

South Ayrshire Council Period Products Delivery Statement

Strategic Context

South Ayrshire Council has a vision of ‘making a difference every day.’ We recognise that easy access to free period products can make a difference to many people in our community and can support our strategic objectives of closing the gap and supporting people to grow well, live well and age well.

Current Arrangements

We have been providing access to a range of period products since 2018/19 through our schools, Council venues and community locations and our mission has been to do this in a way which makes products as reasonably accessible as possible and which reduces the embarrassment of those wanting to access products.

The South Ayrshire Council approach has been to make a range of products available including:

- Pads including with and without wings
- Tampons including with and without an applicator
- Panty liners
- Reusable pads
- Period pants
- Menstrual cup
- Wee white bag

Products are available from our schools and from Council buildings including swimming pools (including The Quay Zone) and activity centres, community centres, town and village halls and museums, libraries and mobile libraries, and public toilets. We have also trialled online ordering for reusable products. Products are also available at other local venues and information is readily available via the Council’s website on where products can be accessed.

[Wee White Bag - South Ayrshire Council \(south-ayrshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

Information can also be accessed via the PickupmyPeriod app.

Consultation Results

We have recently consulted on the arrangements we have in place with communities via an online survey widely promoted through social media and community groups and parent groups and an online survey with school pupils. There were 423 respondents to the public consultation and 242 responses to the school consultation.

In terms of the public consultation, responses confirmed that people continue to want to access a range of products from a range of venues. There were suggestions for current venues to be augmented particularly in rural areas with hairdressers, petrol stations and garden centres referenced. An emphasis was placed on accessing products discreetly with most respondents suggesting the toilet area as the most suitable access point. There is demand for online ordering particularly from respondents in more rural areas and we will look to see if there is scope to strengthen online ordering arrangements linked to bulk buying as well as reusable products. Awareness of venues and products was reasonable but varied by location and by age group. We will work to maximise awareness of local arrangements.

In terms of the school consultation, there was good awareness of being able to access products and most participants thought these were easy to access. There was a suggestion about using health rooms for this and being able to leave the classroom readily to do so. Schools will continue to review local arrangements to make these responsive to feedback and in light of experience of young people accessing period products.

Proposed arrangements

In line with the Period Products (Free Products) (Scotland) Act 2021 and associated guidance and our practice to date, the arrangements to access period products will be underpinned by key principles as follows:

- Products will be reasonably easy to access from a range of venues;
- We will promote dignity in accessing products and seek wherever possible to attend to privacy considerations and make reasonable effort to minimise embarrassment;
- Individuals will not routinely have to ask for products or justify why they need them or the amount they require;
- It is recognised that people accessing products may be doing so on behalf of themselves or on behalf of other people;
- A reasonable choice of product will be offered;
- While we will promote reusable products, people will not be under pressure to opt for these;
- The approach taken will be inclusive and recognise that not everyone requiring products will identify as female;
- We will be open to suggestions to new venues and new approaches to accessing period products and will keep our arrangements under review.

The results of our consultation confirm that people in South Ayrshire continue to want a range of period products from a range of local venues including schools. We therefore propose to continue to make the following products available:

- Pads including with and without wings
- Tampons including with and without an applicator
- Panty liners
- Reusable pads
- Period pants
- Menstrual cup
- Wee white bag

We will make products available in all our schools ensuring that all pupils are able to access them in at least one location within each building normally used by pupils, and from Council buildings including swimming pools (including The Quay Zone) and activity centres, community centres, town and village halls and museums, libraries and mobile libraries, and public toilets. We will continue to work with other local venues to increase local access and to promote information on venues where products can be accessed via the Council's website and the PickUpMyPeriod app. Due to their cost, reusable products will be available through a smaller number of locations. We will look to see how to strengthen online ordering arrangements for reusable products and bulk ordering.

Review Arrangements

South Ayrshire Council recognises that access arrangements are dynamic and evolve and grow as more local organisations opt to become involved and make products available from their venues and as we get feedback from those accessing products about their experience and suggestions on how to improve access. We will be open to new suggestions and will keep our arrangements under review and provide updates to our Delivery Statement periodically.