

Scotland Excel

To: **Executive Sub Committee**

On: **27 April 2018**

**Report
by
Director Scotland Excel**

Update Report on Sanitary Provision within educational establishments

1. Summary

At the Executive Sub Committee meeting on 26 January 2018, a question was posed to Scotland Excel on the work being undertaken to help support local authorities supply sanitary products into educational establishments to adopt the free sanitary provision proposed by Scottish Government.

This report will provide an update on the work carried out to date in relation to this initiative.

2. Background

The Scottish Government has committed to providing access to free sanitary products to students in schools, colleges and universities to support equality, dignity and rights for those who menstruate and to ensure that lack of access to products does not impact on an individual's ability to fully participate in education at all levels. Funding for the products, in the first instance is by Scottish Government and based on population and an amount per student per year.

The delivery model should be based on:

- Protecting pupil's dignity, avoiding anxiety, embarrassment and stigma
- Making a range of products and different qualities available, giving pupil's choice about the products they want to use;
- A response that is reflective of pupil's views and experiences;
- An efficient and dignified approach which demonstrates value for money;
- An offer for all pupils throughout the year regardless of whether it is term time or holidays
- Ensuring sanitary products are easily accessible to meet individual needs;
- Individuals being able to get sufficient products to meet their needs;
- Awareness raising and education to both promote the 'offer' and change cultural norms

3. **Proposed actions**

Scotland Excel has, since January, been liaising with colleagues at both Scottish Government and Advanced Procurement for Universities and Colleges (APUC) to look at a mechanism of support for a procurement process. Models are currently being implemented by local authorities in the short term and longer term, Scotland Excel has agreed to include the supply of products (including sustainable products) through the renewal of the Washroom Solutions framework, leading to opportunities through a collaborative approach to inform and develop a longer term national model.

This will permit a compliant framework with which to supply products and provide key data to inform on-going policy regarding uptake and refining costs thereafter.

It is our intention to seek information from Local Authorities in May on intended initial delivery routes taking effect from August with a view to lending support from existing applicable frameworks until the Washroom Solutions framework is live in October 2018. Scottish Government's commitment includes the provision of products to pupils during school holidays and local authorities need to consider how provision will be delivered during these times, such as issuing pupils with a holiday pack, particularly to those living in remote areas. This has **not** been included within the scope of the proposed tendering exercise given the demanding timescales. However, Scotland Excel will work with local authorities and the market place to seek effective solutions after contract mobilisation.

4. **Recommendations**

It is recommended that members note the content of this report and continue to support the work being carried out by Scotland Excel to improve national priorities.