



South
Lanarkshire
College

East Kilbride

STATEMENT OF INTENT PERIOD PRODUCTS (FREE PROVISION) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2021

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Version History

Version Number	Date	Author	Rationale
1.0	18/10/22	Rose Harkness	Under Section 6 of the Act, the College as a responsible body should produce a Statement on Exercise of Functions
2.0	18/05/23	Rose Harkness	Further clarification on the legal duties under each Section of the Act

Quick Links

We are inclusive and diverse, and this is one of our values.

We are committed to the FREDIE principles of Fairness, Respect, Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Engagement.



To find out more about FREDIE click [HERE](#)

To find out more about our Vision, Mission and Values click [HERE](#)



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	4
CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT	5
PROVISION OF FREE SANITARY PRODUCTS	6
CAMPAIGNS AND COMMUNICATION	7
REVIEW ARRANGEMENTS	8
CONTACT INFORMATION	8

INTRODUCTION

[The Period Products \(Free Provision\) \(Scotland\) Act 2021](#) was passed by the Scottish Parliament on 24 November 2020 and gained royal assent on 12 January 2021. The College is required to produce and communicate a Statement on Exercise of Functions to outline how we intend to meet the requirements of the Act to meet our legal duties, including carrying out one or more consultations. This statement sets out South Lanarkshire College's commitment to free period product provision and details how we intend to do this. These duties include:

- The arrangements put in place for making period products obtainable free of charge for students during term/course time, in at least one location in each building, which is normally used by students (Section 2 of the Act)
- how products can be obtained reasonably easily, in a way that respects the dignity of persons obtaining them and a reasonable choice of different types of period products to be obtainable (Section 4 of the Act)
- how the responsible body has had regard to the statutory guidance (Section 5 of the Act) when exercising its functions, in undertaking the consultation (Section 7 of the Act) and in and preparing the Statement (Section 6 of the Act).
- the plans for making information available to people about how and where they can access free products as required (Section 8 of the Act).

Since January 2017, as part of SLC's ongoing commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of students and staff; we have been proud to be one of the first colleges in Scotland to provide free sanitary products to anyone who needed them. This reflects our aim of promoting equality of opportunity and social inclusion for all.

Giving straightforward access to sanitary products allows individuals to continue with the main purpose they attend college, whether this is to focus on learning and teaching, supporting students in their studies or carrying out your daily job.

Staff and students continue to work cohesively to ensure delivery of sanitary products is inclusive and that regardless of circumstances, background or mode of attendance you have access to a range of products without feeling embarrassed, anxious or needing to justify why you need them.

At SLC, we are fully committed to improving the accessibility of sanitary products to help support equality and ensure the dignity and rights of those individuals accessing period products.

In this we aim to:

- **Protect students' dignity**, avoiding anxiety, embarrassment, and stigma
- Make a range of products, including **sustainable options** and different qualities available, giving students **choice** about the products they want to use
- A response that is reflective of individual views and experiences
- An efficient and dignified approach which demonstrates **value for money**

- An offer for all students **throughout the year** to include both **term time and holidays**
- Ensuring sanitary products are easily accessible to meet **individual needs**
- Individuals being able to get sufficient products to **meet their needs**
- **Gender equality**, ensuring anyone who menstruates can access products, including transgender men and non-binary individuals, and that language is gender neutral.
- **Awareness raising and education** to both promote the 'offer', tackle the stigma around menstruation and change cultural norms.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

To meet our legislative responsibility (Section 7), the College continue to consult and engage with the student community on a regular basis to ensure our 'sanitary provision offer' is appropriate and meets the needs of students. We recognise that easy access to free period products can make a significant difference, so ensuring we have the right range of products available at the most suitable access points is critical for us to deliver an inclusive, accessible, sanitary provision offer.

How we do this:

- Service delivery co-designed in partnership with the Student Association (SA)
- Discussions and engagement with Class Representatives
- Student surveys

The initial sanitary offer was planned, developed, and delivered in conjunction with the SA. This allowed for maximum student buy-in and allowed us to shape services to meet the voice of the student. The College continues to work in close partnership with the SA to promote awareness of the service. Further initiatives have since been introduced for example holiday packs and campaigns aimed at changing attitudes and encouraging dialogue to help remove the stigma around menstruation.

The survey results identified that education and awareness was very important in taking the free period products initiative forward. Each year the number of respondents taking part continues to increase and in the most recent full survey (2019) we had 97 respondents take part. Of these respondents (81%) were aware of the free sanitary provision. (91%) of respondents agreed the importance for free sanitary provision for health and wellbeing with over 80 respondents providing qualitative data on the benefits for them being able to access free products. Two recurrent themes appeared, these were accessing the service was due to financial reasons or unexpectedly requiring the products. By having the products available in free vending machines then many respondents highlighted the ease of access and the avoidance of embarrassment since they did not have to ask for them.

