



COUNCIL MEETING
22 NOVEMBER 2018

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor Catherine Davison will move the following motion:

This Council:

Notes that women and girls find themselves in a position where they either cannot afford or access sanitary products.

Notes that low wages, zero-hour contracts, and reductions in State benefits are amongst the reasons that women are forced to make difficult decisions about whether to purchase sanitary products.

Is concerned that women and girls are resorting to using items such as socks and tissues in place of sanitary products, putting their health at significant risk.

Is further concerned that more than one in ten girls have had to improvise sanitary wear due to affordability issues and that women and girls are missing work or school each month because they cannot afford sanitary products.

Believes that women and girls should be able to experience their periods with dignity.

This Council resolves:

To call on the Government to carry out research into the impact that inadequate sanitary protection can have on women and girls so that it has a better understanding of the true impact of period poverty.

To call on the Government and CBI to carry out research into the impact that inadequate sanitary protection has on the economy including factors such as lost working days compared to the cost of business providing sanitary products at no charge to employees.

To further call on the Government to make sanitary products available for women and girls from low income households who are struggling to afford these essential items, including making sanitary products available in schools and colleges at no charge.

To work with schools and colleges to seek to provide sanitary products at no charge in toilet facilities until a time when the Government changes policy.

To conduct a feasibility study to assess the financial impact on the Council should it resolve in the future to provide sanitary products in its toilet facilities.

Proposed by: Councillor C Davison

Seconded by: Councillor L Green

Supported by: Councillor A Douglas
Councillor C Donovan