

Period Poverty Motion - Labour Amendment

Proposer: Councillor das Neves

Seconder: Councillor Ibrahim

Council notes:

- In June 2022, a Plan International UK survey found that nearly one in four girls in London were unable to afford period products since the start of the year;
- The charity found that girls across the country were cutting down on food and school spending in order to afford period products;
- An ActionAid 2022 survey showed that of those who have struggled to afford menstrual products in the last six months, 75% said they had prioritised spending money on food, 49% had prioritised gas/electric, and 31% prioritised fuel;
- Nearly half (46%) of those who struggled to afford sanitary products in the last six months kept sanitary pads or tampons in for longer than recommended or used toilet paper, and 10% doubled up their underwear; and women, girls and others who menstruate are at risk of Toxic Shock Syndrome (TSS) if they do not have access to clean period products;
- The Period Products Scheme for schools and colleges in England has provided free period products to all state maintained schools and 16-19 education organisations in England since 2020;
- Scotland was the first country in the world to make period products free for all;
- Like many other London Boroughs in response to issues with access to period products, in 2020 the Council initiated a scheme with partners to provide free period products to residents which many relied on during the pandemic. In light of the cost of living crisis, we are keen to expand this provision further.

Council believes:

- No-one should experience period poverty.

Council resolves:

- To ensure our stock levels for free period products in all of the council's public toilets and buildings including libraries and community centres, including all female, male, disabled and gender-neutral toilets are replenished and monitored, and explore working with new partners to provide further supplies;
- Explore working with new partners and VCSs to provide more free, sustainable and eco-friendly period products;
- To ensure there are sanitary waste bins in all of the council's toilets where they are not already provided;
- To run a media campaign with partners to communicate to residents that free period products are available in community centres and all libraries and to work with the community to increase the ways in which residents can access these products discretely
- To survey schools in Haringey about free access to period products in their schools and provide them with support to access period product schemes.
- To explore the impact of period poverty on residents in Haringey and use these findings to call for the UK government to make period products free and available to all those who need them.

