 directions given to users through the app. For 25/26 The average number of visits was 3,479 with 1,300 directions given to users on average.

2.14 Partnership Working

Partnership working continues to be an important factor throughout this initiative. For example, liaising with community facilities, library service, Active and Creative Communities, Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire, NHS Lanarkshire, and local community delivery partners. This coordinated approach has been established to ensure the ongoing development and delivery of the initiative and ordering processes.

Partnership meetings and professional dialogue continue 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.

2.15 Community Events

During the period 2025-26 a total of 38 community events were supported with period products across North Lanarkshire, 19 of those events being standalone one-off events delivered in partnership with local community organisations, schools and our partners within the North Lanarkshire Partnership (NLP). Examples include:

- Cost of living events.
- Challenge Poverty Week
- NHS Health Improvement Summer Family Fun days
- School parent's evenings.

- North Lanarkshire Mosque Bellshill, Ladies Coffee Morning
- Winter Warmer Events

In February 2026, the second annual North Lanarkshire Period Dignity Week was held. The event was organised to increase community engagement with the campaign, and it ran alongside other annual event weeks highlighted throughout the year like mental health week, tackling poverty, health and wellbeing. More detailed information on period dignity week 2026 is available in **Appendix 4**

These events are supported to provide local communities with access to free products, increase engagement with the project, increase awareness and provide information as to where residents can access products and services in their local communities. An estimated **1,500** community members and residents were engaged through these events and activities with over **77,775** individual products distributed.

2.16 **Community Consultation**

From February 2026 to March 2026, an online community consultation was launched for residents. It was undertaken to understand the challenges community members face in accessing free period products and to help them share their views on the project, create more awareness of the campaign in communities and provide feedback for improvement.

The findings and insight from the consultation will help shape future planning of the initiative ensuring that products provision and access effectively meet the needs of community members.

Consultation findings are available in **Appendix 5** of this report.

2.17 **Statement of Exercise of Functions**

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 consultation.

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 6** and sets out North Lanarkshire Council's commitment to free product provision details current and future provision in education establishments and the wider community.

2.18 **Developments being planned for the 2026/27 period**

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

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.

- 2.18.1 Work with Education to ensure the continuation of cluster schools staying open over the holiday periods to allow students access to products alongside community venues.
- 2.18.2 Develop a High School peer-led youth project to deliver period dignity workshops and information sessions within cluster schools.

- 2.18.3 Targeted work will be undertaken with schools that are currently less engaged to raise awareness of period poverty and strengthen uptake of the Period Dignity Initiative, with a particular focus on schools serving communities within areas of high deprivation.
- 2.18.4 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.
- 2.18.5 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.
- 2.18.6 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 March 2027(to coincide with Women's health week).
- 2.18.7 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.
- 2.18.8 Continue to undertake community consultations 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.

2.19 Further information

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](#)

North Lanarkshire Council website – [Free Period Products in North Lanarkshire | North Lanarkshire Council](#)

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. Measures of success

- 3.1 Number of products distributed
- 3.2 Increased orders from educational establishments
- 3.3 Number of distribution points across North Lanarkshire

4. Supporting documentation

- 4.1 Appendix 1 Community anchor organisations supporting the initiative
- 4.2 Appendix 2 Targeted education materials and resources created for schools
- 4.3 Appendix 3 Period Ambassador's Starter Guide
- 4.4 Appendix 4 Period Dignity Week 2026
- 4.5 Appendix 5 Community consultation insight
- 4.6 Appendix 6 Statement of Exercise of Function

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'S. Llewellyn', is positioned above a light blue rectangular stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Stephen Llewellyn
Depute Chief Executive

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 ☒ No ☐

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 ☒ No ☐

5.2 Financial impact

Does the report contain any financial impacts?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If Yes, have all relevant financial impacts been discussed and agreed with Finance?

Yes ☒ No ☐

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 ☐ No ☒

If Yes, have all relevant HR impacts been discussed and agreed with People Resources?

Yes ☐ No ☐

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 ☐ No ☒

If Yes, have all relevant legal impacts been discussed and agreed with Legal and Democratic?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?

5.5 Data protection impact

Does the report / project / practice contain or involve the processing of personal data?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If Yes, is the processing of this personal data likely to result in a high risk to the data subject?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If Yes, has a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) been carried out and e-mailed to dataprotection@northlan.gov.uk

Yes ☐ No ☐

5.6 Technology / Digital impact

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?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?

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)?

