

Ashamber Homes Limited

Amber House - Didcot

Inspection report

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25 January 2022

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Ratings

Overall rating for this service	Inspected but not rated
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Is the service safe?	Inspected but not rated
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Summary of findings

Overall summary

Amber House is a care home for up to six people who have been discharged from hospital and who require care, support and accommodation for mental health issues. At the time of our inspection five people were using the service.

We found the following examples of good practice.

Safe arrangements were in place for professionals visiting the service. This included a confirmed negative lateral flow device test result, proof of vaccination against COVID-19, the requirement to show a COVID-19 pass, hand sanitisation and wearing personal protective equipment (PPE).

The service was clean and fresh, staff carried out a regular cleaning schedule. Regular infection control audits took place and actions had been followed up when required.

Staff had received training on infection prevention and control guidance. This included updates on the use of PPE and how to put it on, take it off and dispose safely. There was a programme of training refreshers to ensure staff knowledge was kept up to date.

The management were aware of zoning guidelines but did not need to implement it as no people were COVID-19 confirmed or suspected in this location.

The provider ensured there was a sufficient stock of personal protective equipment (PPE) and the vetted supplier ensured it complied with the quality standards. Staff had infection control training and understood the correct donning and doffing procedure.

The registered manager considered risks and impact of an outbreak on staff and people using the service. Everyone had an individual COVID-19 related risk assessment in place which were reviewed regularly by the registered manager during monthly audit checks.

Regular testing for COVID-19 was conducted for both people living at the service and staff.

The provider ensured people's relatives were able to stay in touch with people. For example, by using technology and through safe, face to face visits in well ventilated spaces and outdoors, then as restrictions were lifted, through visits in line with Government guidance.

There was a comprehensive contingency plan of what to do in case of an outbreak.

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

Amber House - Didcot

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 how services manage infection control and visiting arrangements. This was a targeted inspection looking at the infection prevention and control measures the provider had 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 25/01/2022 and was announced. We gave the service two days' notice of the inspection.

Is the service safe?

Our findings

Staffing

- The provider 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.
- We were assured the provider was facilitating visits for people living in the home in accordance with the current guidance.

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 service was meeting the requirement to ensure non-exempt staff and visiting professionals were vaccinated against COVID-19.