



Take 2 Cornwall

Intimate Care

When providing intimate care we will ensure that the young person's safety, dignity and privacy are maintained at all times.

'Intimate care' covers any task that involves the washing, touching or carrying out a procedure to intimate personal areas and is associated with bodily functions and personal hygiene, including, toileting, washing, dressing, and menstrual care.

Staff at Take 2 Cornwall who provide intimate care will do so in a professional manner. Staff are aware of safeguarding issues and will have relevant training (eg: health and safety, child/young people protection, manual handling) before providing intimate care. No young person should suffer distress or pain as a result of receiving intimate care.

Staff will work in partnership with parents or carers to provide care appropriate to the needs of the individual young person and together will produce a care plan. The care plan will set out:

- What care is required
- Number of staff needed to carry out the task (if more than one person is required, reasons will be documented)
- Additional equipment required
- Young person's preferred means of communication (eg verbal, visual)
- Young person's level of ability - what tasks they are able to carry out by themselves

Best practice

When intimate care is given, the member of staff will explain to the young person each task that is carried out, and the reasons for it. Staff will encourage the young people to do as much for themselves as they can.

If a young person requires intimate care on a regular basis, it is good practice for two members of staff to share the care between them. In this way the young person is less likely to become overly dependent on a single member of staff, and to become distressed if their usual carer is occasionally unavailable. However, parents' views on the number of staff providing personal care to their child/young person must also be taken into consideration - some young people may simply be unable to cope with more than one carer.

We have policies in place that promote safe recruitment, as well as having sound staff supervision, safeguarding and intimate care procedures; together these ensure that, should a young person need consistent care from one member of staff, the young person's safety and well-being will not be compromised.

Protecting children

Staff are familiar with guidance from the local Safeguarding Partnership (formerly the LSCB). Take 2 Cornwall's procedures reflect the guidance in *Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)* and staff are familiar with the *What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused* flowchart from this document.

If a member of staff is concerned about any physical changes to a child/young person, such as marks, bruises, soreness etc, they will inform the manager of Take 2's designated



child/young person's protection officer immediately. The procedures set out in the **Safeguarding Children/Young Person's** policy will be implemented.





Should a young person become unhappy about being cared for by a particular member of staff, the manager will investigate and record any findings. These will be discussed with the child's/young person's parents or carers in order to resolve the issue. If necessary, the manager will seek advice from outside agencies.

If a child/young person makes an allegation against a member of staff, the procedure set out in the **Safeguarding Children/Young Person's** policy will be followed.

Dealing with blood and body fluids

Blood, vomit, urine and faeces will be cleaned up immediately and disposed of safely by double bagging the waste and removing it from the premises. When they are dealing with body fluids, staff will wear personal protective clothing (disposable plastic gloves and aprons) and will wash themselves thoroughly afterwards. Soiled children's/young person's clothing will be bagged to go home - staff will not rinse it. Children/young people will be kept away from the affected area until the incident has been dealt with fully.

Staff at Take 2 Cornwall will maintain high standards of personal hygiene, and will take all practicable steps to prevent and control the spread of infection.

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Written in accordance with the *Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2021): Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements: Equal Opportunities [3.66], Child protection [3.6] and Suitable people [3.9-3.13].*