Yes ☐ No ☐

5.7 Environmental / Carbon impact

Does the report / project / practice contain information that has an impact on any environmental or carbon matters?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?

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.

5.8 Communications impact

Does the report contain any information that has an impact on the council's communications activities?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If Yes, please provide a brief summary of the impact?

A communication campaign is outlined in this report

5.9 Risk impact Is there a risk impact? Yes ☐ No ☒ 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?
5.10 Armed Forces Covenant Duty 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)? Yes ☐ No ☒ 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 25-26, a total of **166,208** individual period products were distributed to community members by our anchor organisations along with **2,343** reusable period products 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 Anchor organisations in toilets and lobbies for easy access for residents.

Targeted education materials and resources created for schools

New posters and flyers for education

The campaign redesigned posters and flyers for schools across North Lanarkshire. The aim is to increase engagement and student uptake of products. The materials are visually engaging and written in age-appropriate language for young people. They also include the campaign QR code and links along with key information on how to access free period products from our over 100 locations across communities when not in school or during holidays.

New leaflets design



New Posters and Webpage Banner for Schools



This is a Period Positive School



Got your period? We're here to help

In our school, we believe it's very important that everyone feels confident and ready to learn.

Everyone in our school has access to free period products, so your period will never get in the way of your education.

Let's talk periods...

Talking about periods can sometimes feel embarrassing. Remember that lots of other people have periods too and feel the same way. It's time to end period stigma. There's no shame in having a period. It's totally normal and natural.



There's no shame in having a period

Talking to friends, family members or an adult you can trust can help.

If you've ever asked yourself these questions, then read on to find out the answers...

It's very important that we dispose of our used period products correctly. This will make sure that we're being hygienic and that the products don't harm others or our environment.



Disposing of your period products

What do I do with my used period product?
Do I flush it down the toilet?
Do I put it in the normal bin?

Tampons

Put your used tampon in a bag, if provided or wrap it up in a piece of toilet paper. Put this in the bin.

Period pads

Wrap your used pad in your new pads wrapper or in a piece of toilet paper. You could also use a disposable bag, if provided. Put this in the bin.

When you have disposed of your used period product, make sure you wash your hands thoroughly.



If you want to talk to someone about periods, please ask:

LEARN HERE

This is a Period Positive School



Periods are a natural part of growing up
Everyone can use the free period products
Respect other pupils' emotional wellbeing
It's OK if you feel unwell
Open up and talk
Dignity for all is important
Support each other

Period hygiene

1 Change your pad or tampon regularly	2 NEVER flush period products down the toilet because it could block the toilet	3 Dispose of period products in the bin provided
4 Put on a clean pad or tampon	5 Flush the toilet after use	6 Wash your hands

Use these products with respect - they're for everyone. If there are no items left, stock is running low or you don't see what you want, please let a member of staff know.

