



**Council volunteers are making sure that free sanitary provision is still available to those who need it throughout lockdown.**

South Lanarkshire was an early champion of the Scottish Government's [Access to Free Sanitary Provision](#) scheme and made products available across its offices, centres and schools.

However, with lockdown closing all but essential places, this access risked being restricted affecting those most vulnerable in our communities.

Now, the team of almost 700 volunteers put in place by the council since lockdown began, is ensuring that this vital service is not interrupted, by arranging same or next day delivery of sanitary items on request.

This service is being undertaken alongside the pick-up and delivery of food supplies and prescriptions to hundreds of homes across South Lanarkshire.

Through a partnership with social enterprise, [Hey Girls](#), thousands of items are available for distribution in packs which include standard and night-time pads as well as applicator and regular tampons.

Explained Chair of Finance and Corporate Resources, Councillor Gladys Miller: "Our community wellbeing helpline has become a lifeline for those who are vulnerable, shielding, or experiencing financial hardship, and our volunteers have been working hard to make sure that no-one goes without any vital products.

“As well as ensuring access to food and medicines, the team can arrange delivery of sanitary products to anyone who asks, normally on the same day. Packs can be modified to the recipient’s needs on request, and supplies sent whenever needed.

“Crucially, our partnership with ‘Hey Girls’ also means that for every box supplied to the council, another is donated to girls or women in the UK living in period poverty.

“The coronavirus crisis and the current lockdown can have affected us all in one way or another, but for those who are isolated, have health or financial issues or are vulnerable, the impact has been greater. Our helpline and response as a council is firmly targeted at addressing these issues and supporting our communities through this unprecedented time.”

The [community wellbeing helpline](#) can be accessed Monday-Thursday 8:45am-4:45pm and Friday 8:45am-4:15pm on 0303 123 1009.