



Period Products Free Provision

STRATEGIC INSIGHTS LAB SUMMARY REPORT

18th and 19th April 2023





Definition Statement:

‘Reasonable accessibility is free access to a choice of period products for every person that needs them; using a discreet range of delivery models to locations across the country, accessible without fear of being stigmatized.’



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Background



BACKGROUND

Period products are an essential item for personal care, which address a normal biological need. We currently have no scheme that provides universal access to free period products. To address this gap, The Period Products (Free Provision) Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 was made pursuant to a Private Members Bill in the last Assembly and received Royal Assent in May 2022.

Section 1 of the Act places a duty on the Executive Office (TEO) to establish and maintain arrangements to ensure that period products are obtainable free of charge in appropriate locations to meet the needs of “all persons who need to use them... while in Northern Ireland”, (the Universal Duty). The Act requires that products are made available from 12 May 2024.

TEO is considering how the Universal Duty can be implemented in the most effective way and engaged the Innovation Lab to assist with this process.

Requirements:

The Act specifies the following requirements on how period products should be made available:

- Products must be **reasonably easy to obtain**, in a way that respects users dignity, privacy and confidentiality;
- A **reasonable choice of types of period products** should be offered; and
- **Arrangements should be published** in a way that respects dignity, privacy and confidentiality.

The arrangements must also allow for products to be obtainable by another person on behalf of a person who needs them.

The arrangements may allow for delivery / postage & packaging, however, the person may be required to pay the delivery / postage & packaging costs.

Reasonably easy to obtain:

Where and how free products can be obtained should be neither complex nor bureaucratic. As described in the ‘Respect for Dignity, Privacy and Confidentiality’ section below, generally products should be freely accessible from places where individuals are comfortable collecting them. Ideally, persons collecting products should be able to do so without having to ask for them or justify why they need them. They should also be free to take the amount of products that they require.

“Reasonable ease” should also mean ease of physical access for those with physical disabilities or mobility issues.

Respect for Dignity, Privacy and Confidentiality:



As noted above, period products should be obtainable in a way that respects the dignity of the individual obtaining them, including privacy and confidentiality.

While progress has been made in recent years to tackle the stigma associated with menstruation and period products, people who need to access period products may still find this an embarrassing situation and any potential embarrassment should be minimised as much as possible.

The ways in which, and places where products are made available should consider the needs and wishes of users in relation to privacy (including for religious and/or cultural reasons) and avoiding anxiety or embarrassment. For example, use of discrete packaging.

A dignified approach could include products easily accessed without individuals having to:

- Ask someone for products;
- Justify why they need them; and / or
- Justify the amount that is needed.

However, it should be noted that there may be occasions when it would be justifiable to require individuals to request products. For example, it may be appropriate for certain reusable products which are significantly more expensive than single-use products. In these cases, different arrangements may be put in place to access the free products.

Reasonable Choice

A reasonable choice of different types of products is required by the Act. This does not mean that products have to be made available in all locations or through all delivery methods. Within the Act, “period products” are defined as including “tampons, sanitary towels and articles which are reusable”.

Inclusion

The Act requires TEO to meet the needs of any “person who menstruates (whether that person is a woman, girl or other person)”. In practice, this is likely to mean products should be available for free in, for example, some gender-neutral toilets, disabled toilets, or male-only spaces. A proportionate, staged approach appears reasonable given the terms of the Act.

The NI Innovation Lab

The Executive Office (TEO) commissioned the NI Innovation Lab (iLab) to deliver a Strategic Insights Programme on **Section 1 of the Period Products (Free Provision) Act (Northern Ireland) 2022**. The Insights Programme commenced in February 2023 with a Definition Lab, which was structured to define and debate “What is Reasonable Accessibility” with a view to developing an agreed Definition Statement that would frame the two-day Strategic Insights Lab.



The Strategic Insights Lab is a consensus-based interactive engagement event that brings individuals from different organisations and sectors together to tackle a complex problem. The iLab team bring participants through a series of activities that seek to identify strategic direction and ideas that address the Definition Statement and objectives.

‘Reasonable accessibility is free access to a choice of period products for every person that needs them; using a discreet range of delivery models to locations across the country, accessible without fear of being stigmatized.’

The objectives of the Strategic Insights Lab were as follows:

- What partnerships arrangements could work?
- What do stakeholder organisations and end users need and want?

In identifying participants to attend the Strategic Insights Lab, engagement and discussion took place between the sponsor Department (TEO) and the ILab to ensure there was an optimal mix, spread and balance of participants, representing a maximum of sectors and groups. It was important to get a cross-sector spread of participant representation to enable collaboration and dialogue on the challenge. A full list of participant organisations is set out in Appendix A.



Summary



The ***in-person*** Strategic Insights Lab (SIL) took place on 18th and 19th April 2023 in Belfast Met - Titanic Campus and the interest of all participants in addressing the challenge was evident throughout the course of the two-day process, in terms of the level of engagement and collaborative approach embraced throughout.

The purpose of the SIL was to bring stakeholders together to consider the Free Period Products 'definition statement' created by stakeholders during a Definition Lab in February 2023. It sought ideas for delivery and consensus on the primary issues and themes for The Executive Office to consider in developing an implementation plan.

Day 1 considered the strategic and operational landscape with a view to extending awareness and understanding to all participants and identifying consensus on the primary themes and issues facing stakeholder partners and sectors.

Full details are available in the main body of the report and in the appendices.

Session 1

The opening session focused on the 'Art of the Possible' with Siobhan Broderick, Director, Equality, Rights & Identity, The Executive Office setting the strategic context and Dr Michele Cairney-McClung, Glasgow City Council and Brian Borland, South Lanarkshire Council demonstrating how similar solutions were implemented in other jurisdictions.

Participants were asked to consider and provide their views on the components of the following definition statement:

'Reasonable accessibility is free access to a choice of period products for every person that needs them; using a discreet range of delivery models to locations across the country, accessible without fear of being stigmatized.'

Among the 88 insights provided, the emerging themes from Session 1 and the focus for ideas in Session 2 were:

- I. Funding & Budget,
- II. Procurement & Distribution,
- III. Awareness & Branding,
- IV. Governance,
- V. Culture; and
- VI. Range of Free Products.



Session 2

Session 2 considered the delivery landscape and asked participants to consider:

‘What issues do you feel will be faced by the following sectors in providing Free Period Products?’:

- Local Government,
- Voluntary & Community Sector,
- Delivery Partners’ and
- Other General Insights.

Participants agreed on the following priority issues against each sector:

Local Government Sector–	1. Allocating Budgets 2. Cohesion across all 11 Councils
Voluntary & Community Sector -	3. Capacity/Identifying & meeting need 4. Rural coverage 5. Voluntary & Community led delivery structure
Delivery Partners -	6. Resourcing/Capacity/Expertise 7. Storage/Delivery/Budget & Ownership
General Insights -	8. Procurement & Buying framework 9. Public awareness & Education

Session 3

In order to build a illustrative example that could be used in designing a delivery solution to aid The Executive Office in implementing the legislation, the iLab sought to develop an initial systems model that asked participants to consider:

‘What accessibility whilst maintaining confidentiality, privacy and dignity looked like in the following four locations?’

- Public buildings e.g. City Hall,
- Voluntary & community centre premises e.g. church halls,
- Online; and
- Other.’



Participants identified five main systems maps that should be considered in seeking to maintain confidentiality, privacy and dignity, these were:

- General accessibility
- Staff training & signage responsibility
- Voluntary & community sector
- Product handling
- Product usage

Day 2 focused on the generation of ideas through which an implementation plan would be informed to aid The Executive Office in delivering its legislative responsibilities.

Session 4

This session sought to identify, consider and analyse ideas for the delivery of Free Period Products. Participants were asked to consider and suggest ideas on key components. They were then asked to dot-vote on the ideas they thought had the greatest potential for traction, considering if they were feasible, viable, desirable, as part of the future provision of providing and accessing free period products.

1. Who are the delivery partners?
Priority focus: Councils - need to feed into community groups.
Priority focus: Community & Voluntary Sector organisations but needs investment – centralised ordering and delivery service for NI.
2. What are the type of products which ought to be obtainable free of charge?
Priority focus: Choice is Important
Priority focus: Consideration around societal, cultural bias re: products
3. What is the frequency that products should be obtainable free of charge?
Priority focus: Demand led – trust people.
Priority focus: Start small – see what works then consider frequency.
4. Ways in which free period products ought to be obtainable free of charge?
Priority focus: A combination of ways - choice
Priority focus: Centralised NI Hub:
5. Location at which free period products ought to be obtainable free of charge?
Priority focus: All Toilets – just like Toilet Roll
Priority focus: Libraries
6. Other issues to be addressed.
Priority focus: Education/Stigma/Conservatism



Priority focus: Consistent branding throughout NI

There were 203 separate ideas from participants and the above priority foci were considered in depth with an often balanced range of views provided to The Executive Office to consider, these are summarised below:

High-level analysis was carried out on each of these selected ideas. A sample of responses to the ideas are provided below. The full list of views and actions against each selected idea is captured in **Appendix H**.

PILLAR	KEY AREAS OF FOCUS	
	SESSION 1 - IDEA 1	SESSION 1 – IDEA 2
Delivery Partners	Council feed into community groups.	Community & Voluntary Sector organisations but needs investment – centralised ordering and delivery service for NI.
	SESSION 2 - SAMPLE VIEWS AND ACTIONS	
	'Mapping resources to determine availability/willingness'	'Period Dignity Officers should be employed to liaise and deliver to voluntary groups, who can provide users collection points'
	'Expand into community planning partnerships'	'Rainbow Project can do – but capacity issue'
	'Clarity is needed regarding who is lead for delivery'	'Central Government look after year 1. Do mapping and scoping before expanding. Needs flexibility. Then Rainbow Project deliver via Councils'
	'Key buildings i.e. Libraries in each area – doesn't need to be every building'	'Run in tandem with Education Authority model'

PILLAR	KEY AREAS OF FOCUS	
	SESSION 1 - IDEA 1	SESSION 1 - IDEA 2
Types of Products (which should be available free of charge)	Choice is Important	Consideration around societal, cultural bias re: products
	SESSION 2 - SAMPLE VIEWS AND ACTIONS	
	'Basic provision pads and tampons, but choice should be available'	'Different cultures may have different levels of comfort with tampons. Education must be balanced with choice'



	'Sustainable and re-useable not necessary from Day 1 – stepped approach best'	'Recognising potential needs of equality groups, but meet individual needs – avoid assumptions'
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PILLAR	KEY AREAS OF FOCUS	
	SESSION 1 – IDEA 1	SESSION 2 IDEAS
Frequency of Provision	Frequency demand led – trust people	Start small – see what works then consider frequency
	SESSION 2 - SAMPLE VIEWS AND ACTIONS	
	'Don't buy branded products to deter misuse'	'Step approach to distribution i.e. Libraries, Leisure Centres'
	'Record/report, but don't police provision'	'Phased rollout to begin with pad/tampons, then move on to reusables'

PILLAR	KEY AREAS OF FOCUS	
	SESSION 1 – IDEA 1	SESSION 1 – IDEA 2
Ways in which users of Period Products ought to be able to obtain Period Products (free of charge)	A combination of ways - choice	Centralised NI Hub: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivered to address - Online/App - Phone - Text - Needs to be multi-lingual
	SESSION 2 - SAMPLE VIEWS AND ACTIONS	
	'We need to phase rollout of products: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Year 1: Control number of partners - Year 2: Nothing is "free". Who pays for postage/drivers? Needs consideration' 	'If administered by councils, needs a consistent approach and should be centralised'
	'Staged approach to meet expectations and ensure communicate re expectation'	'Utilise the following for stock/delivery: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Blood Transfusion mobile -Breast Cancer Bus -Disability Action Bus'
		'Pick up from designated public places for emergency use'



PILLAR	KEY AREAS OF FOCUS	
	SESSION 1 – IDEA 1	SESSION 1 – IDEA 2
Locations in which Period Products ought to be obtainable (free of charge)	All Toilets – just like Toilet Roll	Libraries
	SESSION 2 - SAMPLE VIEWS AND ACTIONS	
	Not all toilets would be feasible “Consider locations by distance (to be agreed). Footfall should be monitored’	Would allow stock to be available in 98 library locations across NI and in 16 mobile library units’
	‘Rule out buildings that require payment, as that will not ensure access for all – i.e. not everyone can afford to go into gyms or leisure centres, etc.’	‘Use of mobile libraries would also provide more access to those living in rural communities’

PILLAR	KEY AREAS OF FOCUS	
	SESSION 1 – IDEA 1	SESSION 1 – IDEA 2
Other	Education/Stigma/Conservatism	Consistent branding throughout NI
	SESSION 2 - SAMPLE VIEWS AND ACTIONS	
	‘Promote and normalise through: -Social Media channels -Influencers -Champions’	‘Rebrand and remove “poverty” – needs a positive name’
	‘Employer education re: - Accessibility - Support - Provision’	‘Use the term “period” not “sanitary”’
		Consider ‘Dignity v Poverty language’

Note: Participants voted on those ideas that resonated most strongly with their individual sectors.

