

Mrs L Whitehouse

St Brigas Residential Home For Adults with Learning Disabilities

Inspection report

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Date of inspection visit:
08 February 2022

Date of publication:
09 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

St Brigas Residential Home For Adults with Learning Disabilities is a residential care home providing personal care to up to 17 people with a learning disability. At the time of the inspection the service was supporting 16 people.

We found the following examples of practice that required improving

During our inspection we found some improvements were required to how Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was disposed of. As not all clinical waste bins were pedal bin types. This meant people and staff could be exposed to a risk of cross infection. People during our inspection did not always have access to paper hand towels. Staff were responsible for ensuring paper hand towels were topped up when supplies run out. Records confirmed staff had been re-filling paper towel dispensers daily however on the day of our inspection we found not all communal bathrooms and toilets had paper hand towels available for people to use.

We found the following examples of good practice

People were being supported by staff who had received training in infection prevention control. People were supported by staff who had a good understanding of how to use (PPE) safely. Throughout the home staff had access to personal protective equipment and hand sanitiser. People were encouraged to wear a surgical face mask whilst attending activities or within the local community. Risk assessments had been completed identifying individual risks relating to Covid-19 and how their care and support should be provided whilst accessing their local community.

People were supported to keep in regular contact with their loved ones. This was through phone calls, newsletters, emails, face to face meetings and home visits. People and relatives were happy with the visiting arrangements in place. One person when asked if they speak to their family, replied, "Yes, my dad". Another person said, "I speak to my mum". One relative told us, "I've been to visit, they keep us up to date. Very very pleased. Very good can't fault them".

Another relative told us, "They put a visiting pod back last year, that worked well". Another relative said, "The key worker kept me up to date. Fabulous can't fault them". Risk assessments and policies were in place for visiting.

Systems were in place to ensure visitors and health care professional visits were undertaken in line with government guidance. This included showing a negative lateral flow test, having their temperature checked and asking if the visitor or health care professional could have been exposed to Covid-19 in the last 2 weeks. One health care professional told us, "There is a procedure in place to check vaccination status and lateral flow testing". Records confirmed these checks were completed by the service.

People were happy with their care and support. One person when asked if they were happy living at St Brigas Residential Home For Adults with Learning Disabilities replied, "Yes". Another person when asked if

they felt safe, told us, "Yes". People and staff had received their Covid-19 and flu vaccinations. Where people lacked capacity to make decisions relating to vaccines, best interest decisions had been made with relevant health professionals and or family members. Relatives confirmed their views had also been sought. One relative told us, "They kept me updated and asked me about [Name] having their vaccines and flu jab. I was really glad".

People were supported by regular staff who knew them well. Staff were flexible at undertaking additional shifts if the situation arose. Staff morale was good, and staff felt supported by the management team. One member of staff told us, "Moral is really good. Staff support is really good, we've all pulled together". Another member of staff told us, "We're really lucky. We don't use agency staff".

The five questions we ask about services and what we found

We always ask the following five questions of services.

Is the service safe?

Inspected not rated

At our last inspection we rated this key question Good. We have not reviewed the rating as we have not looked at all of the key question at this inspection.

Inspected but not rated

St Brigas Residential Home 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 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 8 February 2022 and was announced. We gave the service short 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 somewhat assured that the provider was preventing visitors from catching and spreading infections. However, on the day of the inspection we identified not all clinical bins were pedal bin types. This is important as used Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should be disposed of in a pedal bin to prevent to risk of cross contamination with staff touching flip top lids. We raised this with the registered manager for them to action.
- 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. However, on the day of the inspection we identified some bathrooms required paper towels to be re-filled. Staff were responsible for ensuring paper towels were re-filled. Records confirmed staff were re-filling bathroom stocks throughout the day. We raised this with the registered manager who took action during our inspection.
- We were assured that the provider's infection prevention and control policy was up to date.
- 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 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.