

KENT SHARED LIVES

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(25) Personal Care

It is the policy of Kent Shared Lives to ensure that the Shared Lives host provides personal care to the person placed with them in a way that meets their preferences and requirements and supports their right to privacy, dignity and respect, independence and control over their own lives.

Care should be provided as outlined in the care and support plan, the content of which should be written in accordance with the principles outlined in chapter 25 of the Care Act 2014.

1. Shared Lives will ensure that the care and support plan record the personal care that the individual will need and their preferences about how that care is to be provided and from whom.
2. Shared Lives will ensure that the Shared Lives host understands, through training and explanation, the principles underpinning the delivery of personal care and the particular personal care needs of the person to be placed with them. In particular, Shared Lives will ensure that the Shared Lives host understands:
 - The preferences and requirements of the person placed with them about the way in which personal care is delivered.
 - The health and safety implications of providing personal care and keeping themselves and the individual safe at all times
 - That personal support must be delivered in private wherever possible/appropriate
 - That times for getting up and going to bed, baths etc must be flexible (within normal family schedules)
 - Their role in providing, where needed, guidance and support regarding personal hygiene
 - Their role in supporting the individual to choose their own clothes, hairstyle, make up and grooming routines
3. Shared Lives along with the funding social work team will ensure that the Shared Lives host's home has the adaptations and equipment necessary to ensure the maximum independence of the person placed there and that the Shared Lives host has received the training necessary to use any equipment safely and effectively.
The installation of adaptations and equipment must follow assessment by a relevant professional. Shared Lives must ensure that adaptations and equipment are regularly serviced and reviewed and changed/replaced if necessary.
4. Shared Lives will ensure that the Shared Lives host has the training and support needed to meet the personal care needs of the person placed with them sensitively and effectively and that referrals are made for additional specialist support as needed.

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5. Shared Lives will ensure, through regular placement reviews and through supervision that the personal care needs of the individual continue to be met in a way that meets their wishes and needs.
6. Shared Lives Host can support to cut finger and toe nails, unless the individual has a medical need that means a qualified professional should provide this service. Any paid for service requires funding by the individual.
If the Shared Lives Host is unsure, they should seek advise or support the individual to access a qualified professional to carry out the role, such as a podiatrist.