

Period Dignity Roundtable

Thursday 10 September 14:00 – 15:00

Minutes

Attendees:

Deputy Minister and Chief Whip
Keep Wales Tidy
Cardiff and Vale College
PHS
Environmental Campaigner
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Colleges Wales
Plan International UK
Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA)

Welsh Government:

Welsh Government Equality Officials

Apologies:

Bawso
Llamau
Love Your Period
Trussell Trust
Wings Wrexham
The Hygiene Bank Wales
Newport City Council
Universities Wales

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Deputy Minister and Chief Whip (DMCW) welcomed the attendees to the fourth Period Dignity Roundtable meeting. The DMCW thanked roundtable members for their work and engagement with Welsh Government on period dignity.

2. Period Dignity Strategic Action Plan

The Period Dignity Strategic Action Plan was paused due to Covid-19. Period Dignity Roundtable members were sent a draft version of the plan prior to the meeting.

Roundtable members were asked for their feedback on the plan. The following points were discussed:

- In regards to the education part of the plan, it would be useful for the WLGA to engage with Headteacher meetings on period dignity in order to get direct input from schools.
- Local authorities should be provided a list of eco-brands where eco-products can be purchased from. Environmental Campaigner compiled a list of appropriate providers which Welsh Government officials issued to local authorities with the grant award letters earlier in the year along with other guidance and information. The list was also issued to the National Procurement Service and as part of a guidance note to local authorities.

The DMCW was keen to progress the Strategic Action Plan with a view to publishing it as soon as possible. As there had been significant engagement and input into the draft Plan from Roundtable members and other stakeholders, it was agreed that no formal consultation period would be required. As Roundtable members had not identified any major gaps or areas for improvement, the DMCW asked that, WLGA share the draft Plan more widely to local authorities to request their feedback prior to it being finalised.

Roundtable members were asked for their ideas on a national communication campaign. The following points were discussed:

- There should be a communication strategy alongside the action plan.
- It will also be important to engage with young people. It was suggested that existing schemes such as Healthy Schools and Eco-Schools could be used to communicate messaging on period dignity to young people.
- A coalition of groups, including youth groups, could also work together on communications around period dignity.

Equality Officials will schedule a communication subgroup meeting to discuss how to disseminate the plan.

Equality Officials will also contact the Minister for Housing and Local Government and her Officials about the Period Dignity Strategic Action Plan

Roundtable members were invited to share any additional feedback and comments on the draft Period Dignity Strategic Action Plan to the EqualityBranch@gov.wales.

ACTION 1: Welsh Government officials to resend the list of eco-brands to local authorities and to the National Procurement Service.

ACTION 2: WLGA to share the draft Strategic Action Plan more widely to local authorities to seek additional feedback and comments.

ACTION 3: Officials to organise a Communication Sub-group meeting.

ACTION 4: Equality Officials to inform Minister for Housing and Local Government and her Officials about the Action Plan.

ACTION 5: Period Dignity Roundtable members to send any additional feedback on the draft Strategic Action Plan to EqualityBranch@gov.wales by 2 October 2020.

3. Impact of Covid-19

The Welsh Government mitigated the impact on learners by ensuring that a supply of period products was provided to all those who needed them. There are still many challenges due to Covid-19, such as a local lockdown in Caerphilly and a number of schools/classes needing to self-isolate.

Local authorities and schools are still working out how best to deliver period products, especially in areas where school pupils need to self-isolate. The WLGA has not received direct feedback from local authorities but is aware there is a flexible and broad approach happening.

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council explained there has been difficulty in getting in touch with head teachers to discuss period products as they are very busy with different priorities at present.

Period Dignity Roundtable will meet again in autumn when WLGA and local authorities will have a better understanding of the impact of Covid-19 on period dignity in schools.

4. Updates

The DMCW asked for updates from roundtable members on how they have adapted their ways of working during Covid-19. Members were also asked to share challenges and examples of good practice with the group.

Keep Wales Tidy have moved their work online. Information, meetings and green flag assessment are all conducted online. Keep Wales Tidy also work with schools and communities online and expects to continue working this way for the foreseeable future.

It was discussed that period dignity would be an important part of the recovery to tackle the inequalities that have been deepened by the pandemic.

5. Any Other Business

Although the Roundtable meetings are usually held quarterly, the DMCW suggested that an earlier meeting would be beneficial on this occasion to ensure continued engagement with Roundtable members, particularly in respect of the draft Strategic Action Plan and any developments regarding Covid-19.

ACTION 6: Equality Officials to schedule the next Period Dignity Roundtable meeting in late October/early November.

Action Log

Action	Details	Owner
Action 1	Welsh Government officials to resend the list of eco-brands to local authorities and to the National Procurement Service.	Welsh Government Equality Officials
Action 2	WLGA to share the draft Strategic Action Plan more widely to local authorities to seek additional feedback and comments.	WLGA
Action 3	Officials to organise a Communication Sub-group meeting.	Welsh Government Equality Officials
Action 4	Equality Officials to inform Minister for Housing and Local Government and her Officials about the Action Plan.	Welsh Government Equality Officials
Action 5	Period Dignity Roundtable members to send any additional feedback on the draft Strategic Action Plan to EqualityBranch@gov.wales by 2 October 2020.	Period Dignity Roundtable Members
Action 6	Officials to schedule the next Period Dignity Roundtable meeting in late October/early November.	Welsh Government Equality Officials