Falkirk Council – Summary of Statement of Provision for the ‘Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021’.

March 2022

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# Introduction

The Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021 received Royal Assent on 12th January 2021. The Act requires local authorities to ensure period products (such as pads, tampons and reusable cups) can easily be picked up free of charge for anyone who needs to use them.

Period products must be reasonably easy to obtain and provided in a way that respects the dignity of those obtaining the products. In addition, there must be a reasonable choice of different products available.

Each responsible body must, as soon as reasonably practicable, prepare a written statement describing the plans for provision. The statement must be prepared in consultation with relevant individuals, groups and organisations.

The consultation must seek information to inform decisions about:

* The way products may be made available;
* The types of products required;
* The premises where the products will be available;
* The location of products in those premises.

**This is the Falkirk Council Statement of Provision.**

On the basis of funding being made available by the Scottish Government:

‘We will strive to ensure that everyone in Falkirk Council who has a period will have convenient access to appropriate products free of charge, as and when they are required’.

We will do this by:

* consulting with those people in our communities and schools who will require the products, this is to determine the breadth of product requirement;
* engaging with organisations working with groups and individuals including those with equalities issues to ensure the broadest range of access is achieved;
* working with strategic partners in the Falkirk Community Planning Partnership (CPP) to identify premises and distribution methods for providing access in a way that maintains the dignity of those seeking access to period products;
* reviewing the levels of demand and supply to establish the strongest possible match between the two;
* providing information about what period products are available, where and how they can be obtained.

This document will be published on Falkirk Council’s web page and can be obtained at:

[People & communities - Free period products | Falkirk Council](https://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/people-communities/free-period-products.aspx)

An online map of the provision of free period products is available here and also links to the Hey Girls Free Period Product Scotland-wide app for searching locations of products:

[Maps & local information | Falkirk Council](https://falkirk.gov.uk/maps-local/our-falkirk.aspx)

# Consultation

## Method

Before preparing a statement, we consulted with the groups of people identified in the Scottish Government Guidance about period products.

### Who we consulted:

* People that use period products who live or are otherwise likely to be present in the Falkirk area;
* People who may want to collect period products on behalf of product users;
* People facing additional barriers to access.

### What we asked about:

* Ways in which people could obtain period products free of charge;
* dignity and ease of access;
* the required choice of period products that should be available.

In order to reach as many people who live or work in Falkirk we used Citizens Space to gather views for the consultation.

### The Survey

The on-line survey consisted of 31 questions and was carried out between November 2021 and January 2022. This included people who use the products themselves as well as family members. Some identified as being on a low income, single parents, carers, people with a disability and/or living in remote locations. All respondents were women. 52% of respondents were aged 45-64, 36% were aged 25-44 and 7% were aged 16-24.

We received 38 responses. The response rate is comparatively low and although we tried to get a better response by promoting the survey on social media, we conclude that this is likely due to consultation fatigue.

# Consultation Key Messages

### Existing Provision

Questions one to six focused on the existing provision. 38 people responded to these questions.

* 50% of respondents had accessed free period products and 50% of respondent had not accessed free period products.
* The responses were fairly evenly spread geographically across Falkirk.
* The majority of respondents (62%) already knew about the existing service.
* Respondents had obtained products in various locations however the majority of respondents who answered the question (45%) had used the online home delivery service.
* That was closely followed by accessing products from Council Buildings.
* Others used community venues, doctor’s surgeries and schools.

**Question 4** focussed on the types of product accessed with **Question 5** asking about who they obtained the products for. **Question 6** asked about service user experience in obtaining products.

* Pads were the most popular choice of period product accessed closely followed by tampons.
* 29% of respondents accessed reusable products including menstrual cup, reusable pads and period pants.
* 34% of respondents accessed products for themselves, whilst 13% accessed products for a family member. 50% of respondents did not answer this question.
* 39% of respondents said that dignity was considered fully when accessing period products. 5% of respondents said that dignity was considered to some extent and 5% said that dignity was not considered at all when accessing period products.

**Question 9** sought information on the how important reusable products were to them

* 52% agreed that it was very important and that the environment is important to them.
* 40% of respondents agreed that it was fairly important and could see the benefits of the products.
* 7% of respondents said that the reusable products were not important at all.

# Future Provision

**Question 12** sought information on the which places would be most convenient to get free period products from**. Question 13** asked where in the venues would people like to access free period products.

* 87%of respondents suggested that online ordering would the best way to order free period products ().
* 66% said a GP surgery,
* 60 said a community venue
* 53% said a foodbank,
* 84% agreed that toilets where it is discreet (including Male/Female and Disabled toilets) would be the best place within the venues outlined
* 44% agreed that free period products should be on a display stand for ease of access, however 42% of respondents agreed that free period products should be somewhere out of the way so no one can see them pick them up.

**Question 14** sought information on the barriers to access.

* 58% respondents suggested the main barrier would be not knowing where to obtain the products.
* 34% thought embarrassment would be a factor
* 32% thought that not knowing where to get them would be a barrier
* 15% suggested inability to get to shops would be an impediment.

### Summary of Existing Provision

Respondents, for the most part, supported the approach and are in favour of on-line and broader community access.