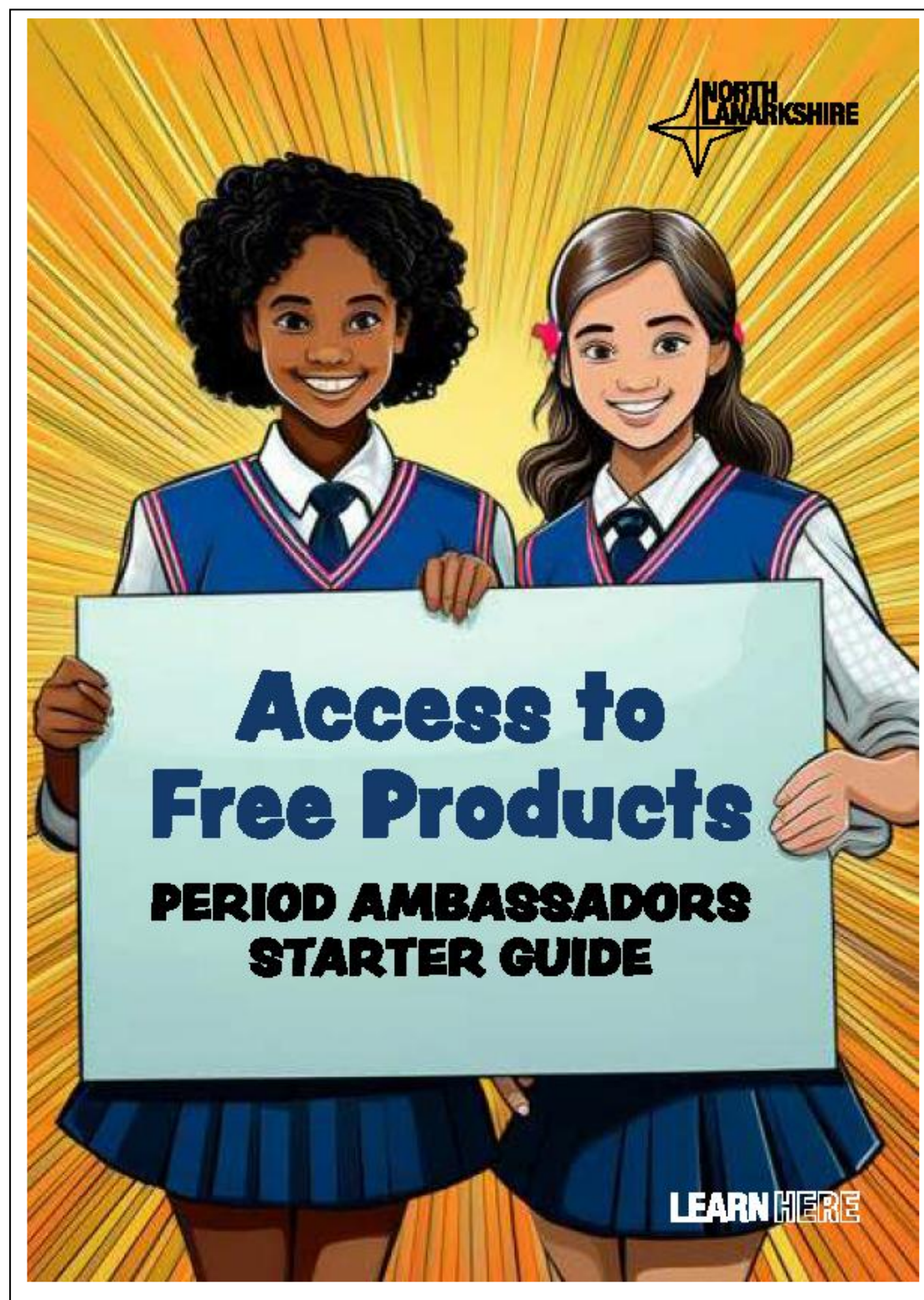


Find out more, including collection points:
www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/your-community/working-communities/free-period-products-north-lanarkshire

LEARN HERE

Period Ambassadors Starter Guide

The starter guide was created to support the establishment of period ambassadors in high schools. It will help promote support peer-peer conversations on period dignity and improve access for young people. 4 representatives would be identified from 26 high schools and one teacher as a champion to support them.



Period Dignity Week February 2026

North Lanarkshire's second annual Period Dignity week took place between 16 – 20 February 2026, 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 9 pop-up stalls were set up across 9 different venues in North Lanarkshire across our 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 over 500 people attending venues to discuss and access free period products as well as highlighting each venue as one of our established pick-up sites. In total, over **30,000** individual period products were distributed to residents.

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-Up Stalls Set-Up across Locations for the Period Dignity Week

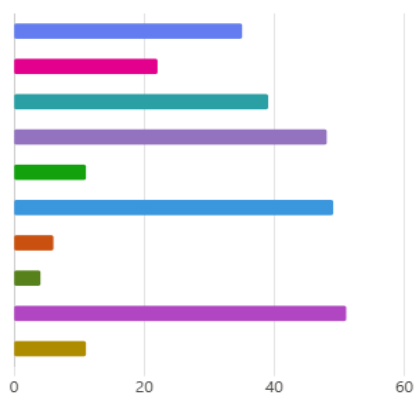


Community Consultation Insight

1. Where do you live?

[More details](#)

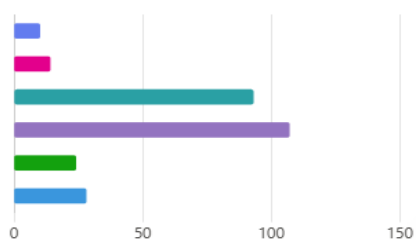
Airdrie	35
Bellshill	22
Coatbridge	39
Cumbernauld	48
Kilsyth	11
Motherwell	49
Northern Corridor	6
Shotts	4
Wishaw	51
Other	11



2. What is your age?

[More details](#)

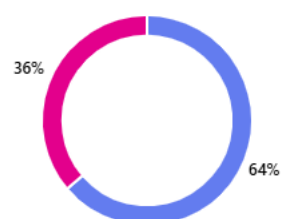
Under 18	10
18-24	14
25-39	93
40-54	107
55-64	24
65+	28