A further survey carried out during the pandemic highlighted the growing need for a range of products to be made available as a digital option to enable products to be delivered straight to the home address. To support remote delivery during the pandemic the College partnered with Hey Girls to provide not only sustainable options but to deliver sanitary products direct to student's homes.

A further full student survey will be conducted in November 2022. This will allow us to review provision and arrangements to ensure we continue to meet the needs and requirements of students.

PROVISION OF FREE SANITARY PRODUCTS

Section 2 of the Act requires the College to outline the arrangements in place for making period products obtainable free of charge for students during term time, in at least one location, which is normally used by students. Section 4 of the Act requires the College to have products readily available, in a way that respects the dignity of the person obtaining them and have a reasonable choice of different types of period products available. To meet our legislative responsibilities and to ensure we best meet the needs of students we offer a range of sanitary products through a variety of access points including vending machines, pick-up products, holiday packs and an online ordering facility. We have a strong commitment to environmental sustainability, and many of the products we offer are made using ethically sourced, biodegradable products. We also actively promote the use of reusable products including menstrual cups.

Vending Machines

Products are available in adapted free vending machines which dispense packaged towels and tampons. Instructions on how to use the products are included. This allows those who wish to access products to do so without having to ask a member of staff in a way that respects dignity.

These are available in the following locations:

- Ground Floor Atrium G06 Accessible Gender-Neutral Toilet
- Ground Floor: G02 Toilet
- First Floor: 151 Toilet
- Second Floor: 208 Toilet
- Third Floor: 309 Toilet
- Annex Building: Ground Floor Accessible Gender-Neutral Toilet

Pick up Products

Pick-up products are also available for collection by anyone who needs them, or by collecting on behalf of another person. This includes towels, tampons, and menstrual cups. These products are provided by Hey Girls who provide ethically sourced products which are biodegradable.

Pick up points are available in the following locations:

- Student Services: Student Advice Centre
- Main Reception
- Hair & Beauty Reception
- Annexe Reception
- Student Association Office: Ground Floor
- Human Resources: Third Floor

Holiday Packs

The SA offer holiday packs in the lead up to student holiday periods. These packs include 10 tampons (with instructions for use) and 5 towels. Students can collect these from outside the SA Office for either sole use or bulk collect.

Online Ordering Service

The College offers a free online ordering service through Hey Girls who are a Scottish Social Enterprise. A variety of products can be ordered from single use to reusable products all of which will be delivered direct to a home address.

CAMPAIGNS AND COMMUNICATION

To ensure the College meet the duties under Section 8, we will ensure that information in relation to free period products is promoted regularly through a variety of sources including:

- College Website
- SLC and SA Social Media Platforms
- Posters, both digital and hardcopy
- Staff and Student Newsletters
- Student Handbook
- Local and National Press Outlets

We continue to hold regular events to promote the sanitary provision on campus and deliver campaigns around tackling stigma and promoting menstrual health education. This will be helped by linking in with national campaigns and educating individuals on reusable products to promote sustainability. This includes using the following helpful educational resources:

- [Relationships, Sexual Health, and Parenthood](#)
- [Young Scot](#)
- [Action Aid](#)

There will also be active promotion of the 'PickUpMyPeriod' Mobile Application. This provides details of the free sanitary products available in each local authority.

- [Download the PickupMyPeriod app for iOS \(Apple\)](#)
- [Download the PickupMyPeriod app for Android](#)

REVIEW ARRANGEMENTS

We understand the complexities in relation to accessing free period products and will continue to give the upmost consideration to ensure respect and dignity in our approach. We are fully committed to reviewing arrangements annually to meet the needs and requirements that have been voiced in our consultation and engagement processes.

Our priorities for the next 3 years include:

- Continue to promote how and where free period products can be accessed in SLC and the wider communities.
- Identify actions from the student survey to take forward.
- Link with national campaigns and material to promote information aimed at changing attitudes, making periods easier to talk about.
- Educate individuals on environmentally friendly and reusable products.
- Expand the quality and quantity of information on periods and make information accessible to all.
- Raise awareness on the need for transgender men and non-binary people to have access to products.
- Secure value for money in our procurement through the utilisation of the Washroom Solutions Procurement Framework which provides Local Authorities and education providers a mechanism to procure a range of products and services.

CONTACT INFORMATION

South Lanarkshire College
Scottish Enterprise Technology Park
College Way
East Kilbride
SOUTH LANARKSHIRE
G75 0NE
Telephone: 01355 807780
Email: student.support@slc.ac.uk



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Lanarkshire
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East Kilbride