

Argyll and Bute Council's Statement on Exercise of Functions

In line with the requirements of the Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021, Argyll and Bute Council will ensure that period products will be made available to those who need them, in a way that protects people's dignity while avoiding anxiety, embarrassment and stigma. As part of this approach, the Council will carry out a range of awareness raising and education activities to promote product availability and to help change the cultural norms whereby people find it difficult to talk about periods.

A range of products will be available to people in a range of different ways, including via online ordering, so that anyone who needs products can access them, regardless of where people live, or their personal circumstances. Products will be available in an inclusive way, so that they are available to anyone who menstruates, regardless of their gender, and language used will be gender inclusive.

The provision of products is being designed in keeping with the feedback received during the initial public consultation exercise, and future changes will be made on the basis of feedback from communities as this work progresses. This will include the promotion of products through a dedicated 'My Tribe' brand, to ensure equity and discretion, as well as compliance with the Fairer Scotland Duty.

A range of partners will assist the Council with delivering this roll out, and where possible, other Council priorities such as Climate Change will be considered, with reusable products and non-plastic products being prioritised, on the basis of feedback received.

Individuals will be able to access as many products as best suits their own needs, and where products are ordered on line, there may be a delivery charge for this service.

Alongside an online provision, products will be made available in the following locations, with a provision in male and disabled toilets in public conveniences, with other locations encouraged to have a provision in in male and disabled toilets:

- Schools
- Leisure Centres
- Public Conveniences
- Community Centres
- Independent Locations, available on request (e.g. Church halls/Community spaces)

Argyll and Bute Council will create individual branding and promote the period product initiative across the local authority area, both within the community and in schools. Based on feedback, this service will be expanded to have a dedicated website and launch an awareness campaign of the new brand. Once launched, we aim to focus on improved access, continued awareness, and education around reusable products.

The main focus of this initiative will be around inclusivity, improving awareness and enabling and empowering those who require access to period products.