Argyll and Bute Council: Equality and Socio-Economic Impact Assessment

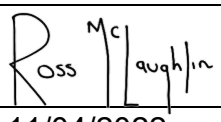
Section 1: About the proposal

Title of Proposal
Introduction of the Scottish Governments Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021 across Argyll and Bute

Intended outcome of proposal
Achieve a free, inclusive and easy to access service for those wishing to access period products.

Description of proposal
Ensure that all aspects of the new legislation are complied with, including consultation with people across Argyll and Bute, and rolling out products across the Council area.

Business Outcome(s) / Corporate Outcome(s) to which the proposal contributes
N/A – Still to be determined

Lead officer details:	
Name of lead officer	**Amy Bruce**
Job title	**Project Lead – Period Products**
Department	**Commercial Services**
Appropriate officer details:	
Name of appropriate officer	**Ross McLaughlin**
Job title	**Head of Commercial Services**
Department	**Commercial Services**
Sign off of EqSEIA	
Date of sign off	11/04/2022

Who will deliver the proposal?
Commercial Services and Education Service

Section 2: Evidence used in the course of carrying out EqSEIA

Consultation / engagement
A consultation was delivered to the public asking how they would like this service to be delivered. Outcome of the consultation is available in Appended report

Data

Guidance has been published by the Scottish Government available at Part A - Guidance for all responsible bodies - Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021: guidance – September 2021 - gov.scot (www.gov.scot) Consultation Responses

Other information
Advice was sought from both the Communities and Partnership Manager and from the Communications Team before commencing the consultation exercise. All advice was followed.

Gaps in evidence
Unknown groups may not have been reached, and further consultation can be undertaken to ensure they have a say in provision requirements.

Section 3: Impact of proposal

Impact on service users:

	Negative	**No impact**	**Positive**	**Don't know**
Protected characteristics:				
Age			X	
Disability			X	
Ethnicity		X		
Sex			X	
Gender reassignment			X	
Marriage and Civil Partnership		X		
Pregnancy and Maternity		X		
Religion		X		
Sexual Orientation			X	
Fairer Scotland Duty:				
Mainland rural population			X	
Island populations			X	
Low income			X	
Low wealth			X	
Material deprivation			X	
Area deprivation			X	
Socio-economic background			X	
Communities of place			X	
Communities of interest			X	

If you have identified any impacts on service users, explain what these will be.
Free period products are available to anyone who needs them. This means that a service will be available irrespective of location, income, gender or sex of the service users. There will be an online ordering provision for islands and those who are unable to access products elsewhere.

If any 'don't know's have been identified, at what point will impacts on these groups become identifiable?

Impact on service deliverers (including employees, volunteers etc):

	Negative	No impact	Positive		Don't know
Protected characteristics:					
Age			x		
Disability			x		
Ethnicity		x			
Sex			x		
Gender reassignment			x		
Marriage and Civil Partnership		x			
Pregnancy and Maternity		x			
Religion		x			
Sexual Orientation			x		
Fairer Scotland Duty:					
Mainland rural population			x		
Island populations			x		
Low income			x		
Low wealth			x		
Material deprivation			x		
Area deprivation			x		
Socio-economic background			x		
Communities of place			x		
Communities of interest			x		

If you have identified any impacts on service deliverers, explain what these will be.
The initiative is available to anyone who needs products, and a range of delivery partners have already been identified to support the roll out. Further delivers will be identified and included in the provision as it develops.

If any 'don't know's have been identified, at what point will impacts on these groups become identifiable?

How has 'due regard' been given to any negative impacts that have been identified?
Not applicable at this stage.

Section 4: Interdependencies

Is this proposal likely to have any knock-on effects for any other activities carried out by or on behalf of the council?	Yes

Details of knock-on effects identified

There will be linkage to education and community buildings such as those managed by Live Argyll and Community Groups. Restocking of products by appropriate staff will be required, as will the display of branding materials to ensure product availability is clear. Further discussions with partners will be required.

Section 5: Monitoring and review

How will you monitor and evaluate the equality impacts of your proposal?
We will carry out user satisfaction surveys to people accessing the products within 12 months of implementation to reassess impact.