

Southampton City Council

# Respite Unit for Adults with Learning Disabilities

## Inspection report

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10 February 2021

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22 March 2021

## 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

The service is a residential unit, which offers short stays for respite care, to up to four people with learning disabilities. During the pandemic, the service has usually had one person to stay at a time, unless there was an emergency or people were related. At the time of the inspection there was one person staying at the service.

We found the following examples of good practice.

People's care plans detailed their usual body temperature range, as well as any triggers which might cause their temperature to increase, for example, a urinary tract infection. People's temperature was taken twice a day.

People had detailed risk assessments regarding COVID-19.

Staff followed procedures for keeping the building clean, which included cleaning of surfaces, door handles and light switches. Staff were trained to use a 'fogging' machine to clean the bedroom when the person finished their short stay. A different bedroom was used for the next person if possible and there was a gap of several hours between one person leaving the service and the next person coming in.

Staff maintained social distancing. Where people using the service had previously liked a lot of physical reassurance, for example, by hugging staff, they had been taught techniques to 'self hug'.

## 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**

# Respite Unit for Adults with Learning Disabilities

## **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 coronavirus 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 10 February 2021 and was announced.

# Is the service safe?

## Our findings

- At the time of inspection, we were not assured the provider was admitting people safely to the service. The registered manager had sought relevant guidance, however, the government had not published guidance specific to this type of service. Therefore, guidance for admissions into care homes should be followed in the absence of specific guidance, which states people must be tested for COVID-19 before entering a service. People were not tested routinely for COVID-19 before they stayed at the service. Some people requested to take a test during their stay, along with the staff, and did so. However, some people were known to be unable to consent to the test and some could become distressed. Since the inspection, the registered manager had amended the admission procedure to include routine testing for people using the respite service. Where people had not accepted a test, staff worked with them to support them in understanding the process and more people had accepted the test. In addition, the service was usually used by one person at a time which meant they were effectively isolating within the service. Where there had been two unrelated people using the service at the same time, an upstairs self-contained area had been used.
- We were somewhat assured that the provider was accessing testing for people using the service and staff. As noted above, some people had not been tested before using the service. However, staff were taking three tests a week.
- 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 using PPE effectively and safely.
- 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 have also signposted the provider to resources to develop their approach.