

**NORTH WEST CHILDRENS
SUPPORT GROUP**



INTIMATE CARE POLICY

This policy must be read in conjunction with the following NWCSG Policies:-
Safeguarding Policy, Health and Safety Policy, Moving and Handling Policy, Volunteer Code of Conduct, Whistle blowing Policy

Approved October 2011

October 2012, October 2014, October 2016

Review Date - OCTOBER 2019

POLICY STATEMENT

The North West Children's Support Group recognises that respect for children's rights must be evident in all intimate care procedures. These rights include

- The right to be treated with respect and dignity
- The right to be valued as an individual
- The right to be listened to
- The right to be kept safe

Physically disabled children and children with learning disabilities may be particularly vulnerable to abuse and NWCSG volunteers need to be aware that some adults may use the delivery of intimate care as an opportunity to abuse children.

Volunteers should be sensitive to the gender, race, culture, religion and sexual orientation of the child and should perform intimate care in a way which respects the child.

This policy has accompanying guidelines which must be followed.

If any volunteer helper experiences any difficulty in undertaking intimate care they should seek immediate advice and assistance from one of the holiday leaders.

POLICY AIMS

- To protect children and carers when intimate care is carried out
- To protect children from abuse and exploitation
- To promote good practice

DEFINITION OF INTIMATE CARE

Intimate care is that which involves any physical care or treatment which is an invasion of bodily privacy and which may be a potential source of exposure or embarrassment to the individual. Intimate care includes assistance with showering and bathing, teeth cleaning, going to the toilet, dressing, eating and taking medication.

GUIDELINES

All aspects of intimate care should:

- Be undertaken in an unhurried, sensitive manner
- Be age and development appropriate
- Respect the rights to privacy and dignity
- Be in accordance with the needs identified on the child's medical form
- Be explained to the child in advance
- Encourage the child to help him/herself as much as possible
- Take place in an appropriate environment
- Be consistent with health and safety guidance
- Should be undertaken by the minimum number of people required to carry out the task safely (protecting both the child and the helper).
These should ideally be the child's designated helpers.