

## Period Poverty – Call for Evidence

By Councillor Rob Pocock, Chair of the Health & Social Care Scrutiny Committee at Birmingham City Council.

The key question and aim of the Inquiry is *“How can a sustainable supply of free sanitary products be made available to females in educational establishments and council run buildings and, through engagement with our partners, more widely in buildings/venues across the City?”*

The committee wishes to investigate the following lines of enquiry:

- Ascertain the current position with regard to supplying free sanitary products to females in educational establishments in Birmingham.
- Investigate what information is available to establishments regarding sourcing free sanitary products and accessing central government funding.
- Ascertain what Birmingham City Council can do, by working and co-ordinating with partner organisations in the public and private sector and sponsors, to improve and widen provision locally.

An inquiry is only as good as the evidence it receives. This is why we want people across the whole of our city to get involved. We would welcome a written statement of your views and experience on any of the above points, along with any other comments you might have. We will collect all the written submissions and use these as evidence to support our work.

We hope that you will use this opportunity to get involved in what we believe will be an influential piece of work.

*If you would like any further information about this Scrutiny Inquiry or how to submit written evidence, please email [gail.sadler@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:gail.sadler@birmingham.gov.uk) or call 0121 303 1901.*

*The Inquiry group asks that written submissions are in Microsoft Word format wherever possible and are no longer than four pages. Please include contact details of the person or organisation submitting the evidence.*

*If sending the submission by email, this should be sent to [gail.sadler@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:gail.sadler@birmingham.gov.uk). If you would prefer to send a hard copy through the post, it can be sent to The Scrutiny Office, Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham, B1 1BB.*

*The deadline for written submissions is **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019**.*

### Reporting the Findings

The Inquiry is due to present its findings, based on the evidence received, to Members of the City Council at their 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019 meeting.

Two evidence gathering sessions are planned as follows:

1. 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019 – 1000-1230hrs
2. 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019 – 1000-1230hrs

Following conclusion of the evidence gathering a report will be drafted. We will share a copy of the draft report/and or relevant sections if you provided us with evidence and we will ask you to check for accuracy if we have used specific information that you provided us with.

Please note Inquiry meetings are primarily for discussion by Members of the Committee only. It is at the discretion of the Chair should they wish to engage members of the public.

#### Live-streaming of meetings

All Council meetings including full Council meetings and Scrutiny Committee meetings are filmed and available to watch on-line live or via the archive. You can access the archive via this link: -

[civico.net/birmingham](http://civico.net/birmingham)

Please note that, as a member of the public, if you do not wish to be filmed please inform a Scrutiny Officer at the meeting so this can be facilitated.

#### Social Media

Public meetings of the Council are open to the use of Social Media by attendees to report on any part of the meeting via Twitter, YouTube, Facebook and blogs.

#### Filming Meetings

Anyone wishing to film or record the meeting may do so, though any member of the public attending the meeting has the right not to be recorded. All recordings must be overt (clearly visible to anyone at the meeting) and must not disrupt proceedings. If you wish to record the meeting and suitable arrangements for your equipment are necessary, please notify the Scrutiny Office at least one working day before the start of the meeting.

The Chair of the meeting has absolute discretion to stop or suspend recording if, in their opinion, continuing to do so would prejudice proceedings at the meeting or if the person recording is in breach of rules set out in the Protocol For Media & Public Recording of Council Meetings (a copy of which is available on request from the Scrutiny Office).

We will ask for recording to stop if the meeting goes into private session where the public is excluded for confidentiality reasons. In such a case, the person filming should leave the room ensuring all recording equipment is switched off.