

Hertfordshire County Council

St Michaels House

Inspection report

71 Holwell Road
Welwyn Garden City
Hertfordshire
AL7 3SF

Date of inspection visit:
20 October 2020

Date of publication:
30 November 2020

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

We found the following examples of good practice.

- The service was clean and hygienic. The unit had not been used previously and was planned to open for people who were tested positive for COVID-19. To ensure the unit met the characteristics of a designated service the provider had to install a safety lock on a door leading to the main home. This was to ensure the unit could be isolated. We received confirmation from the provider that this work was being carried out.
- The environment was well organised with staff changing area, including laundry facilities. All bedrooms had fire doors opening to a patio area outside. This meant that people who were admitted could access their bedroom from outside without having to go into the unit. There was enough Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and staff had training in Infection control and correct wear of PPE according to national guidance.
- The service was accepting professional visitors to the service with robust infection control procedures in place. Visitors could access the unit through a separate entrance.
- Risks to staff in relation to their health, safety and well-being had been thoroughly assessed. The registered manager told us when the unit opens individual risk assessments will be carried out for each person who was admitted.
- The provider had developed robust policies, procedures and guidance for the location which the registered manager and manager had successfully implemented at the location.

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?

We were assured that this service met good infection prevention and control guidelines as a designated care setting.

Inspected but not rated

St Michaels 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.

This was a targeted inspection looking at the infection control and prevention measures the provider has in place. As part of CQC's response to the coronavirus pandemic we are conducting a review of infection control and prevention measures in care homes.

The service had been identified for use by the Local Authority as a designated care setting in response to the Winter Plan for people discharged from hospital with a positive COVID-19 status. This inspection was to ensure that the service was compliant with infection control and prevention measures.

This inspection took place on 20 October 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.