

Balcombe Care Homes Limited

Aldersmead Care Home

Inspection report

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22 February 2022

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Ratings

Overall rating for this service

Inspected but not rated

Is the service safe?

Inspected but not rated

Summary of findings

Overall summary

Aldersmead Care Home is situated in Bognor Regis, West Sussex. The service provides personal and nursing care for up to 38 older people living with physical health care needs such as stroke or diabetes and people who are living with dementia. There were 31 people using the service at the time of inspection.

We found the following examples of good practice.

The service was clean and hygienic and there were cleaning schedules in place for people's rooms and shared spaces. We observed cleaning taking place during the inspection in line with best practice guidance. 'High touch' areas were regularly cleaned, and cleaning records reviewed daily to ensure schedules had been met and any concerns could be addressed. The building was generally well maintained and easy to keep clean. The registered manager told us how they were in the process of replacing carpets in the home with washable flooring.

There were robust laundry systems in place to ensure contaminated laundry was kept separate from other laundry and was washed at a suitable temperature to reduce the risk of the spread of infection. The registered manager told us staff uniforms were laundered in the home in a designated washing machine. There were personal protective equipment (PPE) stations throughout the home. We observed staff using PPE appropriately. Staff had received training and kept up to date with changes in guidance.

The home was following current visiting guidance. During the recent outbreak of COVID-19 relatives were kept informed and staff supported people to use video and audio call to keep in touch. Essential Care Giver and end of life visits continued in line with guidance through the outbreak.

Staff supported people to be vaccinated. Everyone had had both vaccinations and the vaccine booster. All staff had been vaccinated. We observed people confident to be supported by staff wearing PPE.

The five questions we ask about services and what we found

We always ask the following five questions of services.

Is the service safe?

Further information is in the detailed findings below.

Inspected but not rated

Aldersmead Care Home

Detailed findings

Background to this inspection

We carried out this inspection under Section 60 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 as part of our regulatory functions. This inspection was planned to check whether the provider is meeting the legal requirements and regulations associated with the Health and Social Care Act 2008.

As part of CQC's response to care homes with outbreaks of COVID-19, we are conducting reviews to ensure that the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) practice is safe and that services are compliant with IPC measures. This was a targeted inspection looking at the IPC practices the provider has in place. We also asked the provider about any staffing pressures the service was experiencing and whether this was having an impact on the service.

This inspection took place on 22 February 2022 and was unannounced.

Is the service safe?

Our findings

Staffing

- The registered manager told us they had measures in place to mitigate the risks associated with COVID-19 related staff pressures

How well are people protected by the prevention and control of infection?

- We were assured that the provider was preventing visitors from catching and spreading infections.
- We were assured that the provider was meeting shielding and social distancing rules.
- We were assured that the provider was admitting people safely to the service.
- We were assured that the provider was using PPE effectively and safely.
- We were assured that the provider was accessing testing for people using the service and staff.
- We were assured that the provider was promoting safety through the layout and hygiene practices of the premises.
- We were assured that the provider was making sure infection outbreaks can be effectively prevented or managed.
- We were assured that the provider's infection prevention and control policy was up to date.

From 11 November 2021 registered persons must make sure all care home workers and other professionals visiting the service are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, unless they have an exemption or there is an emergency.

- The Government has announced its intention to change the legal requirement for vaccination in care homes, but the service was meeting the current requirement to ensure non-exempt staff and visiting professionals were vaccinated against COVID-19.