The Innovation Lab Process



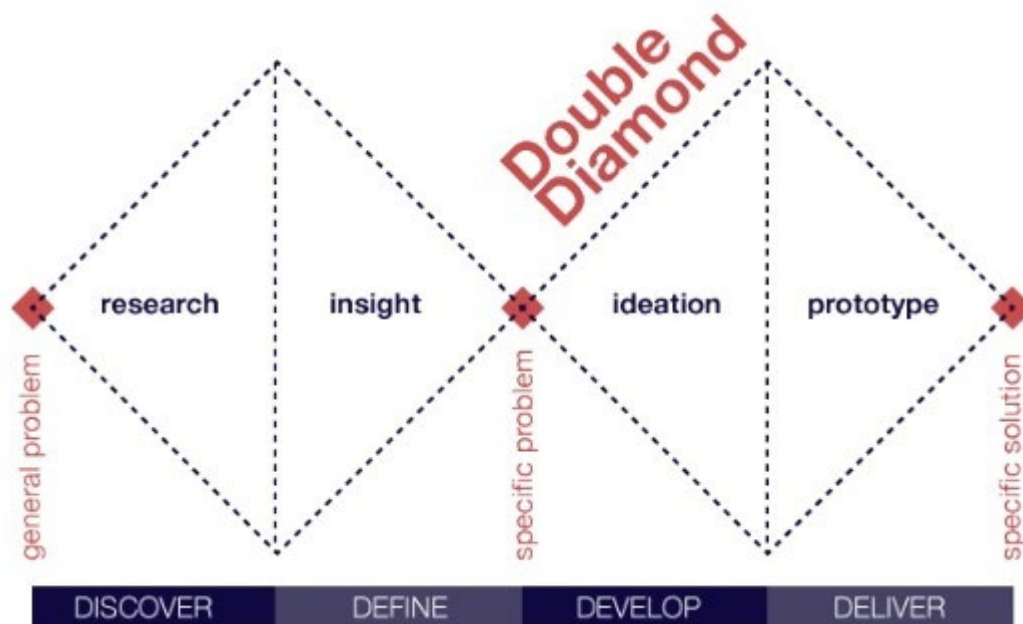
THE INNOVATION LAB PROCESS

GENERAL

The Period Products Free Provision Strategic Insights Lab took place in-person over two highly intensive, practical and interactive days. The agenda for the Lab is provided at [Appendix B](#).

The exercises were designed to ensure people worked in a collaborative and partnership manner, where relationships between different stakeholder sectors could be explored, harnessed and developed. Exercises took place on an individual basis, in stakeholder groups, and in plenary format.

The UK Design Council's Double Diamond Design Model was used as the framework for the Lab. It has four distinct phases: Discover, Define, Develop and Deliver. While normally used in service design projects, it provided a disciplined, logical process that participants were progressed through together to ensure the event had a productive output. The 2 days focused on the first three stages of the double diamond – Discover, Define and Develop.



The double diamond approach encourages people to diverge and converge their thinking at different parts of the process and the exercises were designed to achieve this approach. Additionally, each exercise was carefully planned to build on the previous one to ensure that any learning or understanding was constant and focused, and anchored in outputs from the earlier parts of the process.



CONTEXT

The Definition Statement that formed the framework for discussion and consideration during the two-day Period Products Free Provision Strategic Insight Lab (SIL) was developed and agreed by a cross-sector of key stakeholders at an earlier Definition Lab event (February 2023). The Lab sought consensus on wording, scope and ambition and participants agreed on the following Definition Statement:

‘Reasonable accessibility is free access to a choice of period products for every person that needs them; using a discreet range of delivery models to locations across the country, accessible without fear of being stigmatized.’

SIL participants included key stakeholders representing central and local government, voluntary and community sectors, education and a range of other stakeholders and interested parties.

As part of this cohort, the iLab welcomed expert speakers including Dr Michele Cairney-McClung from Glasgow City Council, and Brian Borland from South Lanarkshire Council, to present and provide their experiences of how services and programmes in relation to free period products is delivered elsewhere. All of the presentations were designed to demonstrate the ‘Art of the Possible’.

From the outset, participants showed a willingness and eagerness to collaborate together and seek consensus on a pathway for progression for the challenge. Participants had been provided with background reading in advance of the SIL, in order to set the scene and scope for the event.



DAY 1 – STAGE 1: Discover and Define

THE ART OF THE POSSIBLE

Day One commenced with presentations from the following speakers:

- **Siobhan Broderick**, Director, Equality, Rights & Identity, The Executive Office.
- **Dr Michele Cairney-McClung**, Glasgow City Council.
- **Brian Borland**, South Lanarkshire Council.

The speaker sessions were designed to provide attendees with an overview of the event, to put the challenge in context and open-up minds with examples of different perspectives on free period products. This was to encourage participants to move into a more creative space in terms of addressing the challenge.

Following the speaker sessions all participants were given time to consider what they had heard and identify any key questions for the speakers. They then had the opportunity to consider the components of the Definition Statement and to provide their views, within the context of their sector / organisation and the outputs from the speaker session. These early insights were captured and were considered part of the theming phase of the Strategic Insights Lab.

A total of **88 insights** were provided by participants during the Art of the Possible session. They have been grouped to highlight the degree of commonality and thinking from the participants from the outset of the process and very much align with the themes and ideas which emerged later in the SIL.

The list in full can be found at [Appendix C](#)

In summary, there was a strong focus on the practicalities of implementation in terms of procurement and distribution methods. Insights focused on meeting the needs of disabled people, reaching rural communities and the most appropriate locations for products, in order to reduce stigma. Awareness and branding was also determined as important, with over 25% of insights under this emerging sub-theme highlighting the need to focus on period dignity and not period poverty. A sample of emerging sub-themes and ideas which emanated from each are listed below.

THEME	IDEAS
Funding and Budget: 11 comments (13%)	Lessons learnt from experts were good e.g. need to consider budget in terms of distribution methods, coverage, etc.
	Need to consider the roles of various bodies in terms of allocation of funding; Councils, Education Authority, Health etc
	Model must be costed – need to be able to meet expectation

THEME	IDEAS -
Procurement and Distribution methods: 29 comments (33%)	Must consider how to address stigma in terms of delivery locations
	Ask the community regarding best locations for products
	How to reach rural communities?
	How will the needs of disabled people be met?
	Need to consider: Distribution, Storage, Transport, Demand

THEME	IDEAS
Awareness and Branding: 23 comments (26%)	Focus on period dignity not period poverty. <i>Note: This was a strong theme. Which attracted over 25% of overall comments under this theme.</i>
	Consider how to target those with no internet access and those who are illiterate.
	Brand important. Messaging needs to be positive and clear. Focus on dignity branding.
	There must be public marketing and public displays – needs to be normalised.

THEME	IDEAS
Governance: 10 comments (11%)	Co-design and working with the community, voluntary and statutory sectors <i>were key emerging sub-themes under Governance</i>
	Balance needed for reports, case studies and feedback with discrete and confidential service.



THEME	IDEAS
Cultural: 6 comments (7%)	Target BAME and non-English speakers
	Tackle stigma. Include translation with APP

THEME	IDEAS
Range of products: 9 comments (10%)	Need provision for diverse groups
	Focus on reusable products
	'Pick and Mix' option – allow people to choose

LANDSCAPE VIEW AND DOT-VOTING

For the second exercise, participants were encouraged to consider the landscape view in terms of their understanding of the issue; using what they had heard in the speaker sessions and within the scope of the exercise question below:

What issues do you feel will be faced by the following sectors in providing free period products?



Participants were split into four groups, with all encouraged to provide ideas from an individual perspective initially and then discuss ideas generated as part of their group, with groups adding to / developing ideas under emerging themes, assisted by the iLab team.

Throughout this exercise, a World Café approach was taken, with all participants considering ideas generated by the other groups, providing all with an opportunity to add to ideas, or build on / develop additional ideas. This process ensured everyone had the opportunity to input their views, ideas and opinions on the development of ideas on the challenge.



The next stage of this exercise, a dot-voting process was taken forward, with each participant being given a number of dots (4), one to be placed against each of the options outlined above, recording their preference for each idea, in order to seek consensus. The top two ideas from each pillar were selected for further exploration in the analysis exercise.

Local Government Sub Themes:

Budgets

Marketing and Branding

Voluntary and Community Sector Sub Themes:

Budgets

Marketing and Branding

Voluntary and Community Sector

Governance and Accountability

Delivery Partner Sub Themes:

Budgets

Marketing and Branding

Voluntary and Community Sector

Infrastructure and Distribution

Cultural

Period Products General Insights Sub Themes:

Resources

Marketing and Branding

Range of Products

Cultural

Infrastructure

In total **238 ideas** were generated across **8 sub-themes** which emerged in the Landscape View Exercise.

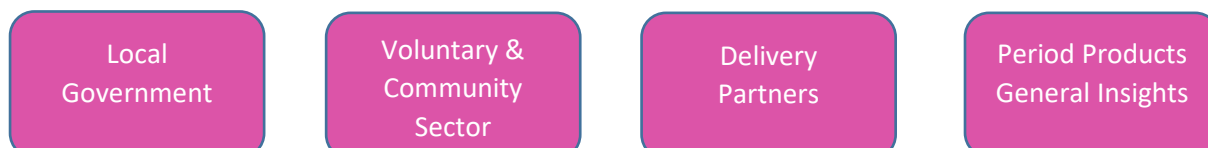
The full list of insights can be found at [Appendix D](#).

Note: Participants voted on those ideas that resonated most strongly with their individual sectors.

LANDSCAPE VIEW ANALYSIS

In this exercise, participants remained in their four groups and were asked to consider the following question on the top two / three selected ideas from Exercise 2. This exercise was 45 minutes and was World Café style.

What would **address the issues** selected via dot-voting?



Each group was tasked with considering and recording their views on ideas from the previous exercise and were asked to record what steps, stages, efforts, pilots or other actions would be required to make these ideas work.

