

Birmingham City Council – Birmingham Youth Service Birmingham
Health and Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Period Poverty
5th July 2017

Information - Birmingham Youth Service

The Youth Service is an open access service available to all young people, however most of its 15 centres are based in areas of greatest need within the city. Within this open access service it delivers targeted work to respond to local need. E.g. employment, drugs, preventing violent extremism, knife crime, teenage pregnancy to different groups of young people.

The Youth Service offers a broad range of opportunities, experiences and activities relevant to the needs of young people. The work takes place in a variety of venues and environments recognising the diversity and opportunities within the City.

Youth work is based on a youth worker building a positive relationship with a young person which is based on trust and mutual respect and then using that relationship to support and develop the learning experiences and personal development of the young person.

What did we use to do?

Every youth centre would also have a supply of sanitary products in the office. This would be reliant on young women coming to ask a worker for them. The rationale for this was more about if a young woman started her period and needed a sanitary product we could help her rather than the notion of period poverty.

What are we doing now?



In response to the recent campaign around period poverty and the heightened awareness on this issue we have provided all our centres with free accessible access to sanitary products in the female toilets.

This is a pilot project as we have to look at the financial impact of this if we cannot access free sanitary products. The Service is continuing to explore opportunities to access to free products to sustain this.

Soulla Yiasouma
(Joint Head of Birmingham Youth Service)

