

Oakdown House Limited

Oakdown House

Inspection report

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Burwash Common
East Sussex
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14 December 2020

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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

Oakdown House is a residential home providing accommodation and personal care for up to 45 people. People were living with a range of learning disabilities and health issues including diabetes and epilepsy. The service provides accommodation in four buildings on the same site. At the time of the inspection there were 42 people living at the home, this included three people who were currently in hospital.

Immediately following the inspection, we received some information of concern about infection control and prevention measures. These concerns were acknowledged and explored. To respond to these concerns, we looked at the evidence being reviewed as part of the inspection and were satisfied that Infection Prevention Control (IPC) practice is being followed.

We found the following examples of good practice.

Oakdown House was separated into four buildings. Each unit had its own dedicated staff team to try to contain the outbreak of Covid-19. Staff had worked hard to support people's wellbeing during the pandemic by providing in-house activities and also spent time with people to help ensure they did not feel isolated. People who had tested positive for Covid-19 were cared for, as far as possible, in their bedrooms to minimise the risk of spreading the virus. Not everyone living at Oakdown House understood the need to safely socially distance due to their learning disability. Staff provided support and guidance to help minimise risk of cross infection as much as possible.

There were adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies in the service. This was located at designated points in communal areas and throughout the home to ensure staff had access to required PPE at all times. We observed staff donning, doffing and wearing PPE appropriately.

The registered manager was currently managing the home remotely, supported by the director and managing director who were both working at the home. The home had experienced pressures relating to staffing due to Covid-19. Staffing levels were being reviewed daily as part of the contingency plan being implemented by management. Staff had changed their usual work patterns and bank staff had been used to cover shifts to ensure people remained safe. The management were aware of the pressures this had put on staff and acknowledged this had impacted on staff wellbeing. Support was provided for staff this included wellbeing checks and access to designated mental health first aiders.

The home was clean and tidy and had designated cleaning staff. Housekeeping and care staff were documenting cleaning being carried out within the home. All staff ensured regular disinfection of frequently touched surfaces of the home for example handrails and bannisters.

The registered manager had followed current guidance in relation to infection prevention and control. The home was currently closed to non-essential visitors and admissions. Measures had been implemented to ensure people entering the home did so following current guidance regarding PPE and social distancing.

This included temperatures being taken on arrival and PPE being used. Further measures had been implemented to protect people and staff. For example, staff were no longer able to share computers, and hand held devices used to document care and support provided were disinfected.

Regular Covid-19 testing was taking place regularly for people and staff. Staff had access to guidance and policies regarding Covid-19 and infection prevention and control. The registered manager and directors carried out a number of competency checks and audits in relation to infection prevention and control and implemented any actions identified.

Further information is in the detailed findings below.

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

Oakdown 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 care homes with outbreaks of coronavirus, we are conducting reviews to ensure that the Infection Prevention and Control practice was safe and the service was compliant with IPC measures. This was a targeted inspection looking at the IPC practices the provider has in place.

This inspection took place on 14 December 2020 and was announced.

Is the service safe?

Our findings

S5 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.