

## REQUEST FOR TOPIC TO BE CONSIDERED BY SCRUTINY

<b>Title of report – Period Poverty</b>	
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	<p>To research the availability of free sanitary products, such as tampons and towels, in all Secondary and Primary Schools in the County as an acknowledgement that they are as essential as toilet paper for the personal hygiene of female pupils.</p> <p>To explore how best to allocate the recent funding announced by the Welsh Government for local authorities to help tackle this issue, in line with any criteria/guidance issued.</p>
<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	<p>1 – To acknowledge the research by Plan International UK on Period Poverty and Stigma, which estimates that 1 in 10 girls in the UK has been unable to afford sanitary wear.</p> <p>2. To explore the actions of Welsh organisations including Periods in Poverty, Wings Cymru, The Red Box Project, Trussell Trust, and others to tackle this issue. To also consider the final report from Rhondda Cynon Taff Council Scrutiny Working Group established to deal with free sanitary provisions in schools.</p> <p>3 – If appropriate, to bring forward recommendations for consideration by full council in respect of this matter relating to dignity, equality, health and wellbeing and its effect on education in a County that has such a high number of pupils living in poverty.</p>
<b>Value of bringing to Scrutiny</b>	To educate members about this issue and to research current provision in our schools across Wreccsam. To evaluate the current best practice in place across the UK and beyond, such as Bridgend County Borough Council, the Scottish Government and New York City Council and consider what Wreccsam council can do to improve provision locally. To ensure the recent funding announced is spent as efficiently as possible.
<b>Information Required</b>	<p>An overview of current provision in primary and secondary schools locally, including whether or not free provision is available, what type of products are available, from which location and how pupils are informed about the provision if it exists.</p> <p>An overview of best practice from other UK councils, the Scottish Government and New York City Council.</p> <p>An overview of the work of Welsh organisations including Periods in Poverty, Wings Cymru  Research by Plan International UK on Period Poverty and Stigma  <a href="https://plan-uk.org/media-ce">https://plan-uk.org/media-ce</a></p> <p>Rhondda Cynon Taff Council Scrutiny Working Group (*see link at the end)</p>

<b>Suggested Officer / Lead Member attendance</b>	Lead Member for People – Education, Councillor Phil Wynn Head of Education
<b>External involvement and benefit</b>	Suzanne Nantcurvis, Wings, Wrexham
<b>Lead Member / Head of Department Comment</b>	<p><u>Head of Education:</u> The Welsh Government have recently announced funding to assist Local Authorities address “period poverty”. For Wrexham County Borough Council this amounts to a capital funding allocation of £28,546 . This is to be used on investing in sanitary equipment and necessary changes to toilet facilities in schools where it is needed . This could include disposal bins for feminine hygiene products, new vending machines or adjustments to cubicles. In addition there is a grant of revenue funding for the next two years amounting to £9,258 per financial year for the purpose of providing feminine hygiene products to those women and girls most in need.</p> <p>There is a pilot project at Clywedog school but no other school is strategically providing products apart from on an ad hoc basis. The Education Department has no capacity to carry out any research into this with teachers or pupils or to evaluate the current best practice in place across the UK and beyond, such as Bridgend County Borough Council, the Scottish Government and New York City Council.</p> <p>My suggestion is that we wait for the pilot at Clywedog to conclude which is likely to be the end of the calendar year and for detailed plans to be put in place to ensure that the above mentioned funding is maximised. A brief report could then be included in the report on Support for Well Being which is scheduled for the meeting of the Committee in February 2019.</p> <p><u>Head of Finance:</u> There would have to be a National lead on this if it were to move beyond the current “well understood arrangements to support learner well-being” in schools referred to in the recent Welsh Government response to this issue. Given there is a pilot arrangement operating in Wrexham then this should be concluded and reviewed before any wider review exercise is initiated. Welsh Government announced some additional resource at the year end and officers are exploring how this could be utilised e.g. to support the pilot.</p> <p><u>Lead Member for People – Education, Councillor Phil Wynn:</u> Officers are currently engaging with our schools following the recent Welsh Government grant announcement, so it would prove an effective use of our Officer time to update Scrutiny by way of the Support for Wellbeing report, which is scheduled for February 2019.</p> <p>If committee do wish to scrutinise this matter then I would ask for clarification as to the added value this will make to what I believe is an operational matter and for an indication as to which of the currently scheduled reports this Topic Request Report will replace.</p>

<b>Submitted by:</b>	Councillor Carrie Harper	
<b>Date:</b>	March 2018	
	<p><b>This Scrutiny topic request is supported by the following Members (optional).</b></p> <p>1. Councillor Adrienne Jeorette  _____ (print) _____ (signature)</p> <p>2. Councillor Gwenfair Jones  _____ (print) _____ (signature)</p> <p>3. Councillor Dana Davies  _____ (print) _____ (signature)</p> <p>4. _____ (print) _____ (signature)</p>	
<b>Please tick all that apply and ensure that you have provided the necessary supporting detail.</b>		<b>Please tick</b> √
1	Referral from other Committee / Council / external body or partnership	
2	Committee steer / recommendation for Lead Member or Head of Department (not proceeding to Executive Board or Council at this stage)	
	Committee steer / recommendation for Executive Board / Council (please provide date of Executive Board / Council meeting)	√
	Information Only	
3	Official Consultation Document (e.g. proposed Government Legislation / Guidance)	
4	Does the issue involve public dissatisfaction with Council's performance? Insert relevant Council Priority Outcomes number(s) which are listed overleaf:- <b>PE1</b>	
5	Has the issue been considered in the last 12 months by any other Member Forum? Please specify:-	
6	Please specify which meeting of the Scrutiny Committee you wish to submit the report to and why:- <b>Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee as the outcome refers to the effect of period poverty on education in the County</b>	

**Link to Rhondda Cynnon Taff Scrutiny Working Group**

- <https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Council/CouncillorsCommitteesandMeetings/Meetings/Council/2018/02/28/Reports/AgendaItem12ProvisionofSanitaryProductsinSchoolswithinRCTFinalReport.pdf>

## **COUNCIL STRATEGIC THEMES AND PRIORITY OUTCOMES**

### **ECONOMY OUTCOMES:**

- E1 – Encouraging people to live, work, learn, visit and invest here
- E2 – Supporting Businesses to locate and grow here
- E3 – Helping Tackle Poverty

### **PEOPLE OUTCOMES:-**

- Pe1 – Supporting people to have positive aspirations, learn and achieve their potential.
- Pe2 – Supporting people to live active, independent lives within their community.
- Pe3 – Safeguarding those who are vulnerable.
- Pe4 – Working with our partners to make Wrexham a safe place where people feel included.
- Pe5 – Enabling access to leisure and cultural activities.

### **PLACE OUTCOMES:-**

- PI1 – Promoting good quality homes and regeneration.
- PI2 – Pride in our environment.
- PI3 - Communities with sustainable, attractive settlements, neighbourhoods, buildings and spaces.
- PI4 – Well-connected and sustainable communities.

### **ORGANISATION OUTCOMES:-**

- O1 – Continuing to modernise our services.
- O2 – Supporting a resilient Council.