



CABINET – 16TH MAY 2018

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF MOTION – THAT CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL INTRODUCE FREE FEMALE HYGIENE SUPPORT FOR ALL YOUNG FEMALES WITHIN OUR SCHOOL SETTING

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR – SOCIAL SERVICES AND HOUSING

- 1.1 The report, which asked the Committee to consider the Notice of Motion that Caerphilly County Borough Council adds its support to introducing free female hygiene support for all young females within school settings, and make a recommendation to Cabinet.
- 1.2 A Notice of Motion was received from Councillor E. Forehead, with the support of Councillor J. Pritchard, which meets the criteria set out in the Council's Constitution and, in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure, was referred for consideration.
- 1.3 The Committee noted that it is widely accepted that women and girls in Wales cannot afford to buy essential feminine hygiene products when they need them. In March 2018, the Authority accepted a one off discretionary grant payment from Welsh Government of £41,657 to be spent in relation to the investment in the improvement of toilet facilities and feminine hygiene hardware in schools. In addition, Welsh Government has made available revenue grant funding of £13,206 for the 2018/19 and 2019/20 financial years. This funding must be used to provide feminine hygiene products to those women and girls most in need in the Authority.
- 1.4 Members were asked to note that on the most recent pupil data, there are currently 4,774 girls in Secondary Schools (Years 7 to 11). On this data alone it is estimated that the cost to provide feminine hygiene products for all would be in the region of £100k. This is based on a monthly cost of £2 per pupil.
- 1.5 The Scrutiny Committee were asked to consider a recommendations to create a Task and Finish Working Group, which it is proposed will give consideration to the allocation of spend in relation to the Welsh Government Grant, along with options going forward.
- 1.6 Members considered the report in detail and sought clarification from Officers whether charities or support from Local Businesses had been considered to reduce the financial burden on the Authority. Officers explained that, since the writing of the report, it has been noted that there are Charitable Organisations providing similar support and there are some schemes operating within schools, however, it is unclear as to the sustainability of this provision and it is imperative that, whatever outcome is agreed, it must be both sustainable and consistent across the Authority. Members were reminded that a recommendation to establish a working group had been suggested within the report, the remit of which would be to consider all current services and financial options.

1.7 Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officers report the Notice of Motion be supported in principle and it be recommended to Cabinet that a Task and Finish Working Group be established.

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Appendices:
Appendix 1 Education for Life Scrutiny Committee Report – 24th April 2018.