

Mr & Mrs R Tarrant

Cromarty House

Inspection report

11 Priory Road
Bodmin
Cornwall
PL31 2AF

Tel: 0120878607

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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

Cromarty House is a small family run care home for a maximum of eight younger adults with physical and learning disabilities.

We found the following examples of good practice.

The service had sufficient supplies of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) available. Signage was in place throughout the service regarding the requirements for wearing PPE and included doffing and donning of PPE safely. Additional information was provided on what PPE needed to be worn when a person was assessed as being at higher risk of infection.

Staff came to work wearing their own clothes then changed into their uniforms in a designated doffing and donning room. This was a separate building therefore this helped to reduce the risk of infection because staff did not enter areas of the home, where people lived, until wearing appropriate PPE.

The registered manager and staff had worked closely with external healthcare professionals to enable people to have access to the appropriate health care and equipment.

The service was clean and hygienic. Cleaning schedules had been updated to provide additional protection and additional schedules were in place in case of any outbreaks of Covid-19. Audits had been completed to ensure all infection control risks were minimised and people were kept safe. There were supplies of anti-bacterial wipes around the service to enable staff to clean surfaces and any areas, including bathrooms, they had used. There were posters around the service to prompt and remind staff about the infection control procedures in place. All high contact areas were cleaned regularly throughout the day and night staff also had a cleaning routine.

Procedures were in place regarding self-isolation for people and staff, if they showed symptoms of Covid-19. There had been no new admissions since the start of Covid-19. Specific Covid-19 policies had also been developed to provide guidance for staff about how to respond to the pandemic and the outbreak. A practice run had been carried out to ensure the service was prepared for an outbreak. Policies were kept under continuous review as changes to government guidance was published.

Since the new Covid-19 restriction for visitors had been changed the service had developed new guidance. This included two designated visitors for each person living in the service. All visitors were required to make appointments and a designated room in the garden was made available for visitors and people living in the service. Friends and families were provided with the updated policy detailing the new restrictions. Where visiting was required for compassionate reasons, suitable infection control procedures were in place. Visitors were screened for Covid-19 prior to entering the service. Visitors were required to wear PPE at all times.

People were supported to speak with their friends and family using IT and the telephone as necessary.

Appropriate testing procedures for Covid-19 had been implemented for all staff and people who used the service and followed national guidance regarding the frequency and type of testing. Arrangements had been made to enable people and staff to access the vaccine. The service had provided extra support for one person who had been reluctant to have the vaccine.

Infection control policies and procedures had been updated in line with the national guidance relating to Covid-19. Staff had completed online infection prevention and control and Covid-19 training. The registered manager had completed additional Covid-19 training and passed this training onto staff. Infection control competency checks were carried out. The registered manager worked with all staff to ensure infection prevention and control measures were followed.

The service was a small family run home and the registered manager had been well supported by all staff within the home. Agency staff were not used, and staff covered and supported each other when shifts required filling to cover leave or other absences.

The registered manager had completed risk assessments regarding the environment and risks to staff and people who used the service. The registered manager was aware of people who used the service and staff members who were at increased risk from Covid-19. Risk assessments had been completed to support higher risk people and staff.

The provider had a detailed contingency plan to manage any outbreak of Covid-19.

The five questions we ask about services and what we found

We always ask the following five questions of services.

Is the service safe?

Inspected but not rated.

Inspected but not rated

Cromarty House

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 the COVID-19 pandemic we are looking at the preparedness of care homes in relation to infection prevention and control. This was a targeted inspection looking at the infection control and prevention measures the provider has in place.

This inspection took place on 8 April 2021 and was announced.

Is the service safe?

Our findings

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.