

HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council

27 February 2020

Notice of Motion

Proposer: Cllr Fiona Sloman

Seconder: Cllr Shannon-Kate Thomson

This Council notes that:

- A survey by Plan International UK found that 1 in 10 girls had been unable to afford sanitary products;
- 56% of girls said they would rather be bullied at school than talk to their parents about periods;
- This is particularly problematic for girls from low-income families who see their parents struggling to make ends meet and feel reluctant to ask them to add sanitary products to the weekly shop;
- In many cases, as a result, they may lose a significant number of days of schooling;
- Regrettably, even women in low-income employment are sometimes unable to afford such products when struggling to meet household bills and feed their families;
- Ironically, only female prisoners have a statutory right to access free sanitary products.

Council believes that, in a country as wealthy as Britain, 'Period Poverty' is a scandal that should be ended.

Council commends:

- The Scottish Government for its commitment to tackle 'Period Poverty' by introducing free sanitary products in all educational establishments, and notes that Scotland was one of the first countries to pilot a scheme to young women and girls in need in Aberdeen;
- The 'dignity bags' scheme established by Chepstow Town Council where members of the public can donate sanitary products in branded boxes located in prominent places, such as pharmacies and libraries, for re-distribution to women in need.

Council resolves to:

- To explore with local secondary schools and colleges how sanitary products can be made available free in their establishments and the practicality of establishing a 'dignity bags' scheme in the Borough;
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Education and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, asking the Government to scrap the VAT levied on female hygiene products as soon as is practicable and, in the meantime, to use

the VAT collected on these products to fund the provision of free sanitary products for girls and women in need.