



## **EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 5TH NOVEMBER 2019**

**SUBJECT: PERIOD DIGNITY UPDATE**

**REPORT BY: RICHARD EDMUNDS, CORPORATE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION AND  
CORPORATE SERVICES**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to identify progress against the period dignity action plan.

### **2. SUMMARY**

2.1 This report looks at the way the period dignity working party used the £13,206 Welsh Government 2018/19 revenue grant to provide free period products to young women across the borough. Priorities identified in the Service Improvement Plan are also referenced in the report. The final section makes reference to recent Healthy Schools National Quality Award accreditations.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 Members are requested to note the contents of the report.

### **4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 To ensure members are informed of the impact of the period dignity working party and priorities listed in the LA Service Improvement Plan.

### **5. THE REPORT**

#### **5.1 How was the £13,206 Welsh Government 2018/19 Feminine Hygiene revenue grant spent?**

5.1.1 According to Full Fact (the UK's independent fact checking charity) statistics show that up to 1 in 4 girls or women are at risk of period poverty and unable to afford sanitary products.

5.1.2 The £13,206 revenue grant awarded to Caerphilly provided all secondary, primary, junior and infant schools with age appropriate red boxes of sanitary products.

5.1.3 In July 2018 the title of the working party - 'Period Poverty' was replaced by 'Period Dignity' to reduce the stigma of poverty.

- 5.1.4 Prudent use of resources ensured that EOTAS provisions, youth centres and community centres and libraries were provided with sanitary products suitable for both girls and women. Boxes were distributed at the beginning of May 2019 during the head teachers' forums.
- 5.1.5 All secondary age pupils were invited to design a Caerphilly period dignity logo and the winning entry was made into a sticker and attached to every distributed red box.
- 5.1.6 Community Regeneration sourced a Legacy grant and employed a professional film maker from Cardiff to create two short period dignity information films using pupils from Lewis Girls School and St Cenydd Comprehensive. The bi-lingual films were premiered on 20<sup>th</sup> June at Ty Penallta. The interim CEO and leader of the council attended. At the event, Cllr. Philippa Marsden made a commitment to spend the 2019/20 grant on environmentally friendly, sustainable and reusable products – the first Local Authority in Wales and the UK to do this.
- 5.1.7 The period dignity logo is being used in Caerphilly youth centres, libraries, community centres, secondary schools and some primary schools.
- 5.1.8 Community Regeneration has created a bilingual poster to display across the borough. This is already being used in youth and community centres, libraries and public places.
- 5.1.9 Lewis Girls School has produced an environmentally friendly sanitary product dispenser using recycled cardboard and Heolddu Comprehensive developed two dispenser prototypes using recycled cardboard tubes.
- 5.1.10 Ella Daish, an environmental campaigner will be supporting Y9 pupils to better understand reusable products such as moon cups and the highlight the impact of plastics in current products
- 5.1.11 Healthy Schools and Youth along with Lewis Girls School and St Cenydd Comprehensive intend to develop an educational pack for schools to accompany the period dignity information films.
- 5.1.12 Neighbouring Local Authorities and the BBC have used the Caerphilly model to demonstrate best practice and the EAS included the Healthy Schools period dignity work in their recently created Relationships and Sexuality Education Toolkit for schools.

## 5.2 Conclusion

The period dignity working party utilised the Welsh Government revenue grant by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 and provided settings with a total of 134 boxes of sanitary products. The full £13,206 was spent on products. In addition, the group developed a Caerphilly period dignity logo and two short information films to address the issues of poverty and dignity.

## 5.3 Good practice judgements made by Work2Health linked to Welsh Network of Healthy Schools National Quality Award (NQA).

### **Ystrad Mynach Primary School (2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019)**

“The school has been part of the period dignity project, so that girls can access sanitary products freely and easily (and girls can go and use the staff toilets).”

## **Llancaeach Junior School (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> July 2019)**

“Period Dignity Boxes are available to pupils in the staff room and girls are made aware of this provision.”

### **6. ASSUMPTIONS**

- 6.1 No related assumptions been made in relation to this report.

### **7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES**

- 7.1 Corporate Council Plan 2018 - 2023: Well-being Objective 1 – Improve Education for all; Well Being Objective 5 ‘Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015’.
- 7.2 Education Service Improvement Plan 2019. The Service Improvement Plan includes an operational action plan related to period dignity (see Appendix 1)
- 7.3 LA Self Evaluation 2019. Monitoring and evaluation of the period dignity initiative forms part of the self-evaluation process. In 2018/19, a more evaluative report was submitted to SMT for review.
- 7.4 Shared Ambitions – Education Strategy. The period dignity initiative supports one of the main aims of the Shared Ambition document, notable to, ‘support schools and the families of learners to meet the needs of pupils, particularly those most vulnerable,’

### **8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS**

- 8.1 This report identifies the Local Authority’s long term commitment to a more equal Wales by ensuring they fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).
- 8.2 Strategies identified within the plan are aimed at prevention – preventing young people from falling into trends related to unhealthy lifestyles. The Healthy Schools programme aims to instil key health messages and appropriate decision making skills in relation to health and well-being.
- 8.3 Integration is fundamental to the period dignity working party, ensuring that all stakeholders are consulted and included in decision making.
- 8.4 Collaboration with schools, communities, youth workers, libraries and PHW colleagues will ensure all of our priority wellbeing objectives are met.
- 8.5 The decision making processes, throughout, included young people, head teachers, pastoral leaders, representatives from PHW, Youth, Communities and Communities.

### **9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 This report is for information purposes only, so the Council’s full Equalities Impact Assessment process does not need to be applied.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 Whilst there are no additional financial implications with respect to this report, there has been a significant input of staff time to progress the period dignity agenda across Caerphilly County Borough. This has been in addition to existing responsibilities of those involved.

## **11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 There are no personnel implications with respect to this report.

## **12. CONSULTATIONS**

- 12.1 There are no consultations in the report.

## **13. STATUTORY POWER**

- 13.1 'Shared Purpose: Shared Future, Statutory Guidance on the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015', and in particular SPSF 3 – Annex B, which is issued in accordance with Section 17(3) of the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010 and applies to local authorities in respect of local well-being plans and whenever they take decisions which might affect children and young people.

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Appendix 1 The Service Improvement Plan includes an operational action plan related to period dignity