

# THE NORTH WEST CHILDREN'S SUPPORT GROUP



Founded 1976

Registered Charity No 1141826

Company Limited by Guarantee 07205677

## **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

Review Date: OCTOBER 2016

## **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 no more than 2 people who should be the child's designated helpers