

Congress House Limited

Blue Cedars

Inspection report

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Date of inspection visit:
22 January 2021

Date of publication:
19 February 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

Blue Cedars is a residential care home which provides accommodation and support to up to six people with a learning disability and or autism. The home has two floors which is accessible by a lift. People have their own room and en-suite and access to a range of communal spaces such as the lounge and dining areas.

We were assured that the provider had implemented most aspects of national guidance into practice and people and staff were appropriately protected against the risk of the spread of COVID-19. However, we found the provider's IPC policies and records of procedures were not always up to date. We have asked the provider to review and update their IPC governance.

We found the following examples of good practice.

The provider had made necessary changes to the service to protect people from the risk of the spread of COVID-19. This included review of communal areas and people's individual routines such as mealtimes and implementing personal protective equipment stations throughout the home.

The provider had installed a "visitors pod" to facilitate safe visits for people and their loved ones. This was a designated space which allowed people to have visitors at the home and included safety measures such as appropriate screening and ventilation to reduce the risk of transmission of viruses. Visitors were also required to pre-book appointments and completed a range of screening questions on arrival at the service.

The provider ensured there was ample supply of appropriate personal protective equipment, and we observed staff using this in line with national guidance. Staff monitored people's wellbeing which included daily temperature and oxygen level checks. The registered manager discussed how these supported staff to be aware of and respond to any changes in people's presentation and wellbeing where people may not be able to communicate their needs.

People and staff were supported appropriately to have access to regular testing in line with national guidelines and staff were able to access the COVID-19 vaccination programme.

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

Blue Cedars

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 22 January 2021 with a site visit and was announced. We completed a virtual follow up review of information with the Registered Manager on 04 February 2021.

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 using personal protective equipment (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 making sure infection outbreaks can be effectively prevented or managed.
- We were somewhat assured that the provider was promoting safety through the layout and hygiene practices of the premises. We observed good hygiene practices were in place. However, some staff had not completed all of the provider's required training including the use of PPE. The registered manager was addressing this.
- We found the provider's infection prevention and control (IPC) policies and procedures were not always up to date. They did not consistently include information on the measures that had been implemented at the service to keep people and staff safe. The registered manager provided assurances that IPC governance would be reviewed and actioned as a priority.

We have also signposted the provider to resources to develop their approach.