Pillar	Local Government
Idea 1	Allocating Budgets (26%)
Address the issue by considering	Section 75
	Population profile
	Age of population
	Size of geographic area
Idea 2	Cohesion across all 11 Councils (19%)
Address the issue by considering	Regional approach led by Central Government
	One marketing campaign with a common branding logo
	Shared services and staffing systems. Consider project co-ordinator. Accountability reporting – one key contact.
	Led by Stormont with support from local Councillors

Pillar	Voluntary and Community Sector
Idea 1	Capacity / Identifying and meeting needs (44%)
Address the issue by considering	Mapping exercise required across Northern Ireland
	Review existing schemes / pilots – obtain feedback
	Utilise existing delivery mechanisms where possible – don't re-invent the wheel
	Training required for Voluntary and Community sectors
Idea 2	Rural Coverage (11%)
Address the issue by considering	Storage
	Access
	Transport



	Alternative ordering methods
	Raise awareness regarding locations
Idea 3	Volunteer / Community led structure (was explored as an additional idea)
Address the issue by considering	Needs an overarching strategic partner
	Third sector should be remunerated
	Volunteer and Community led but don't lean on these groups to provide service without investment or resource – should sit with Government or budget be provided

Pillar	Delivery Partners
Idea 1	Resources / Capacity and Expertise (31%)
Address the issue by considering	Create partnerships to maximise potential
	Needs to be a key partner contact in every field
	Provision of adequate funding
	Training and awareness provision for all delivery partners
Idea 2	Storage & Delivery, Budget and Ownership (15%)
Address the issue by considering	Storage and distribution systems direct from supplier as Education Authority model for schools
	Local knowledge and provision can help. Infrastructure might already exist
	Through partner agencies
	Order from supplier directly by-passing storage
Idea 3	Reaching all groups e.g. Ethnic Minority Groups, Refugees, Travellers, Disabled People (8%)
Address the issue by considering	Regional campaign to include awareness, information and training required
	To start – setup multi-agency forum or link in with existing fora to get buy-in / support to ensure that you reach those hardest to reach
	Co-produce and co-design with groups most impacted and with specialist organisations that work with diverse groups

Pillar	Period Products General Insights
Idea 1	Procurement, Buying Framework, Economies of Scale (12%)
Address the issue by considering	Utilise Social Value, Support Local etc
	Carry out market research regarding product range
	Regional procurement structure that compliments stakeholder agencies / partners
	Needs partnership working
	Multiple suppliers

Idea 2	Public Awareness / Education (27%)
Address the issue by considering	One NI logo – easy to notice and recognise
	Universal NI logo then each organisation can add their own design
	Targeted messages e.g. women, men, languages, easy to read
	Education – school children on moon cup
	Address stigma
	Education eco friendly products
	Visibility, branding, identifiable logo and messaging

In summary, there were commonalities in terms of insights which received the most votes in Exercise 2 and ideas which emanated from these in Exercise 3. For example, capacity / identifying and meeting needs featured strongly in Exercise 2. Ideas explored in Exercise 3 included:

- Carrying out a mapping exercise across NI;
- Reviewing existing schemes / pilots;
- Utilising existing delivery mechanisms where possible;
- Creating partnerships to maximise potential;
- The need for an overarching strategic partner and for shared services with liaison through key partner contacts; and
- One marketing campaign with a common branding logo.

In total **125 ideas** were generated in the Landscape View Analysis exercise.

A full list of the ideas generated against each pillar and participants views on addressing the issues that the organisations may have, is provided in **Appendix E**

SYSTEMS MODELLING EXERCISE

In this exercise, participants remained in their four groups and were asked to consider what accessibility whilst maintaining **confidentiality, privacy and dignity** looked like. Four key locations were discussed:

- Public buildings e.g. City Hall;
- Voluntary & community centre premises e.g. a church hall;



- Online; and
- Other.

Following this exercise, a *systems modelling* exercise was undertaken. A systems map is a graphical representation of a system illustrating the underlying interrelationships and structure of the connecting part – in this case as a mapped system of accessibility for period products. The idea behind such an exercise is to provide for an overview of all aspects of a system to assist in informing decisions on how best to implement the system.

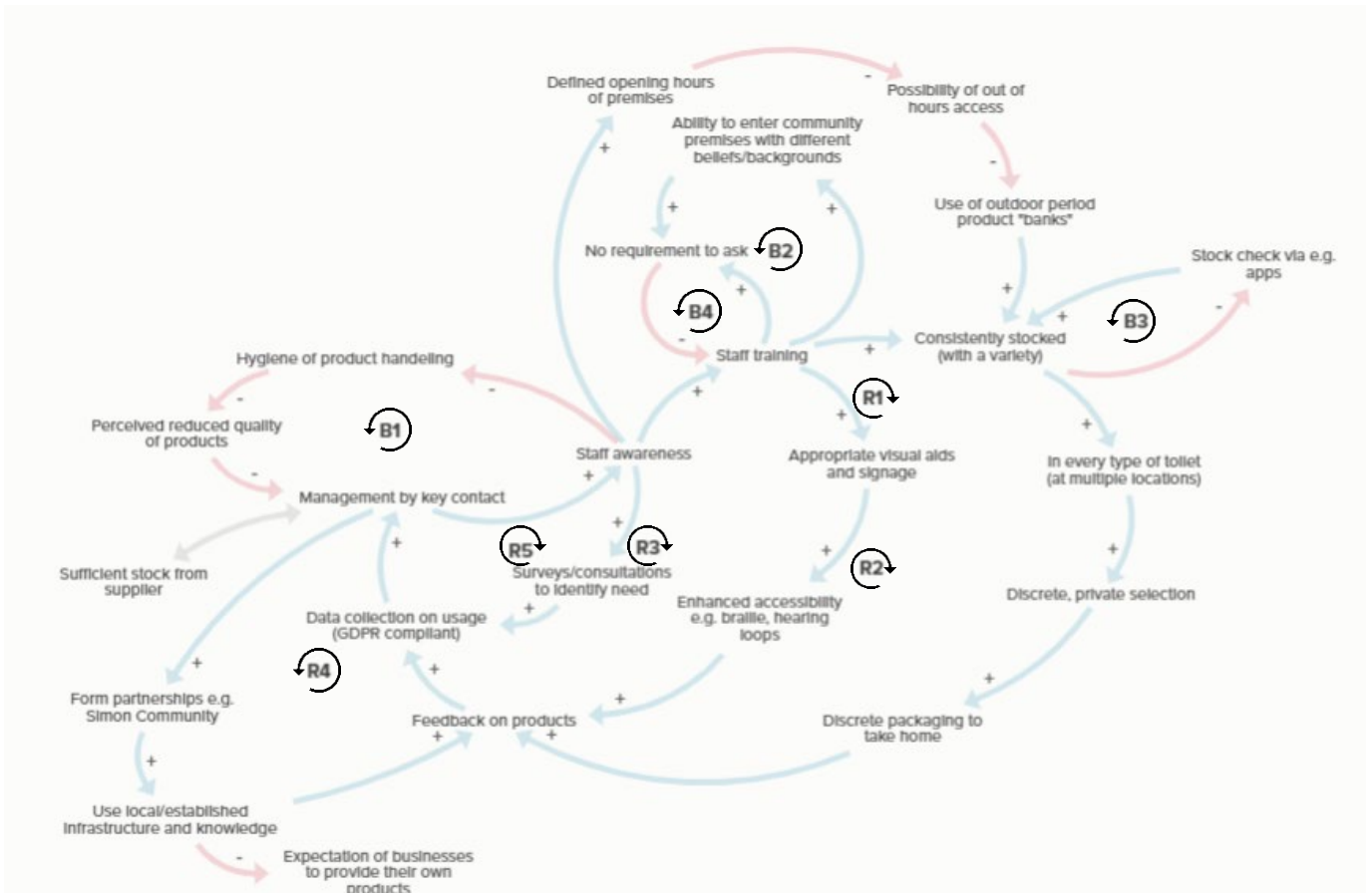
In this report we use the following definitions:

Balancing (B) loop: Balancing loops encourage the system to stay in balance, i.e. generally stabilising.

Reinforcing (R) loop: Reinforcing loops encourage the system to continue in that direction, i.e. to destabilise the system.

In all the maps used in this report, visually **blue (+)** arrows mean if that system element increases it will result in the end of the arrow. Similarly **red (-)** arrows imply that if that system element decreases it will result in the end arrow. Loops are defined by a B/R followed by a number – generally the smaller the number, the bigger the loop. A circular arrow around the loop name represents the direction of travel for that loop. The systems modelling exercise resulted in the creation of two system maps: physical and online.

Figure 1 below shows the main systems map for the physical system, within the map there are four balancing loops (B1, B2, B3, B4) and five reinforcing loops (R1, R2, R3, R4, R5).



It is most useful to break the main systems map down into smaller loops for discussion. From the main systems map five smaller systems were defined:

- General accessibility
- Staff training & signage responsibility
- Voluntary & community sector
- Product handling
- Product usage

The loops are discussed in turn from highest to lowest complexity in **Appendix F**.

High quality, interactive versions of the maps can be found on the Lab's Kumu system at the following link:

<https://embed.kumu.io/6c913fcb2f6032fad3bcff739debfdbd>

End of Day 1



DAY 2 - STAGE 2: DEVELOP (Ideation)

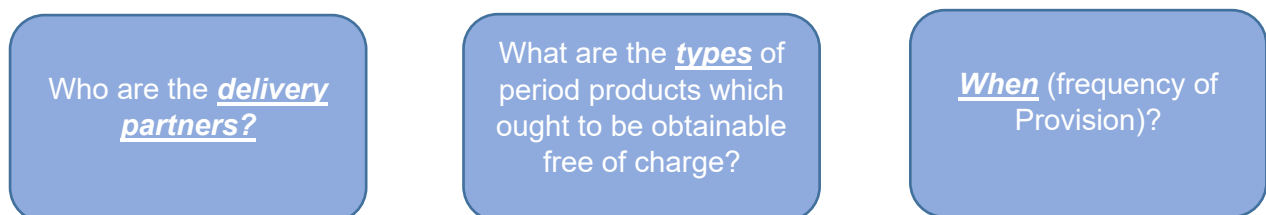
IDEA DEVELOPMENT

Day 2 focused on the 'define and develop' phase of the Double Diamond model, where participants continued to build on their outputs from the previous day through the generation of ideas, associated with the Definition Statement. The Idea Development exercise was divided into two parts due to time constraints but for the purpose of the report will be amalgamated.

Idea Development (Part 1)

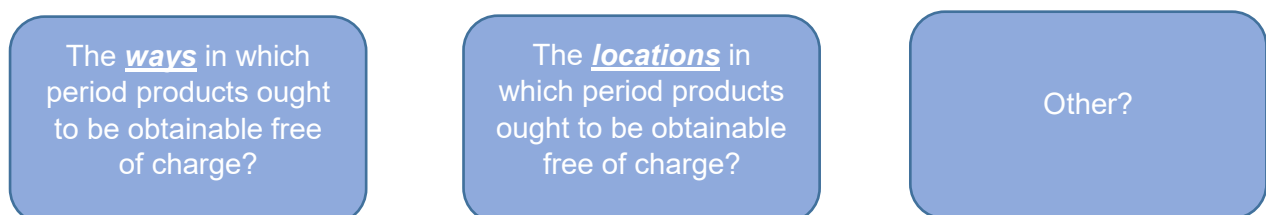
The participants were asked to:

Consider the following pillars that will make up the future service provision of free period products?



Idea Development (Part 2)

Consider the following pillars that will make up the future service provision of free period products?



In total **203 ideas** were generated across 6 pillars which emerged in the Idea Development.

Participants were divided into three new groups and a World Café approach was taken, with all participants moving across all six pillars and each group having a period of time to discuss all 6 pillars and develop ideas relating to each of them. This process



ensured that everyone had the opportunity to input their views, ideas and opinions on the development of ideas/views relating to each theme.

This exercise encouraged participants to consider and suggest workable, practical ideas on the challenge. All were asked to think about what ideas could exist if there were no barriers, restrictions, assumptions to be made in relation to the theme they were considering. However, this was caveated by asking all to develop ideas which were also workable, tangible, practical, achievable, deliverable, and within the scope of the challenge.

During this exercise the iLab team assisted by clustering each group's ideas under emerging themes.

It was not possible to deliberate on each idea due to time constraints, but in the interests of providing a complete overview of the process, all ideas generated are listed in **Appendix G**.

DOT-VOTING

For this dot-voting exercise, there was 15 minutes allocated and the participants stayed in their groups. Each participant was given a number of dots (6), one to be placed against each of the ideas outlined above.

Participants then considered all the ideas generated and dot-voted on ideas they felt were most likely to gain traction i.e. that would be feasible, viable, deliverable, in order to seek consensus in terms of the top two ideas from each theme, which would be selected for further exploration in the analysis exercise. The ideas voted forward into the analysis stage are listed below.

PILLAR	KEY AREAS OF FOCUS	
	IDEA 1	IDEA 2
Delivery Partners	Council feed into community groups.	Community & Voluntary Sector organisations but needs investment – centralised ordering and delivery service for NI.



