

Access to Free Period Products

Minister for Social Security Briefing

4th August 2022

Objectives

1. To provide an overview of:
 - Where we've come from
 - Where we are now
 - Where we are going
2. To agree the policy intent and approach for the community scheme

Background

The issue

- 1 in 10 have been unable to afford sanitary wear
- 1 in 10 had to improvise sanitary wear
- 1 in 5 of girls have used a less suitable product due to cost
- 14% of girls didn't know what was happening when they started their period
- 48% of girls feel embarrassed by their period (56% of 14-year-olds)
- 1 in 7 girls have received comments about their cleanliness or hygiene, (1 in 4 amongst 19-year-olds)

Developments in other jurisdictions

- Removal of VAT/taxes
- Access to free provision in schools
- Access to free provision in the community – Wales (limited approach) Scotland – Act 2021

Developments in Jersey

- E-petition 'Follow Scotland and make period products free for all'
- Commitment to a schools scheme
- Removal of GST
- 100 day action plan – Introduce a proposition to deliver free sanitary products



Access to free period products: school scheme

Policy intent

- To ensure that no young person is missing out on their education due to their period
- De-stigmatise/normalise the issue of periods

Rationale

- The evidence from the UK showing that this was an issue, mirrored by local survey data
- Red Box Project Jersey – active in most schools on the island
- Government priority 'Putting children first'
- Increasing number of other jurisdictions making this commitment

Scope

- Available to all young learners who may need to access products – not targeted to Pupil Premium
- All schools in Jersey and Highlands College 6th Form
- Disposable products only in initial role out
- Sufficient funding to enable students to take products to cover the holidays

Reasons for needing products:

- ✓ Forgotten products;
- ✓ Can't afford them;
- ✓ Come on unexpectedly; or
- ✓ Started for the first time

Timescales

- Products available from September 2022
- Current contract in place to cover 1 year
- Review process commences in Spring 2023
- New longer term contract commences September 2023

Access to free period products: community scheme

Policy intent

- To ensure that anyone in Jersey who menstruates can have reasonable access to free products as and when they are required.
- De-stigmatise/normalise the issue of periods
- Address period poverty and ensure period dignity

Rationale

- The evidence from the UK re CYP and adults shows this is an issue
- Support in previous Assembly – P66 Debate



- 23% of women have taken time off work because of their period in the last 6 months
- A following 36% did not tell the truth about why they were unable to work
- 46%) admitted they weren't comfortable talking about their period as a reason for time-off.

BUPA 2017.

Scope

- Available to any person in Jersey who needs them
- No reason required but might include: coming on unexpectedly; leaving products at home; higher than average need due to a medical condition

Guiding Principles

- Reasonably easy to obtain
- Respect dignity
- Reasonable choice
- Sufficient supplies to meet people's needs
- Inclusion

Approach to delivery

Key stages of development

- Consultation (product and venue preferences, digital offering)
- Commercial and financial implications
- Full procurement exercise (aligned with school scheme)
- Implementation and comms campaign

Proposed approach

- Pilot role of products in limited number of venues from October 2022 (within 100 days)
 - Jersey library (St Helier and Communicare)
 - Fort Regent and Les Quennevais (Springfield from January 2023)
 - Jersey General Hospital
 - Key third sector partners (Women's Refuge, Shelter)
- Fully implement from Sept 2023

Timelines for delivery

Aug - Sept 2022

- Confirmation of policy and approach
- Develop pilot model and guidance
- Procurement exercise for supplier
- Products available in schools w/c 5th Sept
- Draft consultation paper and engagement for community scheme

Oct 2022

- Community scheme pilot launched by 19th
- Consultation launched

Jan – Feb 2023

- Develop and confirm specification for procurement (both schemes) based on pilot, consultation and feedback from schools

Mar – April 2023

- Tender process commences

Jun –July 2023

- Contract for both schemes in place

Sept 2023

- Full implementation of both schemes