



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

WELSH GOVERNMENT PERIOD DIGNITY GRANT

13th April, 2023

Report of the Head of Education Development –

Christopher Millis

Matter for Information

WELSH GOVERNMENT PERIOD DIGNITY GRANT

Wards Affected:

All Wards

Report Title

WELSH GOVERNMENT PERIOD DIGNITY GRANT

Purpose of the Report:

To provide Members with information in relation to the Period Dignity Grant issued by Welsh Government on an annual basis.

Executive Summary:

To provide Members with information concerning what is purchased with the Welsh Government Period Dignity Grant .

Background:

Members will be aware that a number of years ago there was, throughout the UK, media reports related to 'period poverty'. These reports detailed that, at the time (2017) some young girls had been missing school due to being unable to afford menstrual products. Also, at that time, Plan International carried out a survey that found that 1 in 10 girls were unable to afford feminine hygiene products. A more recent study by Plan International, published in May 2022, found "that more than a third of girls aged 14 - 21 in the UK struggled to afford or access menstrual products during the pandemic - up one fifth on the previous year. This is equivalent to over one million girls."

Welsh Government have issued more than £12 million in grants to local authorities, and others, since 2018 to tackle period poverty. Eradicating period poverty will mean that having a period should not lead to missed education or sport and social activities.

The Neath Port Talbot grant allocation is used to supply schools, food banks, community groups and libraries with such menstrual products - providing a number of venues where young, vulnerable females can access these products.

Products that have been purchased by Neath Port Talbot are such goods as single use pads and tampons but there is an emphasis on purchasing plastic free environmentally friendly, bio-degradable products and re-useable products such as cups, reusable pads and period pants.

The Welsh Government grant guidelines also allow schools to purchase replacement uniforms such as tights, trousers and skirts - anything that could be soiled by a pupil starting a period unexpectedly. This, therefore, helps in alleviating any embarrassment a pupil may feel should this happen.

Officers are currently looking at purchasing 'pick and mix' stands to place in schools whereby pupils can select what products they would like. This would remove the barrier of pupils having to ask for products and will also give pupils the opportunity to see the different products that are available and may, also, encourage them to try different products.

Whilst there is no evidence of research in Wales related to Feminine Hygiene Products, in August 2017, a proposed bill for the Scottish Parliament entitled 'Ending Period Poverty' noted that an average person would require 4 – 5 products per day when menstruating, and calculated that there are 68 menstruating days, on average, per year. Total usage/cost would, therefore, be:

average cost of £3.40 for a pack of 20 named period pads

use of 4 products per day = £3.40 for 5 days = 68p per day

68p per day x an average of 68 days = total average cost per annum
= £46.24 per pupil

An average woman who commences her period at 13 years old and finishes her period at 55 years old will, therefore, spend, at today's prices, approximately £1942.08 on period products in a lifetime. Currently pupils and vulnerable adults save approximately £46.24 per year by Neath Port Talbot supplying these products free of cost to all females. If there is more than one pupil/vulnerable adult in a home this saving could be doubled or trebled.

Welsh Government announced in February, 2023, that they have a further £2.5 million funding for local authorities and Further Education to provide free period products in all schools in Wales. Additional funding is provided to ensure provision of free period products within Further Education Institutions (FEIs) across Wales.

As well as providing funding Welsh Government are also leading the way in eradicating the stigma of periods via their 'Period Dignity Strategic Action Plan' published in October 2021, which has since

been revamped and renamed 'Period Proud Wales Action Plan' published in February 2023. This plan details Welsh Governments approach to ensuring period dignity in Wales and what they hope to achieve by 2027. Period dignity is about respect, education and equality.

Whilst the period dignity funding does not cover such items as washroom sanitary bins the Welsh Government published guidance 'School Toilets: Good Practice for Schools in Wales in 2012' has a section on female sanitary products and their disposal.

Welsh Government require a high level report to be completed by officers of the Council as to how the funding has been utilised, and, therefore, there will be an expectation that schools and community groups who accept the funding will comply with the grant conditions.

Financial Impacts:
No implications.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

There is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment as this report is for information purposes.

Valleys Communities Impacts:
No implications.

Workforce Impacts:
No implications

Legal Impacts:
No implications

Consultation:
There is no requirement for external consultation on this item

Appendices:

List each appendix using the same title as appears on the appendix

List of Background Papers:

Welsh Government Period Proud Wales Action Plan:

<https://www.gov.wales/period-proud-wales-action-plan-html>

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