PILLAR	KEY AREAS OF FOCUS	
	IDEA 1	IDEA 2
Types of Products (which should be available free of charge)	Choice is Important	Consideration around societal, cultural bias re products

PILLAR	KEY AREAS OF FOCUS	
	IDEA 1	IDEA 2
Frequency of Provision	Frequency demand led – trust people	Start small – see what works then consider frequency

PILLAR	KEY AREAS OF FOCUS	
	IDEA 1	IDEA 2
Ways in which Users of Period Products ought to be able to Obtain Period Products (free of charge)	A combination of ways - choice	Centralised NI Hub: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivered to address - Online/App - Phone - Text - Needs to be multi-lingual

PILLAR	KEY AREAS OF FOCUS	
	IDEA 1	IDEA 2
Location in which Period Products ought to be Obtainable (free of charge)	All Toilets – just like Toilet Roll	Libraries

PILLAR	KEY AREAS OF FOCUS	
	IDEA 1	IDEA 2
Other	Education/Stigma/Conservatism	Consistent branding throughout NI



IDEA DEVELOPMENT ANALYSIS

Following the Idea Development and Dot-Voting exercises, participants were again divided into three groups and a further World Café style session was held. A total of two hours was allocated for a significant discussion on the ideas provided. The full list of views, actions and considerations is provided at **Appendix H**. (The Idea Development Analysis exercise was divided into two parts due to time constraints but for the purpose of the report will be amalgamated.)

Idea Development Analysis (Part 1)

The groups were asked to examine the two selected ideas and consider the following:

- Is the idea feasible? If not, why not?
- If feasible, develop idea. Document steps which could make it work.

Consider the following pillars that will make up the future service provision of free period products?

Who are the delivery partners?

What are the types of period products which ought to be obtainable free of charge?

When (frequency of Provision)?

Idea Development Analysis (Part 2)

Consider the following pillars that will make up the future service provision of free period products?

The ways in which period products ought to be obtainable free of charge?

The locations in which period products ought to be obtainable free of charge?

Other?

A sample of responses to ideas is provided below. The full list of views and actions against each selected idea is captured in **Appendix H**.



PILLAR	KEY AREAS OF FOCUS	
	IDEA 1	IDEA 2
Delivery Partners	Council feed into community groups.	Community & Voluntary Sector organisations but needs investment – centralised ordering and delivery service for NI.
	SAMPLE VIEWS AND ACTIONS	
	'Mapping resources to determine availability/willingness'	'Period Dignity Officers should be employed to liaise and deliver to voluntary groups, who can provide users collection points'
	'Expand into community planning partnerships'	'Rainbow can do – but capacity issue'
	'Clarity is needed regarding who is lead for delivery'	'Central Government look after year 1. Do mapping and scoping before expanding. Needs flexibility. Then Rainbow deliver via Councils'
	'Key buildings i.e. Libraries in each area – doesn't need to be every building'	'Run in tandem with Education Authority model'

PILLAR	KEY AREAS OF FOCUS	
	IDEA 1	IDEA 2
Types of Products (which should be available free of charge)	Choice is Important	Consideration around societal, cultural bias re products
	SAMPLE VIEWS AND ACTIONS	
	'Basic provision pads and tampons, but choice should be available'	'Different cultures may have different levels of comfort with tampons. Education must be balanced with choice'
	'Sustainable and re-usable not necessary from Day 1 – stepped approach best'	'Recognising potential needs of equality groups, but meet individual needs – avoid assumptions'



PILLAR	KEY AREAS OF FOCUS	
	IDEA 1	IDEA 2
Frequency of Provision	Frequency demand led – trust people	Start small – see what works then consider frequency
	SAMPLE VIEWS AND ACTIONS	
	'Don't buy branded products to deter misuse'	'Step approach to distribution i.e. Libraries, Leisure Centres'
	'Record/report, but don't police provision'	'Phased rollout to begin with pad/tampons, then move on to reusables'

PILLAR	KEY AREAS OF FOCUS	
	IDEA 1	IDEA 2
Ways in which Users of Period Products ought to be able to Obtain Period Products (free of charge)	A combination of ways - choice	Centralised NI Hub: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivered to address - Online/App - Phone - Text - Needs to be multi-lingual
	SAMPLE VIEWS AND ACTIONS	
	'We need to phase rollout of products: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Year 1: Control number of partners - Year 2: Nothing is "free". Who pays for postage/drivers? Needs consideration' 	'If administered by councils, needs a consistent approach and should be centralised'
	'Staged approach to meet expectations and ensure communicate re expectation'	'Utilise the following for stock/delivery: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Blood Transfusion mobile -Breast Cancer Bus -Disability Action Bus'
		'Pick up from designated public places for emergency use'

PILLAR	KEY AREAS OF FOCUS	
	IDEA 1	IDEA 2
Location in which Period Products ought to be Obtainable (free of charge)	All Toilets – just like Toilet Roll	Libraries
	SAMPLE VIEWS AND ACTIONS	
	'Consider locations by distance (to be agreed). Footfall should be monitored'	'Would allow stock to be available in 98 library locations across NI and in 16 mobile library units'
	'Rule out buildings that require payment, as that will not ensure access for all – i.e. not everyone can afford to go into gyms or leisure centres, etc'	'Use of mobile libraries would also provide more access to those living in rural communities'

PILLAR	KEY AREAS OF FOCUS	
	IDEA 1	IDEA 2
Other	Education/Stigma/Conservatism	Consistent branding throughout NI
	SAMPLE VIEWS AND ACTIONS	
	'Promote and normalise through: -Social Media channels -Influencers -Champions'	'Rebrand and remove "poverty" – needs a positive name'
	'Employer education re: - Accessibility - Support - Provision'	'Use the term "period" not "sanitary"'
		Consider 'Dignity v Poverty language'

End of Day 2

Next Steps

This report provides a factual account of the workshop and summarises all of the key insights provided by stakeholder participants, individually and as part of a group.



Due to time constraints, only a selection of ideas / views could be progressed through idea development and analysis.

TEO, in the first instance, will consider this report and the out-workings of the two-day SIL. The insights, ideas and views of the attending stakeholders, captured in this report, will provide a foundation for TEO when considering how best to implement delivery arrangements for free period products.

While it will not be feasible (or practical) to take forward all of the suggestions and insights obtained, the findings should provide suggested areas of focus and further consideration. TEO should continue to engage with relevant stakeholders to further develop practical solutions to tackling the challenge of providing free period products.

Appendices





APPENDIX A

List of participant organisations over the two days 18th and 19th April 2023

Period Products Free Provision Strategic Insights Lab

Organisation
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
Ards and North Down Borough Council
Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
Belfast City Council
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
Derry and Strabane District Council
Department for Communities
Disability Action
Education Authority NI
Equality Commission for NI
Glasgow City Council, Scotland
Homeless Period Belfast
Libraries NI
Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council
Migrant Centre NI
Newry Mourne and Down District Council
NI Housing Executive
The Rainbow Project
Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE)
South Tyrone Empowerment Programme (STEP)
South Lanarkshire Council, Scotland
The Executive Office (TEO) - NICS



APPENDIX B

Period Products Free Provision Strategic Insights Lab

Agenda Day 1: Tuesday 18th April 2023

Time	
09:00am	Tea & Coffee Available on arrival
09:30am	WELCOME Welcome & introduction
09:35am	Siobhan Broderick, Head of Equality, Rights & Identity, The Executive Office
09:45am	Who is Who? At your table, please introduce yourself
09:55am	Dr Michele Cairney-McClung Glasgow City Council
10:25am	Brian Borland South Lanarkshire Council
10:55am	Comfort break (15 minutes) Tea/coffee
11:10am	ACTIVITY 1: THE ART OF THE POSSIBLE
11:40am	ACTIVITY 2: LANDSCAPE VIEW AND DOT VOTING
12:50pm	Lunch (60 minutes)
1:50pm	ACTIVITY 3: LANDSCAPE VIEW ANALYSIS
2:35pm	Comfort break (10 minutes) Tea/coffee
2:45pm	ACTIVITY 4: SYSTEMS MODELLING
3:45pm	CLOSING REMARKS Siobhan Broderick, Director, Equality, Rights & Identity, The Executive Office
4:00pm	Close



Period Products Free Provision Strategic Insights Lab

Agenda Day 2: Wednesday 19th April 2023

Time	1.
09:00am	Tea & Coffee Available on arrival
09:30am	REFLECTIONS ON DAY 1
09:40am	ACTIVITY 5: IDEA DEVELOPMENT
10:40am	Comfort break (10 minutes) Tea/coffee
10:50am	ACTIVITY 6: IDEA DEVELOPMENT
11:50am	ACTIVITY 7: DOT VOTING
12:05pm	Lunch (60 minutes) Vegetable Soup and a selection of sandwiches
1:05pm	ACTIVITY 8: IDEA DEVELOPMENT ANALYSIS
2:05pm	Comfort break (10 minutes)
2:15pm	ACTIVITY 9: IDEA DEVELOPMENT ANALYSIS
3:15pm	CLOSING REMARKS Siobhan Broderick, Director, Equality, Rights & Identity, The Executive Office
4:00pm	Close



APPENDIX C

FULL LIST OF INSIGHTS CAPTURED FROM 'THE ART OF THE POSSIBLE' SESSION

Funding and Budget
Funding required for the project to be successful
Local authorities in Scotland are structured differently to here – Housing, Home Office etc
Budget and Accountability
Lessons learnt from experts were good e.g., Budget – Distribution methods, coverage
Cost model – need to be able to meet expectation
Funding funder allocation
What will the agreed budget be?
Roles of various bodies, Councils, Education Authority, Health etc.
Partnership approach
Budget. Demand. Consultation.
Budgets for delivery
Procurement and Distribution methods
Distribution – Storage – Transport - Demand
Suppliers' engagement and stock
APP useful however has to be updated which requires resources
The APP must have translations available
Procurement - need for suppliers
Procurement
Impact of tourism
Supplier Issue with product range
Post to rural areas
Building trust to ensure access
Storage and delivery
Men's toilets
Delivery location addressing stigma
Where are products? How can you access them?
Meeting needs of disabled people
Demand outstripping supply
Hard to reach customers – rural - housebound
Best locations for products – ask the community
Easy Procurement Framework – year 2 of 5 years
Rural needs
Access to products out of hours
Resource from staff
Products in bathrooms may not be best solution – open areas?
Staffing / team to carry out service
Rural vs City access
Work with multiple suppliers
Storage and product provision methods



Potential supplier issues
Rural communities – reaching them
Awareness and Branding
Brand important messaging needs to be positive and clear
Universal logo - visibility
Dignity not poverty
Need to raise awareness
Branding – dignity not poverty
Targeting those with no internet access and those who are illiterate
Branding – removing stigma
Curriculum - Education
How to address Period Dignity vs Period Poverty
Focus on Dignity Branding
Communication - project for all - education
Lack of info to public / not filtering beyond internal stakeholders
Need to publicise locations
Public Marketing – Public displays - normalise
Publicity streams
Engage with community
How to engage with different communities
Change from Period Poverty to Period Dignity
Social media and visibility (self-promo)
Ministerial support / Launch photocall
Marketing best places for products
Educational requirement
Dignity not poverty
Governance
Partnerships with Community, Voluntary and Statutory
Co-design is key
Co-design and working with the community
Accountability
Partners agencies
Duplication of the requirement to undertake consultation prior to the implementation of legislation
Balancing need for reports and case studies and feedback with discrete and confidential service
How is need identified?
Co-design working with community groups
How to manage expectations given Scotland have 6 years head start
Cultural
Holistic view – Different projects e.g Pads for dads
Targeting BAME and non-English speakers
Tackling stigma
Battling the stigma
Translation within APP
Understanding
Range of products
Pick and Mix option – to allow people to choose



Specific needs – everyone different
Provision for diverse groups
Focus on reusable products
Product testers – Forums?
Products for all (range)
Quality of products
Glasgow Council – Simon Community
Belfast City Council are considering a pilot



