

CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND SKILLS

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Please ask for: Phil Leivers

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Date: 14 March 2019

Dear colleagues,

Period poverty

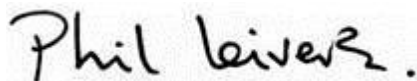
As you may well be aware, a motion was recently put before councillors regarding 'period poverty'. Our definition of 'period poverty' includes both financial reasons for a lack of sanitary products, and where embarrassment or stigma is a significant barrier to access. A survey by Plan International UK found that 1 in 10 girls had been unable to afford sanitary products. Over half of the girls surveyed said they would rather be bullied at school than talk to their parents about periods.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, as part of his spring budget statement, announced that a free sanitary product scheme will be launched across all secondary schools in England, funded by the Government from September 2019. We know that there will be girls in our primary schools who have started menstruating who may also benefit from the provision of free sanitary products.

In order to provide elected members with a better understanding of the measures schools and colleges have taken here in Solihull to support pupils who may be facing difficulty in accessing appropriate sanitary protection, we ask that you complete the short survey accompanying this letter on Headlines by the 31st March.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Yours sincerely



Phil Leivers
Assistant Director Learning & Skills