

## 6. PERIOD POVERTY

### Background

Following on from the previous Facilities meeting, 10 Sept 2019 where the topic of Period Poverty was discussed. The following points were recorded:

*‘Councillor Ambler presented the details and background of his concerns over Period Poverty within the Town, and his request to trial a project of free sanitary products to be made available within one of the Town Council operated female toilets. Councillor Ambler suggested that the trial could run in the weeks leading to, and just after, Christmas.*

*The Committee considered some of the issues regarding how the scheme may operate and how similar schemes are currently tackling the problem within the Town. The Committee requested that, in conjunction with the Facilities Manager, a more detailed and costed proposal be put for consideration.’*

The following is a response to the request to do more research and come back with a costed consideration along with a number of recommendations, which the council may wish to consider.

### Acknowledgments

This proposal has been jointly worked on with Cllr S Mitchell, Cllr D Ambler and Tony Misson, (Facilities manager).

Thanks are owed to, Lucy Allison, (Safer Liskeard, Community Safety Officer – East Cornwall), and Nicola Bristow, (‘Let’s talk. Period’ Community and Grants Coordinator, Plan International UK).

Supporting comments and conversations from Cllr N Taylor, Cllr S Shand and Cllr I Goldsworthy, (note these conversations do not imply support).

### Overview

#### Community Need

Cllr S Mitchell has liaised with the Liskeard Foodbank and other charities and identified that sanitary products are provided and requested by their clients.

The exact level of need is difficult to gauge, because of the sensitive nature of Period Poverty.

As we know Liskeard has several estates in deprivation, and it is likely that period poverty exists within the town. The exact numbers of those who may require support is unknown and asking could be considered intrusive and insensitive. The decision to supply free products in schools does not cover holidays, the homeless, and those in need outside of the school environment, or even the parents taking their children to schools.

However, it is believed that the provision of some form of solution to achieve, 'Period Dignity' would be of benefit to Liskeard residents and should be supported. This works alongside the aims of LTC to reduce deprivation within the town area.

Following a letter from the community treasure chest, (sent just after the last facilities meeting) to YH of United Charities, it has been agreed for the foodbank and community treasure chest to attend the Facilities meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> November.

## Proposals for Facilities Meeting

Install Sanitary Dispensers in LTC buildings and Public Facilities – Supply products at cost.

It is suggested that LTC install suitable sanitary dispensers and make available at cost prices sanitary products in all LTC buildings and public facilities.

The provision at cost price could be beneficial to those in need, while avoid any cost, (beyond the dispensers and installation) to Liskeard residents.

The fact products are charged, and not given free will hopefully avoid abuse.

Costings are as follows:

**Dispensing Machines** – Two columns for towels and tampons on a 'free vend' basis in plain white with custom graphics **£160 + VAT each**.

Upgrade to coin operated (£1 coins – no change given) £35 + VAT

**Product** – Own brand tampon packs (2 per pack) **49p** each in a case of 100 packs

Own brand towels (1 per pack) **29.5p** each in a case of 100

Other combinations of product pack sizes are possible but would increase cost slightly from the standard packaging.

**LTC facilities with Ladies toilets** – Public Hall (main toilets, Accessible toilet, Changing Places) Foresters Hall (Accessible Toilet) Public Toilets (Dean Street, Sungirt & Westbourne)

Minimum of one unit per site = **5 Units**

**6.(a) Recommendation: The committee consider the installation of sanitary dispensers in all LTC buildings and public facilities. That products are supplied at cost to users.**

### **Promotion of Local Support Groups and Advice on Access to Support**

One of the considerations has been on how residents are made aware of the support available to those facing period poverty.

It is suggested LTC could promote the support available and how it is accessed.

**6.(b) Recommendation: That the committee, together with C&E, promote through posters and social media the availability of support for those facing period poverty and how the services can be accessed.**

### Promotion of LTC Period Dignity Objectives and Decisions

Period dignity should be a right across the country. It is suggested that LTC recommend through the various channels it has access to, that other public bodies, councils and public buildings provide a similar access to products at cost, and we promote the message about period dignity.

**6.(c) Recommendation: That the committee share our decisions on improving period dignity and encourage other bodies to adopt an aim of improving access to sanitary products at cost.**

### Environmental Impact

LTC is considering the impact on the environment of its activities.

Sanitary products can be seen as having a negative impact on the environment.

It was discussed that alternatives such as moon cups could be promoted and sold. It was felt that the sensitivity of those requiring support could make a conversation around this impractical at the time of need.

However, LTC could promote the greener alternatives through its general environmental activities.

**6.(d) Recommendation: That the Committee consider the environmental impact of sanitary products alongside its stated environmental aims.**