

## **Submission to the Local Government and Communities Committee on the Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Bill**

Colleges Scotland recognises that period poverty is a serious issue in Scotland and that it is only right that everyone in Scotland who needs to use period products can acquire them without it adversely impacting on their financial circumstances.

Colleges across Scotland have been supportive, and involved in the successful delivery, of the rollout of the Access to Sanitary Products policy, which was announced on Friday 24 August 2018 by the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government, Aileen Campbell, in order to mitigate the impact of period poverty for Scotland's college students.

Colleges Scotland has worked closely with partners including the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA), Universities Scotland and the Scottish Funding Council to ensure the availability of products continuously reflects the views and needs of learners.

Colleges Scotland was pleased that the Scottish Government has confirmed that funding of £1.7m to support the provision of free sanitary products will be in place for 2019/20, which is allocated on a financial year basis.

Colleges Scotland is seeking reassurance that the Scottish Government will continue to support this policy area and will provide the required ongoing resource. Colleges Scotland has therefore requested for the continuation of this additional funding for the next Spending Review period, whilst acknowledging the requirement to provide resource to cover the costs for the remainder of the Academic Year 2019/20, and to ensure that every college student who will need period products is able to acquire them.

Colleges Scotland  
October 2019