

Gateshead Council

Blaydon Lodge

Inspection report

Shibdon Road
Blaydon On Tyne
Tyne and Wear
NE21 5AS

Tel: 01914336360

Date of inspection visit:
10 February 2022

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23 March 2022

Ratings

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Overall rating for this service | Inspected but not rated |
| Is the service safe? | Inspected but not rated |

Summary of findings

Overall summary

Blaydon Lodge is a 'care home' which provides accommodation and personal care in the form of a short break and respite care package, to a maximum of two service users at any one time.

We found the following examples of good practice.

- The registered manager had identified, assessed and mitigated all COVID-19 related risks to people, staff and visitors. The registered manager had enhanced the provider's quality and assurance systems to make sure all aspects of infection prevention and control were monitored and regularly reviewed.
- The registered manager had an effective monitoring system in place to check that the service was following government guidance and the provider's own policies.
- Staff were confident and knowledgeable about government guidance and what visitors were required to do prior to entering the service. Professional visitors were required to provide a negative lateral flow test result from that day. Visiting professionals and staff provided evidence of their vaccination status to the registered manager before entering the service.
- People were encouraged and supported to leave the service to access the local community. Relatives were able to visit their family members if needed during the person's short-term respite stay.
- Staff wore appropriate PPE and had access to this throughout the home. Staff had received additional training during the pandemic about correct PPE usage and infection prevention and control from the provider.

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

Blaydon Lodge

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 10 February 2022 and was announced. We gave the service 1 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.
- The provider was following government guidance in relation to visitors at the home and for people visiting out of it.
- People were encouraged to leave the service to access the local community. Risk assessments were in place to mitigate any potential risks relating to COVID-19.
- All visitors were required to provide a negative lateral flow test before entering the home. Professional visitors were required to show evidence that they had received both doses of a vaccine to protect against COVID-19.

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.