# Provision Plan

Future provision and methods of communication and access have been determined by our experience in providing products to date and further informed by the issues emerging from our consultation.

## Communications

In order to respond to the view that the main barrier to access products is not knowing where to obtain the products, we will raise awareness of the service and will market the service more widely by work with the Corporate Communications team to further increase awareness by continuing promotion of the service to the wider community. We will publicise reusable free period product options to obtain a wider uptake.

This will include promotion on social media, Falkirk Council website and promoting the period product map. In 2022 we will:

* Promote online ordering more regularly with a minimum of two social media promotions.
* Promote reusuable products to a wider audience.
* Promote the map of locations of product provision so people can be made aware of where to get products.

## Available Products

Drawing on experience and consultation we will continue to provide a range of products, including:

* Disposable pads, tampons and menstrual cups– these will be available in community and council venues;
* Disposable products and re-usable products, including period pants, menstrual cups and period pads will continue to be made available online.
* Continue to provide period products in all primary, secondary and additional support needs schools in Falkirk

## Methods for Obtaining Products

Products will be available within local premises. This includes schools, community venues, council offices and GP surgeries. The most up to date list of venues is provided in **Appendix 1.** This list will be reviewed on an annual basis and will be the source of information.

* Those accessing the products can order or take as many or as few of the products as required.
* On-line orders will be delivered directly from the supplier (Hey Girls).
* Explore a way to provide period products in GP surgeries across Falkirk

## Service Review

The team will continue to connect and discuss product provision with individuals and organisations supporting people identified within Equalities legislation. They will also review and renew the service consultation every two years and use this to inform future provision.

## Product Locations and Access Points

The current venues where products can be obtained are listed below. Any changes to locations and availability will be accessed on our Falkirk Council Map.

**Contact**

If you have any questions about this provision or wish to provide feedback please contact fairerfalkirk@falkirk.gov.uk

# Appendix 1: Access Points for Period Products in Falkirk

##### Table 1: Product Availability in Falkirk

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Premises Name** | **Address** | **Postcode** |
| The Helix  | Visitor Centre, The Helix, Falkirk | FK2 7ZT  |
| Falkirk Libraries  | Hope St, Falkirk | FK1 5AU |
| Bankier Sports Centre | Bankier Road, Banknock | FK4 1TF |
| Bo'ness Recreation Centre | Gauze Rd, Bo'ness | EH51 9QB |
| Callendar Park | Falkirk  | FK1 1YR |
| Carron Gymnastics Centre | Carronlea Dr, Carron, Falkirk | FK2 8DN |
| Carronbank House Denny | Carronbank Crescent, Denny  | FK6 6JF |
| Central Hub | Unit MSUICallendar SquareFalkirk | FK1 1UJ |
| Denny Sports Centre  | Town House St, Denny | FK6 5DX |
| East Hub  | Falkirk Council5 York laneGrangemouth | FK3 8BD |
| Falkirk Stadium  | Falkirk Community Stadium Ltd, Falkirk Stadium, Falkirk  | FK2 9EE |
| Grangemouth Hub | Falkirk Council5 York laneGrangemouth | FK3 8BD |
| **Premises Name** | **Address** | **Postcode** |
| Grangemouth Sports Centre  | Abbots Rd, Grangemouth  | FK3 9JB |
| Grangemouth Stadium | Kersiebank Ave, Grangemouth  | FK3 0BS |
| Grangemouth Town Hall  | 27 Bo'ness Rd Grangemouth  | FK3 8AN |
| Greenpark Community Centre  | Greenpark Drive, Polmont  | FK2 0PZ |
| Kersiebank Community Project  | Kersiebank Community Centre Old Dundas Primary School Oxgang road Grangmouth  | FK3 9EF |
| Kinneil museum | Kinniel MuseumKinniel EstateBo’ness | EH51 0PR |
| Mariner Sports Centre | 42 Glasgow Rd, Camelon, Falkirk | FK1 4HJ |
| Meadowbank Health Centre  | Dr C Whitelaw's PracticeMeadowbank Health CentreSalmon Inn RoadPolmont | FK2 0XF |
| Meeks Road Surgery  | Meeks Road Surgery, 10 Meeks Rd, Falkirk | FK2 7ES |
| One Parent Families Scotland | 68-70 Forgie CrescentMaddiston,Falkirk | FK2 0LZ |
| Park Street Community Education Centre | Park Street,Falkirk  | FK1 1RE |
| Polmont Sports Centre | Salmon Inn Rd, Polmont, Falkirk | FK2 0XF |
| **Premises Name** | **Address** | **Postcode** |
| Polmonthill Snowsport Centre | Avondale Rd, Polmont, Falkirk | FK2 0YA |
| Slamannan Medical Practice | 39 Bank St, Slamannan, Falkirk | FK1 3HA |
| Toilets - The Square, Blackness |  |  |
| Westburn Medical Practice | Westburn Medical Practice | FK1 5SU |
| Zetland park | 39 Abbotsgrange Rd, Grangemouth | FK3 9JD |

# Appendix 2

# Free Period Products Consultation Questions

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