APPENDIX D

FULL LIST OF LANDSCAPE VIEW AND DOT-VOTING

What <i>issues</i> do you feel will be faced by the following sectors in providing free period products? LOCAL GOVERNMENT	
INSIGHTS	DOT VOTING
Fragmented no clear lead	1
Identifying need	2
Budgets	
How funds are divided up	0
Allocating budgets	7
Who owns what and budgets spit between party/council	0
Staffing and budgets	3
Centralise procurement for 11 councils	2
Staff resources to deliver	0
Losing funding	0
Sustainable funding	1
Resources/funding hidden costs	0
Resourcing	0
Marketing and Branding	
Getting right publicity	0
Centralised aspect – one logo / campaign for every council	0
Signposting 1 logo	0
Marketing and social campaign who own? Councils or overall government	0
Desire for each council to have own branding very common/regional branding	0
Individual councils doing own thing add to cost etc	0
Familiar branding across councils	0
Awareness of issue	1
APP is essential	0
Awareness campaign	0
Branding & Promotion	0
Other	
Cohesion between all 11 councils	5
3Cross party support will there be one person acting as spokesperson	0
Public consultation	0
Councils are independent sovereign organisations	0
Sourcing products	0
Education	1



Ownership – designated period dignity officers	0
Framework for delivery – delivering same thing in same way in general	2
Guidance from Government in complying with legislation	0
Rurality	0
This should be a multi-disciplinary approach	0
Responsibility for replenishing	0
Perceptions locals paying for others	0
Monopolise Partnerships	0
Opening hours	0
Out of hours	0
Out of touch with those who have lived experience	0
Logistics and storage	0
Community Centres being run by volunteers	0
Reliance on voluntary and community sector to deliver	2
Choosing right products	0
Reporting mechanism	0
Number of facilities wouldn't be of high volume	0
Local government resources – limited scope of responsibility	0
Tourism impacts	0
Predict uptake	0
Member led decision making	0
Identifying local need plus influx of visitors	0
Stages of community planning – some good partnerships in existence	0
Local projects are only being moderately taken up	0
TOTAL VOTES	27

What <i>issues</i> do you feel will be faced by the following sectors in providing free period products?	
VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR	
INSIGHTS	DOT VOTING
Budgets	
Resources	2
Sufficient budget	4
Size of area covered – budget	1
Third sector funding hugely diminished without asking for more from them	0
Changing volunteer structure because of funding	0
Procurement	0



Competition for funding making co-operation challenging	0
Lack of funding	0
Sector is already stretched	0
Marketing and Branding	
Awareness	0
Local knowledge assists with need and delivery model	0
Capacity	8
Rural coverage	3
Need for networking opportunities – learning from others	0
Local solutions	1
Identifying and meeting needs	4
Voluntary and Community Sector	
Third sector	0
Reliant on volunteers	1
Lack of volunteers	0
Voluntary!!	0
Volunteers may not be as reliable as paid staff for that reason	0
Reporting of overwhelming for volunteers	0
Areas geographically or communities with no facilities	0
Training for volunteers and staff	0
No consistency or reduced consistency as if reliant on volunteers	0
Volunteer and community led structure - focus groups/feedback etc	0
Refugees – Roma travel community	0
Empowerment of community	1
Over reliance on volunteers	0
Minority community access	1
Reliability or commitment of vol 1	0
Staff/volunteers	0
Project needs to be community led – key contacts, local knowledge	0
Perception as a lesser partner	0
Governance and Accountability	
Meeting accountability requirements	0
Accountability	0
Governance – audit/visibility	0
Governance	0
Bureaucracy	1
Audit	0
Other	
Rurality	0
Local politics	0
Specific needs of those they support young people or disabled people	0



Large number of groups	0
Distribution	0
Education/training	0
Large number of groups	0
Language barrier	0
Have local knowledge	0
Expiry dates – hoarding/stockpiling	0
Hard to reach groups – disengaged	0
Level of contact with cv sector regionally	0
Scope – training, skill set, funding, target	0
Minority group	0
Gender roles within ethnic groups	0
Taboos	0
Utilise contacts and structures built after covid	0
Clarity roles	0
Linking with existing networks	0
Burn out	0
TOTAL	27

<p>What <i>issues</i> do you feel will be faced by the following sectors in providing free period products?</p> <p>DELIVERY PARTNERS</p>	
INSIGHTS	DOT VOTING
Budgets	
Resources	5
Sustainable funding	3
Staff time costs	1
Budget. Resources capacity	0
Capacity and expertise	3
Consistency of funding across NI if vol/comm used in vol capacity	0
With budget cut's location availability	0
Current funding crisis is limiting innovation	0
Price/market volatility	0
Rurality cost to customer for access	0
Funding, meeting demand	0
Marketing and Branding	
Branding	0



Signposting when products unavailable	0
Promotion of products by some groups - Signposting	0
Key universal messaging	0
Communication	2
Balancing supply and demand	0
Capacity, storage, methodology procurement	0
On message	0
Voluntary and Community Sector	
Identifying & targeting local need	0
Community centres are volunteers – not full time	0
Different approaches across Local Government Districts	0
Commitment /reliance of volunteers to deliver	0
Shouldn't rely on Voluntary & Community sector volunteers	0
Volunteer groups – order via form but don't rely on them to deliver or arrange logistics	0
Social enterprises – dance schools	0
Period Dignity Officer should be employed to liaise with community/volunteer groups	0
Supporting existing voluntary 'poverty' organisations. Food banks St Vincent de Paul, Women's Aid and networks	1
Infrastructure and Distribution	
Delivery capacity – what extent is each org involved? Back-room organisation or front facing – can be split	0
Storage & delivery budget & ownership	4
Access (days/times)	0
Logistics – storage, opening hours	0
Is the infrastructure in place to support this	2
Inconsistency in approaches	1
Issues around access to and usage of council buildings to be considered	0
Work with organisations where there is an open door	0
Who are the delivery partners? Consistent approach	1
Ensuring distribution is reasonable to all	0
Delivery partners have knowledge and infrastructure	0
Identifying correct areas in partners e.g. in council community partnership	0
Establish a working co-ordination group. Work through existing structures	0
Delivery vs responsibility	0
Major Delivery Partners should be large organisations (1)	0
Need to link with smaller local groups (2)	0
But don't rely heavily on local groups (3)	0



Begin with the groups already delivering similar service	0
Cultural	
Culture change, regarding dignity etc	0
Reaching all groups e.g. ethnic minority groups, refugees, travellers, disabled people	2
Information in other languages available & education delivered with interpreters	0
Training around language, stigma and shame	1
Other	
Filling the gap for statutory providers	0
Misuse of services	0
Manage expectations	0
Ongoing commitment	0
Education	0
Current skill base	0
Burn out	0
Advice centres	0
Internal engagement	0
Don't rely on goodwill only!	0
Minor ailments example	0
Education piece within groups to get the word out to community	0
Equality issue re postage access by vulnerable people	0
Political decision making can act as barriers	0
Working with organisations which can be utilised	0
What mechanism? Governance?	0
Procurement?	0
Not Belfast centric	0
Differing level of consultation – TEO	0
Key Contacts at every point from TEO & Community	0
Requirement to fund by Central gov	0
There are numerous organisations working with young people ideally placed	0
Social clauses to get private company on board?	0
Part 1 + 2 of duty can be combined – end user to avoid duplication in procurement, logistics	0
TOTAL	26



What <i>issues</i> do you feel will be faced by the following sectors in providing free period products?	
PERIOD PRODUCTS GENERAL INSIGHTS	
INSIGHTS	DOT VOTING
Resources	
Procurement barriers	0
Procurement	0
Procurement – buying framework – economies of scale	3
Resources – staff, budget, locations	4
Sourcing staff, time, systems	4
Cost vs budget	0
Marketing and Branding	
Public awareness	6
Education	1
Practical ‘project guide’ – step by step including good practical guidance	1
Information pack and best practise support and info	0
Consistent branding of project but allowing additional local branding and logos	0
Various tools – social media, social stories	0
Common branded education leaflets, posters etc to make ‘theme’ clear especially campaigns	0
Demand increases following adverts	0
Need for clear supply chains	0
Staged introduction of types, locations etc to allow monitoring	0
Supply v demand	0
Branding more popular and therefore expensive	0
Level of demand	0
Range of products	
Branded vs generic	0
Feedback on products	0
Wide range of products should be available	0
Wider range of products should be available	0
Quality of Products	1
Choice/range	0
Hygiene	0
Quality	0
Environmental options including reusable	0
Quality and choice of products	0
Education around reusable products	0
Should they be plastic free?	0



Co-design what products people want	0
Cultural	
Translation?	0
Stigma	4
Infrastructure	
Rurality and delivery	0
Storage	0
Sustainability. Logistics – storage delivery	0
Transport and distribution	0
Scoping other organisations and what they provide	0
Reporting & data collection	0
Sexist misogynist views and negativity around this provision	0
Capacity to deal with feedback	0
Logistics for storage and delivery – should reusable be promoted over single use	0
Other	
Engagement with teenagers in schools	0
Meeting needs of specific groups e.g. products for specific disability, cultural confidential e/g tampons	1
Environmental impact	0
Meeting needs of disabled people	0
Starting the conversation with one key contact	0
Multidisciplinary approach involving Central Government, Local Councils and Community and Voluntary Sector	1
Health advice and information (e.g. TES)	0
Health warnings (Toxic Shock Syndrome)	0
TOTAL	26



APPENDIX E

FULL LIST OF INSIGHTS ON LANDSCAPE VIEW ANALYSIS

What would address the issues selected via dot voting? LOCAL GOVERNMENT
IDEA ANALYSED – ALLOCATING BUDGET INSIGHTS
Section 75 can be applied as a funding allocation
Section 28E – allocate resources based on objective or need
Think outside the box. Regional intervention therefore there will be a framework
Procurement Framework for NI
Look at Scotland formula to allocate budget
Resources aligned to need – people and places
Population profile and size in relevant age categories
Look at population size
Needs of specific groups e.g., extra resources for groups with more need
Consider Section 75 groups and equality duties
Consider commuters and tourists
Poverty figures
Size of area covered by council
Age of population

What would address the issues selected via dot voting? LOCAL GOVERNMENT
IDEA ANALYSED – COHESION ACROSS ALL 11 COUNCILS INSIGHTS
One marketing campaign
Elected members involved in campaigns
Project Co-ordinator
Working groups with all COPE's procurement areas to ensure a consistent but also suitable approach
Mechanism for cohesion
Cost v Benefit – improved health and mental health wellbeing
Centralised procurement
Common branding logo across councils
Shared Services between councils, working together
Support from SOLACE and NILGA
Regional branding, procurement and shared staffing systems
Cohesion but room for tweaking



Regional approach led by Central Government with local considerations
Most things prioritised in and for Belfast or Derry
Accountability reporting one key contact
Diversity Champions
Do not leave it to individuals to come up with a plan. It should be led by Stormont then adopted to suit local need
Empowering all councils to care via education
Support from local councillors
Education. Information for councillors and partners

<p>What would <i>address the issues</i> selected via dot voting? VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR</p>
<p>IDEA ANALYSED – VOLUNTEER / COMMUNITY LED STRUCTURE INSIGHTS</p>
Review existing schemes - Feedback
More training and support for volunteers
Overarching strategic partner
Recognition and investment
Remuneration for third sector
Provide goods to frontline groups to give out BUT do the background work ordering for them etc.
Offer to work with every organisation from day one.
Volunteer and Community led BUT don't lean on these groups to provide service without investment or resource– should sit with Government or Budget be provided

<p>What would <i>address the issues</i> selected via dot voting? VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR</p>
<p>IDEA ANALYSED – CAPACITY / IDENTIFYING AND MEETING NEEDS INSIGHTS</p>
Engagement with users across equality groups
Training required for Voluntary and Community Sectors – on NGGO's, stigma, products etc.
Communication
Advertising service
Mapping exercise required across NI
Implementation approach



Review existing schemes/pilots – obtain feedback
Capacity building
Community engagement
Utilise existing delivery mechanisms where possible – don't re-invent the wheel

<p>What would <i>address the issues</i> selected via dot voting? VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR</p>
<p>IDEA ANALYSED – RURAL COVERAGE INSIGHTS</p>
Opening hours
Rural infrastructure planned at the outset
Storage
Access
Easy online ordering system
Raising awareness of locations
Transport
Alternative ways to order e.g., telephone
Improved internet for ordering

