

Rowlandson House Ltd

Rowlandson House

Inspection report

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Overall summary

Rowlandson House provides personal care and accommodation for up to 27 older people including people living with dementia. The accommodation is over three floors which are accessible by a passenger lift and stairs. The home is located near to the city centre of Sunderland. There were 15 people using the service when we visited.

At the last inspection of this care home, which was carried out on 11 December 2014, we found some shortfalls in the premises that could present a risk to the people who lived there. These included unsuitable window restrictors that could easily be removed from windows. Also a chrome towel rail in a shower room had a hot surface temperature so could scald someone. Other defects included a window in a lounge that would not shut fully causing a draught, and a very poor odour in a cupboard. These issues were a breach of regulation 15 of

the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2010, which corresponds to regulation 12 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014.

After the inspection the provider wrote to us to say what they would do to meet legal requirements. We carried out an unannounced focused inspection to check whether the provider had followed their plan and to confirm that they now met the legal requirement. This report only covers our findings in relation to that requirement. You can read the report from our last comprehensive inspection, by selecting the 'all reports' link for Rowlandson House on our website at www.cqc.org.uk.

During this inspection visit we found that work had been carried out to address all the premises issues. This meant the provider had met the assurances they had given in their action plan and were no longer in breach of the regulation.

Summary of findings

The five questions we ask about services and what we found

We always ask the following five questions of services.

Is the service safe?

The service was safe. Action had been taken to address the shortfalls in the building to make sure it was a safe place for people to live. The provider had also begun make a number of other improvements to the premises as part of a wider refurbishment plan.

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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, to look at the overall quality of the service, and to provide a rating for the service under the Care Act 2014.

We undertook an unannounced focused inspection of Rowlandson House on 18 June 2015. This inspection was to check that improvements had been made to meet a legal requirement relating to premises shortfalls. We inspected the service against one of the five questions we ask about services: Is the service safe?

The inspection was undertaken by an adult social care inspector. During the inspection we spoke with the operations manager, a senior care worker and looked around the building.

Is the service safe?

Our findings

At the last inspection of this home we found defects to the premises that presented potential risks to the people who lived there. These included unsuitable window restrictors to first and second floor bedrooms, which could easily be removed from the window frames. Also a ground floor shower room had a chrome towel rail with a very hot surface temperature which could cause a scalding risk to the people if they touched it. A window in one lounge did not fit into the frame so there was a significant draught in this room. The medicines storage cupboard had a very poor odour coming from an exposed wastepipe which could have affected the staff using this cupboard. These matters were a breach of Regulation 15 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2010, which corresponds to regulation 12 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014.

We reviewed the action plan the provider sent to us following our comprehensive inspection in December 2014. We found the provider had met the assurances they had given in the action plan in order to become compliant with the regulation.

During this visit we looked around the building to check what actions had been made to address the safety defects.

We found that all the bedroom windows had been fitted with new window restrictors. The new window restrictors were lockable and we discussed with the operations manager ways in which the provider must ensure that these remain locked at all times.

The chrome towel rail in the ground floor shower room had been disconnected so could not heat up. This meant it was no longer a scalding hazard. The defective window in the lounge had been replaced, so no longer caused a draught. The odour issue to a medicines store cupboard had been resolved, the waste pipe removed and new flooring provided. In this way improvements had been made to the premises which meant the building was safe for the accommodation of the people who lived there. This meant the provider was no longer in breach of the relevant regulation.

The operations manager described the planned refurbishment to the building that was taking place during this visit. This would result in brand new lounge areas so that people could sit in smaller groups and also have a quiet lounge to relax in. The operations manager told us that the refurbishment of the home would also result in improved dementia design to support the orientation of people who were living with dementia.