3. Are you aware that anyone can access free period products in North Lanarkshire?

[More details](#)

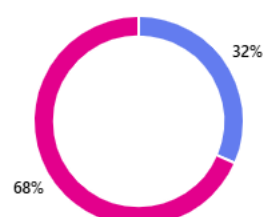
Yes	176
No	100



4. Are you aware of which venues you can pick up free period products from?

[More details](#)

Yes	87
No	189



7. Have you seen any adverts in North Lanarkshire about free period products?

[More details](#)

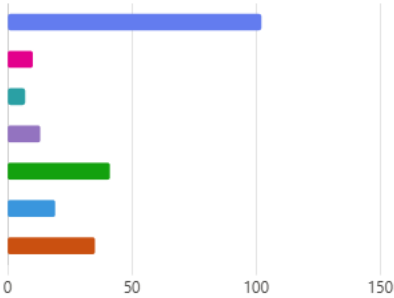
- Yes 122
- No 154



8. If you answered yes, where did you see it? (tick all that apply)

[More details](#)

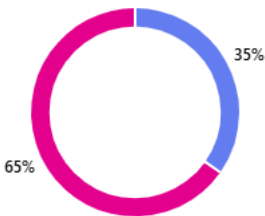
- A poster in the community (e.g toilets/leisure centre) 102
- flyer in the community 10
- On a screen in a community venue 7
- Online advert 13
- Social Media advert (Snapchat, Facebook, Instagram, TikTok) 41
- North Lanarkshire Council website 19
- Other 35



9. Have you or anyone you know accessed free period products through this service?

[More details](#)

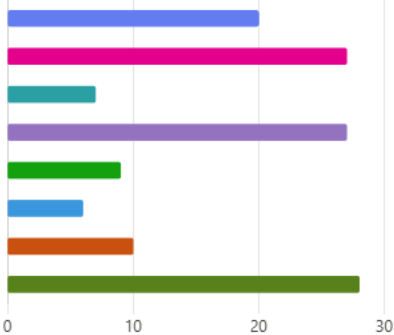
- Yes 96
- No 180



10. If you have accessed free products what venue was it from?

[More details](#)

- Health Centre 20
- Sports Centre 27
- Voluntary Site 7
- Community Centre 27
- Community Anchor Organisation 9
- Period Dignity Week Stall 6
- Community Event Stall 10
- Other 28



11. If you have accessed products, were the products easily accessible and easy to take?

[More details](#)



12. How did you access the products?

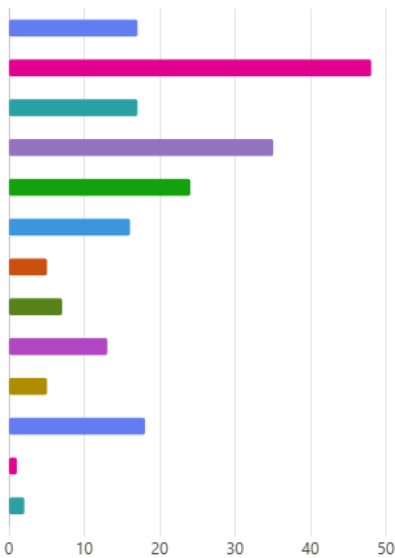
[More details](#)



13. What products do you regularly use?

[More details](#)

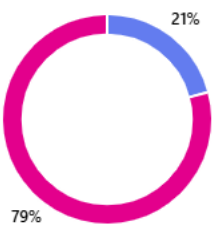
● Bodyform - Regular No Wings	17
● Bodyform - Regular With Wings	48
● Bodyform - Maxi Long Super No Wings	17
● Bodyform - Ultra Long With Wings	35
● Tampax Applicator Tampons - Regular	24
● Tampax Applicator Tampons - Super	16
● Lil-Let Non-Applicator Tampons - Regular	5
● Lil-Let Non-Applicator Tampons - Super	7
● J&J Carefree Pant Liners	13
● Reusable Period Cups	5
● Reusable Period Pants	18
● My First Period - Starter Kit	1
● Pads 4 Dads - Starter Kit	2



14. Did you face any issues accessing products

[More details](#)

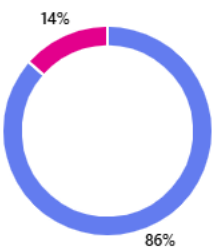
● Yes	20
● No	76



16. Did you feel comfortable accessing free period products?

[More details](#)

● Yes	83
● No	13



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 in North Lanarkshire | North Lanarkshire Council](#)

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)