<p>What would <i>address the issues</i> selected via dot voting? DELIVERY PARTNERS</p>
<p>IDEA ANALYSED – RESOURCES AND CAPACITY INSIGHTS</p>
Create partnerships to maximise potential
Open lines of communication. Needs to be a key partner contact in every field
Funding education
Research and funding info all done then passed on with set plan
Clarity on what is required to comply with legislation
Provision of adequate funding
Training and engagement sessions
Training and awareness provision for all delivery partners e.g. Community and Voluntary / Business / Statutory sectors



**What would *address the issues* selected via dot voting?
DELIVERY PARTNERS**

IDEA ANALYSED – DISTRIBUTION AND STORAGE

Local knowledge & provision can help. Infrastructure might already exist.
Through partner agencies
Staff volunteers or paid?
Increase storage capacity
Need a strong: market engagement and procurement strategy
Tie in with existing systems in place don't start over
Storage and distribution systems direct from supplier as Education Authority model for schools
Need to procure
Armagh Banbridge Craigavon Borough Council order in 3 lots to deliver to 3 stores
Order from supplier directly by-passing storage

**What would *address the issues* selected via dot voting?
DELIVERY PARTNERS**

IDEA ANALYSED – REACHING ALL GROUPS E.G. ETHNIC MINORITY GROUPS, REFUGEES, TRAVELLERS, DISABLED PEOPLE

On website read aloud translation 'Browse Aloud'
Raise awareness
To start – setup multi-agency forum or link in with existing fora to get buy-in / support to ensure that you reach those hardest to reach
Have the right people in the room include all voices
Awareness information and training
Co-produce and co-design with groups most impacted and with specialist organisations that work with diverse groups
Early engagement to ensure everyone feels consulted and included
Regional campaign and awareness raising in multi-lingual platforms

**What would *address the issues* selected via dot voting?
PERIOD PRODUCTS GENERAL INSIGHTS**

IDEA ANALYSED – PROCUREMENT, BUYING FRAMEWORK, ECONOMIES OF SCALE

Utilise Social value, Support Local etc



Needs partnership working – various companies / stakeholders
Carry out market research re product range
Multiple suppliers
360 Feedback process
Regional procurement structure that compliments stakeholder agencies / partners
e.g., preferred suppliers

**What would *address the issues* selected via dot voting?
PERIOD PRODUCTS GENERAL INSIGHTS**

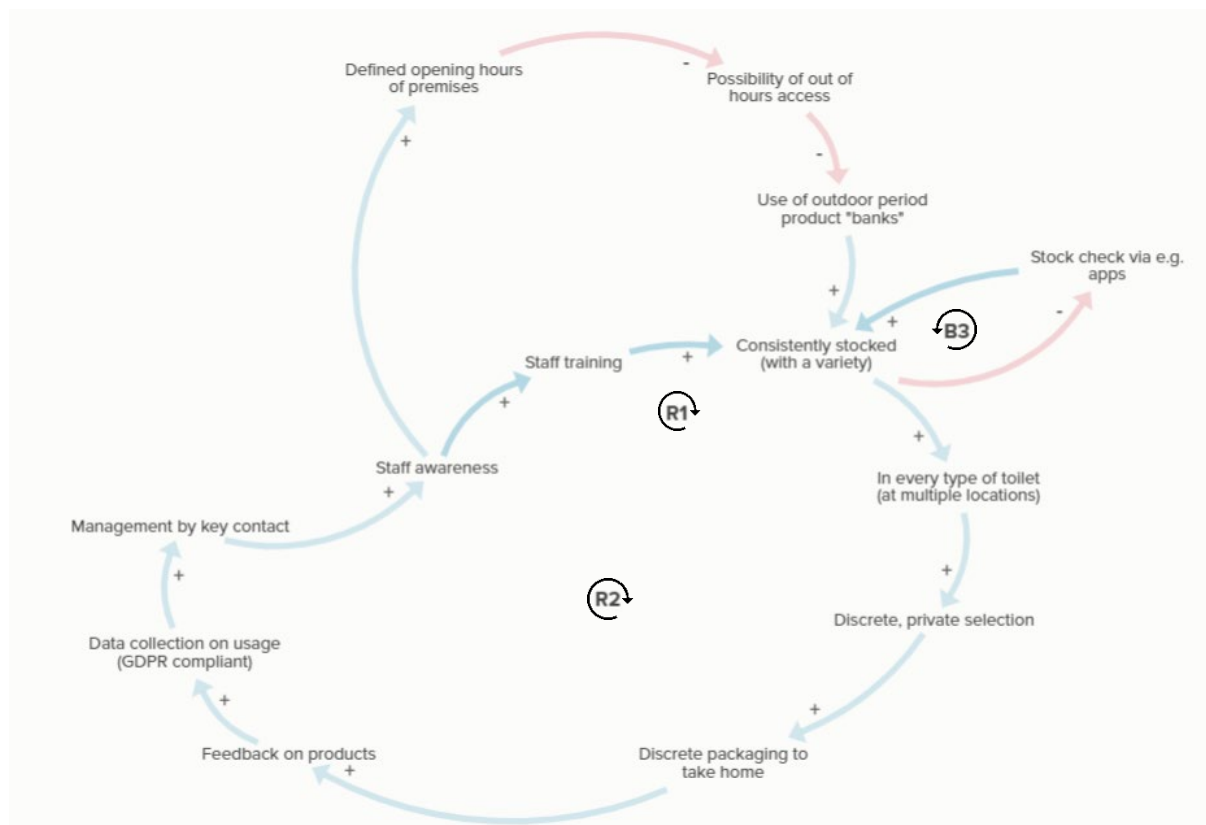
IDEA ANALYSED – PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

Awareness should be backed up by supply chain
Dignity centred education
One NI campaign logo - easy to notice and recognisable
Advertising
Young people and family programmes
Bi-lingual advertising. Translated materials
Targeted messages e.g. women, men, languages, easy to read
Education – school children on moon cup
Address stigma
Schools, men, general public, targeting groups
Various campaign methods
Education on eco-friendly products
Location APP
Visibility, branding, identifiable logo and messaging
Public information packs. Key messaging. Education at every level now – when you roll something out if you don't understand
Recognisable campaign logo
Universal NI logo then each organisation can add their own design
Social media campaign
Clear, concise and consistent messaging
TV campaigns and Radio

APPENDIX F

General accessibility loop - R1, R2, B3:

Figure 2 below describes general accessibility. Loops R1 and R2 are intrinsically linked. R1 contains all of R2 with the exception of information on opening hours with both rejoining afterwards.



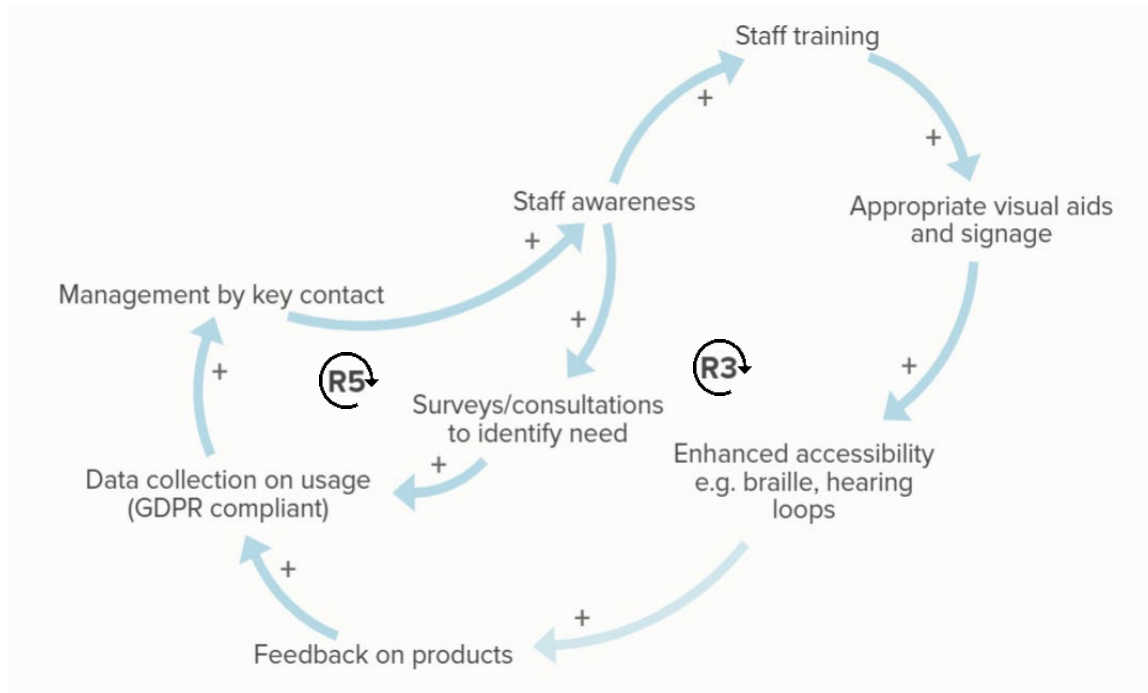
It was suggested the overall physical accessibility of the site should be managed by a key contact (for example a member of a local council) who is responsible for making all staff on the site aware of the Act. Staff training should be facilitated, when required. Increased staff awareness of their responsibilities will lead to the defined opening hours of the premises to allow for better access. Where there is a reduction in opening hours, some thought should be given to the possibility of “out of hours” access for products. Failing this, the setup of outdoor period “banks” to ensure accessibility could be considered.

It was suggested that locations offering products should be consistently stocked, with a variety of products at multiple locations on premises including male, female, non-gendered toilets. The small loop B3 shows it was thought an app could prove useful to check stock at certain locations. With consistent stock (and possibly an app) this leads to a discrete, private selection for the user and it is suggested there should be discrete packaging to allow for private take home of products, if required. It could be

useful to gather feedback on product usage from users, with data managed to all GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) laws, collected by a key contact on site.

Staff training & signage responsibility – R3, R5:

Loops R3 and R5 are defined here in Figure 3 below.



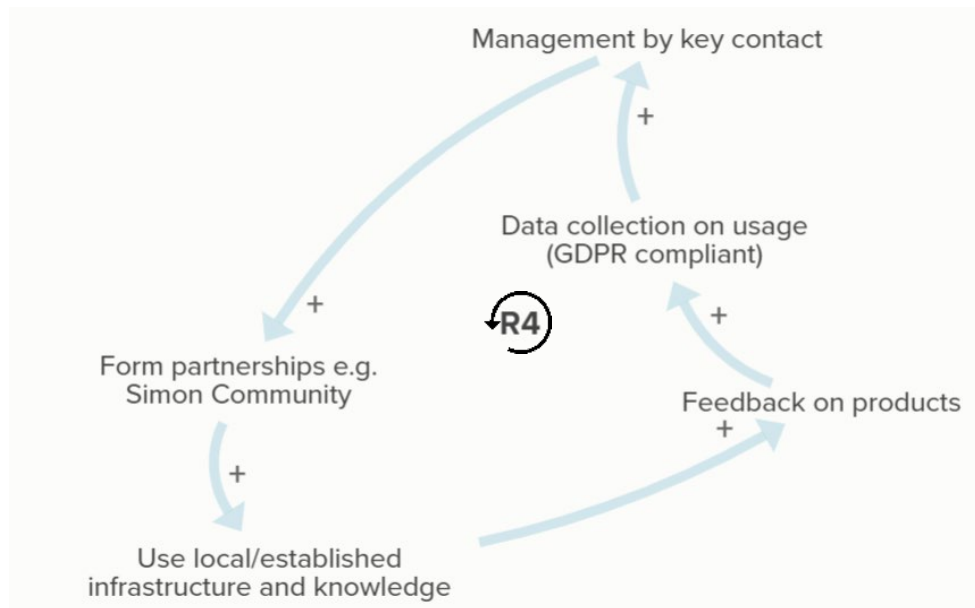
It was suggested that the management of the period products by should be done by a key contact who can provide awareness and training to staff when needed. R5 branches here, it was suggested that surveys and consultations by staff on the users could be useful to identify need with all data being GDPR compliant.

Returning to R3, sound staff awareness and training could lead to appropriate visual aids including posters to represent the scheme/Act, information on toxic shock syndrome etc. Similarly clear signage to show, for example, products exist in all types of toilets.

With basic signage established on premises it was suggested that enhanced accessibility could be implemented included braille or hearing loops, to improve accessibility for marginalized groups. Again, feedback on products should be managed by a key contact and GDPR compliant.

Voluntary & community sector – R4:

Figure 4 below represents a small piece of the voluntary and community sector.



Participants considered that partnerships should be formed with third sector agencies when possible e.g. Women’s aid, shopping centers, activity centers, food banks, Simon Community. From this, it was suggested that users could use the local infrastructure and established relationships to aid them with the distribution of the products and utilise any feedback on any current schemes e.g. Period products provision in schools or at free provision at Queen’s University Belfast.

Product handling – B1:

Figure 5 details the small product handling loop of B1.

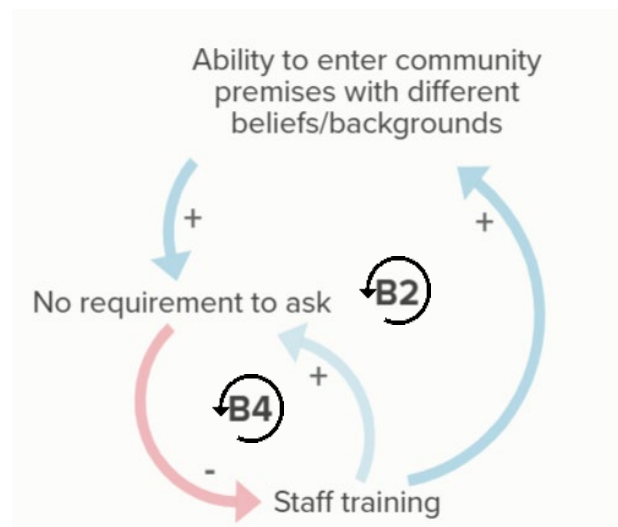


It was suggested a point should be made to ensure that the key contact made staff aware how to manage period products e.g. not to remove localised packaging of tampons compromising their hygiene. Similarly with pads, do not remove any localised packing or any of the sticky coverings.

Failure to handle products properly could lead to a perceived reduced quality, the key contact should maintain ownership of this perception.

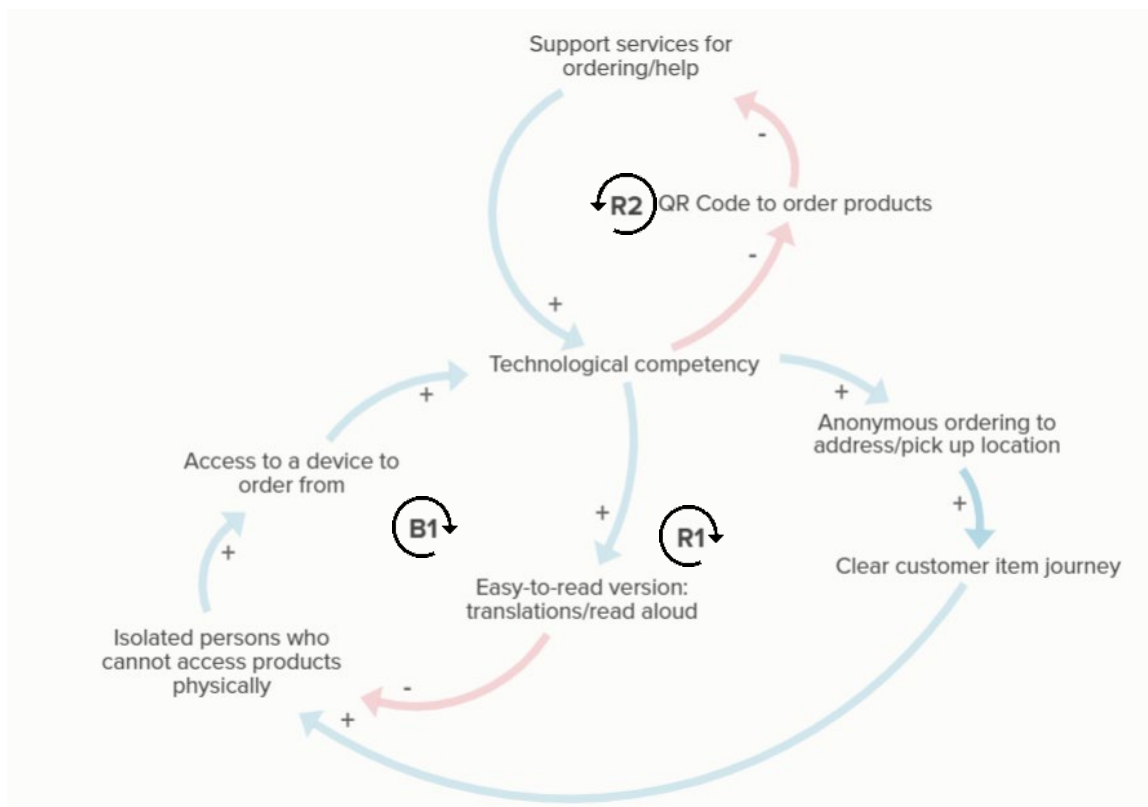
Product usage – B2, B4:

Figure 6 shows the final two loops (B2, B4) of the physical systems and that these represent two fundamentals on the start of a user's journey to use free period products.



Participants stated that there should be no fear nor any physical barriers preventing people from entering premises that offer free period products. Physical barriers would include issues around appearance, clothing, status and included physical implications relating to status or beliefs/backgrounds.

A systems map was made for online accessibility. This can be seen in Figure 7. There are two reinforcing loops (R1, R2) and one balancing loop (B1).



For the online accessibility main map, we can define two sub systems:

- Customer ordering journey
- Support & accessibility

Customer ordering journey – R1, B1:

It was suggested that menstruating persons who are physically isolated from obtaining products, for example they have reduced mobility, should have the ability to order them online. This would require a device capable of internet connectivity and sufficient processing power to handle web page ordering.



This is linked to a technological competency associated with the user. If competency is low, it was suggested a quick read (QR) code could help provide the bulk of the heavy lifting with respect to online ordering. With sufficient technological competency it was suggested that easy-to-read or read aloud versions of the ordering process should be available to fully make the process fully accessible to those in need. This is defined by loop B1.

R1 shows that ordering should be completely anonymous to the user's address or to a local pick-up location, perhaps similar to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID 19) testing kits. It was suggested there should be a clear customer item journey for the products, with short details available at each stage of the process. Ultimately this would lead to isolated persons being able to access the products when it would otherwise prove difficult.

Support & accessibility – R2:

This small loop highlights the need for those with little to no technological competency, for example older generations of people, to have the likes of a quick read (QR) code to assist with ordering. Failing this, a support service, perhaps a telephone line, could provide help with ordering if needed. This could give competency to the user in the long run.



APPENDIX G

FULL LIST OF INSIGHTS ON IDEA DEVELOPMENT AND DOT-VOTING (PART 1)

Question 1 – Who are the Delivery Partners?	
INSIGHTS	DOT VOTING
Councils	
*Council feed into community groups	3
Councils interested but access & logistics issues	2
Councils' practical arrangements around buildings and facilities	1
Councils are one of many partners	0
Councils: resourcing, financial & logistical arrangements	0
Councils	0
Council – SOLACE central logistics community planning groups	1
GP & Pharmacies	
GP Practices available	2
Pharmacists - GPs	0
Voluntary & Community Sector	
Migrant Groups – Migrant Centre NI	0
Inclusive of Ethnic Minority Groups, Traveller groups address language barriers & literacy skills	1
Homeless Connect	0
Resource third sector	0
*Community & Voluntary Sectoral Organisations but needs investment and support	3
Women's Aid for domestic violence, sexual violence victims & survivors	0
Voluntary/Community Sector – Sign Posting if no storage space	0
Sure Start identify need & supply client based	0
Balanced reliance on Voluntary and Community sector	0
Here NI – Rainbow Project	0
Rainbow Project have infrastructure	0
Community Groups capacity for delivery	0
The Rainbow Project - LGBTQIA+ already work with PHA for safer sex packs	0
Community Voluntary Groups can serve as pick up point, convene groups for education, order stock but DELIVERY is statutory duty	0
Other	
Libraries 96 locations – mobile library, home delivery	1
Departmental & Statutory organisations already have infrastructure	0
Education Authority wide range of sites & audiences	0
SH:24 process Health Trust	0
TOTAL VOTES	14



Question 2 – What are the types of period products which ought to be obtainable free of charge?	
INSIGHTS	DOT VOTING
Environmental Reusable	
Environmental considerations – no plastic applicators	0
No plastics if possible	0
Reusable in certain locations (via app/online?)	0
Reusable – pads, pants, cups available 2-3/ 4-5 times per year	2
Reusable pads	0
Environmental impact should be considered	0
Choice of products available via APP/Pilot – Program for reusable items	2
How many big brands provide sustainable products	0
Education of Reusable Products	
Reusable with education	0
Education alongside reusable products	1
Specification / Range	
*Choice of size, product, accessibility home or collection	3
Choice is important	0
Consideration around societal, cultural bias around products	2
Range of options available	0
Online	0
‘Hey girls’ is not a great move might be excellent provider but could cause confusion	0
Tampons with applicators	0
List orders	0
Pads/tampons reusables & period pants	0
Pads, tampons, wings, wingless	0
Branded / Unbranded	0
Sensitive / non-scented products	0
Shorter, longer, wings, no wings	0
As wide a selection as possible with review stages / feedback	1
Essentials pads (day/nights) tampons x 2 – Panty liners	0
Bulk options pants/reusable, pads schools or online	0
Products which are gender neutral	1
Supporting different flow levels	0
Different sizes	0
Meanwhile provision is the basics. Provide more choice for people who can’t afford	0
Survey / Evaluation of Products	
Frequency – Data we need to know what products they want	0
Supermarkets to match period product donations	1
Pause: Review built in feedback consultancy	0
Homeless Period Belfast data – majority request pads	0



Ongoing engagement across equality groups – Identify gaps fill in as soon as possible	1
Survey to determine needs	0
Feedback methods? Gage need	0
Collaboration could create broader options	0
TOTAL VOTES	14

Question 3 – When (Frequency of Provision)?	
INSIGHTS	DOT VOTING
Piloting	
Yearly issue of (reusable)	0
Who will monitor frequency provision	1
Smaller focused pilot service	0
Ongoing monitoring overall	0
*Start small – see what works then consider frequency	2
Pilot – Test - Review	0
Monthly	0
No frequency needs review after time period	0
Section 28E targeting resources on the basis of objective need	0
Pilot more expensive products	0
Supply & Demand	
*Frequency Demand led – Trust people	2
Supply & demand model	2
Supply & demand	0
Freedom of choice	
Be available when a person needs them	0
Freedom of choice	0
No idea about personal situation	0
Need to meet individual need	0
Not one size fits all – flexibility for certain groups & individuals	1
Don't limit the amount – some woman can bleed when it's not their period	0
No limit for users	0
No limit to provision one size does not fit all	0
Reusables	
Monitoring within reason particularly with reusable	0
Reusables annually	0
Consider limiting frequency of reusable/more expensive products? Offer for a limited time annually? Offer only at selected sites	1
More expensive reusables – seasonal campaigns available 3-4 times a year initially	0
Some limit for reusables	0



Client feedback	
Client feedback Offer feedback opportunity asking questions on amounts/locations/frequency	2
Client based need on evidence of demand	0
Household size	0
Messaging	
Empower the individual to lift what they need	0
Awareness	0
Consistent Messaging	1
Leader in communities know what is happening to assist	0
Budget	
Depends on budget available for project	0
Budgetary constraints	0
Funding issue concerns	0
Budget limitations	0
Budget is limiting factor	0
TOTAL VOTES	12

IDEA DEVELOPMENT AND DOT VOTING (PART 2)

Question 4 - The WAYS in which period products ought to be obtainable free of charge?	
INSIGHTS	DOT VOTING
Online and delivery	
Online via website/app e.g., safe sex packs, it will need investment	0
Online	0
Online issue regarding postage	0
Centralised NI Hub – delivered to address, online/app, phone, text, needs to be multi-lingual	5
Delivery Structure – co-ordinating group and new arms-length body with social enterprise applicability's	0
Deliveries to rural areas: Rainbow Project, Disability Action, Libraries NI	2
Online	1
Data mapping	
Vary by location/area feedback useful to determine need what that looks like	0
Year 1 data will reflect demand for in-person , online, postal	5
Identifying locations & map with postcode search products	2
Period Products in local government locations to provide training & link to service	0
Collection in-person	
In person – can be picked up if and when. Collection of packs from public events	0
Accessible in buildings open to all without payment	0



Think outside of community centres, educational settings. Pubs, public restaurants, take aways and Post Offices.	0
Emergency supply – leisure centres and community centres	0
People shouldn't have to give details to get items in person	0
Physical locations – mindful of opening hours and access (barriers)	1
Through partners – in visible locations where people are. Pop-up shops	2
Distribution through migrant groups / services (pick-up point)	0
Not digital only – helpline for finding local locations	0
Central locations for pick-up without asking	0
Accessible to those with literacy issues and no digital access	0
Bulk in certain locations but individual items in others	0
In areas in buildings where people are comfortable	0
Postage but could be an issue regarding budget and not good use of it	0
In-person local collection point	0
Other	
Making sure that male identifying persons can access products	0
In bulk and individual items	0
Accessible to non-English speakers	0
A combination of ways -choice	6
TOTAL VOTES	25

Question 5 - The LOCATIONS in which period products ought to be obtainable free of charge?	
INSIGHTS	DOT VOTING
Community places	
Community Centres – Canvas building	0
Community Centres	0
Community and youth clubs	1
Church Halls and Sports Halls	1
Churches / faith centres	0
GP Practices – Church Halls – Community Centres	2
Online form – Community Hub	0
Chemists	0
Community spaces	0
Youth clubs	0
Private Businesses	
Supermarkets	0
Get private businesses on board	0
Bars and restaurants should be a map of locations which can be viewed	0
Shopping centres	1
Tesco, Sainsburys, Lidl, Asda	0
24 hour shops (Spar etc.)	0
Rural Communities the local shop or Post Office	0



Public Bodies	
Bus and Train stations	0
Schools primary and post primary	0
Schools	0
Further Education and Higher Education Colleges	0
Central government buildings part of universal duty	1
Jobs and Benefits Offices	1
Libraries	7
All publicly owned toilets	1
Sure Start settings	0
Health settings	
Health settings	0
GP Practices and Community Pharmacy	0
Other	
All toilets just like toilet roll	10
Online should be a map of locations which can be viewed	0
TOTAL VOTES	27

Question 6 - Other	
INSIGHTS	DOT VOTING
Branding & QR code	
QR code on branding / posters for ongoing feedback	0
Consistent branding throughout NI	7
Consistent NI wide branding	0
Branding – regional logo to identify locations	0
QR code link to education web pages	0
QR code at products pick-up point - feedback	1
Translation – Irish / Polish / French / Arabic	1
Awareness and Education	
Holding public awareness events – not in Leisure Centres or Councils	0
Awareness campaign	0
Clear simple messaging across NI	0
Public awareness campaign essential	0
Advertising – Communication - Promotion	1
Education – Stigma - Conservatism	4
Staff training and education – sensitivity, language, awareness	5
Removing stigma	2
Education – Build into education in schools about periods	1



Put discrete helplines in product packaging. Violence against women and girls and trafficking	0
Large launch event – popup shops - roadshow	0
Education and libraries	0
Period Dignity Officer	
Need for Period Dignity Officer Post or Posts	1
Period Advocates in local areas	0
Budget	
Budget	1
Budget - expectations - reality	0
Budget sustainable	1
Normalise	0
Other	
Accountability	0
Need measured approach	0
Consider how to gather data and identify gaps with privacy respected	1
Locations for men, fathers etc	2
Delivery mechanisms	0
Procurement mechanisms	0
Engaging those who don't have periods!	0
Consistent evaluation monitoring and feedback	0
Ensure ongoing engagement with equality groups including ethnic minorities, disabled people, LGBTQI+, different ages	0
Involvement with sport organisations and faith organisations	0
Work with young enterprise and youth groups	2
Mobile libraries	0
Government buildings e.g. Sure Start clinics	0
Identifying areas of high foot fall	0
GP Surgeries & community hubs - dentists	0
TOTAL VOTES	30



APPENDIX H

FULL LIST OF INSIGHTS ON IDEA DEVELOPMENT ANALYSIS

PILLAR	KEY AREAS OF FOCUS	
	IDEA 1	IDEA 2
Delivery Partners	Council feed into community groups.	Community & Voluntary Sector organisations but needs investment – centralised ordering and delivery service for NI.
	VIEWS AND ACTIONS	
	Mapping resources to determine availability/willingness	Period Dignity Officers should be employed to liaise and deliver to voluntary groups, who can provide users collection points
	Expand into community planning partnerships	Rainbow can do – but capacity issue
	Clarity is needed regarding who is lead for delivery	Central Government look after year 1. Do mapping and scoping before expanding. Needs flexibility. Then Rainbow deliver via Councils
	Key buildings i.e. Libraries in each area – doesn't need to be every building	Run in tandem with Education Authority model
	Inconsistent approach across 11 councils	Community/voluntary organisations shouldn't be given un-resourced projects to deliver as part of rollout/provision
	Collaborative procurement arrangement needed – CPD, EA?	Collaborative procurement arrangement needed – CPD?, EA?
	Potential gaps in this approach i.e. differences between local councils	11 Councils – 1 procurement exercise
	The role of central government liaising with voluntary sector	Ideally there will be a team created for this. Consult with existing groups who can advise on how to reach key groups. Create a Period Officer post – will ensure accountability for all.
	Unsustainable funding – is this a risk and what is the mitigation?	Many already have infrastructure in place could capitalise on this e.g. Disability Action, Rainbow, Libraries



	Voluntary & Community Sector to use Central Government as one point of contact	
	All councils on working groups i.e. Safeguarding	
	TEO to give guidance for all councils to adhere to	
	Scoping exercise – where are organisations	
	Delivery Partners are: Councils, Community and Voluntary Groups, Health Trusts, EA other Community Planning Partners	

PILLAR	KEY AREAS OF FOCUS	
	IDEA 1	IDEA 2
Types of Products (which should be available free of charge)	Choice is Important	Consideration around societal, cultural bias re products
	VIEWS AND ACTIONS	
	Basic provision pads and tampons, but choice should be available	Different cultures may have different levels of comfort with tampons. Education must be balanced with choice
	Sustainable and re-useable not necessary from Day 1 – stepped approach best	Recognising potential needs of equality groups, but meet individual needs – avoid assumptions



Choice of: Size Product Accessibility – Home or collection	Younger vs Older – Older generations level of education / comfort
Choice should include: Pads/tampons/reusables With wings Sensitive/non-scented Different flow levels Plastic v Cardboard applicators Panty liners Cup sizes Absorbencies	Campaign to ensure public buy-in why does everyone deserve free products
Basic daily needs first	Individual choice education within a group to empower them to utilise what's right for them
Meet needs of users first and foremost followed by sustainable, then reusable	Whilst reusables important the daily needs are paramount
Pilots for reusable as more costly and longer lasting	Pads may be easier for some disabled people/carers
Range and suitable for all	Pads the most requested item universally accepted
Emergency unbranded	
Planned branded	



PILLAR	KEY AREAS OF FOCUS	
	IDEA 1	IDEA 2
Frequency of Provision	Frequency demand led – trust people	Start small – see what works then consider frequency
	VIEWS AND ACTIONS	
	Don't buy branded products to deter misuse	Step approach to distribution i.e. Libraries, Leisure Centres
	Record/report, but don't police provision	Phased rollout to begin with pad/tampons, then move on to reusables
	Learning from current experts/providers	If postage is going to be incurred by user don't offer it
	Emergency and planned	Absorb postage costs as was done with Covid tests to make online delivery free of cost
	Baseline questionnaire in advance	Existing data as baseline
	Social media links to spike in demand	Data collection
	Key locations in key areas - mapping	Benchmark per capita population ie. Scotland
	No evidence of misuse in Scotland	De-sensitisation – De-stigmatisation with roll out
	Think about GDPR	Overstock locations to start with
	Restrict provision to 3 months to prevent misuse	Period Champion
	Food bank allocation	Initially limited locations
		Reusable limited stock run twice a year
		Phased roll out begin with pad/tampons then move on to reusables
		In person take what you need – Online, bulk delivery, choice, reusable.



FULL LIST OF INSIGHTS ON IDEA DEVELOPMENT ANALYSIS

PILLAR	KEY AREAS OF FOCUS	
	IDEA 1	IDEA 2
Ways in which Users of Period Products ought to be able to Obtain Period Products (free of charge)	A combination of ways - choice	Centralised NI Hub: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivered to address - Online/App - Phone - Text - Needs to be multi-lingual
	VIEWS AND ACTIONS	
	We need to phase rollout of products: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Year 1: Control number of partners - Year 2: Nothing is “free”. Who pays for postage/drivers? Needs consideration 	If administered by councils, needs a consistent approach and should be centralised
	Staged approach to meet expectations and ensure communicate re expectation	Utilise the following for stock/delivery: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Blood Transfusion mobile -Breast Cancer Bus -Disability Action Bus
	If buying online, will people still want if have to pay postage?	Pick up from designated public places for emergency use
	Online options: App; email.	App for identifying locations will be important.
	In person: Singular item, pack of...	Hub & Spokes/Satellite model could work in the first instance.



	Monitoring and evaluation necessary.	Need to do a mapping exercise at the start to identify suitable locations.
	Mapping will be crucial	Pick up to start with. Forget about postage.

PILLAR	KEY AREAS OF FOCUS	
	IDEA 1	IDEA 2
Location in which Period Products ought to be Obtainable (free of charge)	All Toilets – just like Toilet Roll	Libraries
	VIEWS AND ACTIONS	
	Consider locations by distance (to be agreed). Footfall should be monitored	Would allow stock to be available in 98 library locations across NI and in 16 mobile library units
	Rule out buildings that require payment, as that will not ensure access for all – i.e. not everyone can afford to go into gyms or leisure centres, etc.	Use of mobile libraries would also provide more access to those living in rural communities
	Locations should be asked to apply for a charter mark to be registered and go on App. They should have standards to adhere to, including training. This could generate income.	There are 2 library stores, which could be used to house stock.
	Trusted partners should be affiliated to more established organisations.	Needs transparent easy use website or App to highlight locations, with secured and manned buildings for replenishment and access.



	<p>Not feasible in all. Instead make available in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Health CentresLeisure CentresPublic toilets in:HospitalsShopping centresGalleriesTheatresMuseumsCommunity CentresBingo HallsCasinosShopsGaragesPubsRestaurantsHotelsParksArenasFootball StadiaSports GroundsGymsDentistsGovernment BuildingsAirportsFerry TerminalsFurther Ed CollegesUniversities	<p>Need to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funding• Mechanisms• Procurement <p>Could be displayed creatively.</p>
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PILLAR	KEY AREAS OF FOCUS	
	IDEA 1	IDEA 2
Other	Education/Stigma/Conservatism	Consistent branding throughout NI
	VIEWS AND ACTIONS	
	Promote and normalise through: -Social Media channels -Influencers -Champions	Rebrand and remove “poverty” – needs a positive name
	Employer education re: - Accessibility - Support - Provision	Use the term “period” not “sanitary”
	Campaign against stigma: - TV - Public Ads/Art - Online	Consider ‘Dignity v Poverty language’
	Need to educate men and boys.	Educational messaging.
	Get periods/needs out in the open.	Drive home the FREE messaging.
	Period and menopause. Positive education.	Universal logo. Period positive location.
	Promote the implementation of the Act.	Dignity V Poverty language.
	Service partner – employee awareness.	Is this service actually free? (Postage costs...)
	Get periods/needs out in the open.	Targeted Messages, e.g. groups including: LGBTQ+ Disability Languages Easy read Ages Men Women, etc.



	Period and menopause. Positive education.	Use the term “period” not “sanitary”. Don’t use this term. Stay away from euphemistic language.
		Across different medias, e.g.: Online Posters Buses, etc.
		One brand for all.
		QR code.
		Consider accessibility/language. Use video clips to highlight to all.
		Develop an animation video highlighting how you can access the products