

Footsteps Medical Care Limited

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Inspection report

The Byre, Allastone Court Farm
Court Road
Lydney
Gloucestershire
GL15 5SR

Tel: 01594844244

Date of inspection visit:
10 February 2022

Date of publication:
18 February 2022

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 care home, known both as 'The Byre' or 'Footsteps', providing personal care for up to five to adults living with a learning disability. The Byre is an adapted bungalow in a residential area.

We found the following examples of good practice.

A variety of safe visiting options were available and thorough checks were completed before visitors entered the service. An additional staff member had been rostered to enable weekly garden visits for one person when their relative could not use public transport.

People were supported to maintain social distancing through effective use of communal and personal spaces, staggered activities and relaxation periods.

There had been no vacancies at the service during the pandemic. Staff followed national guidance to ensure one person returned from hospital safely.

Staff wore facemasks correctly and consistently during our visit. Staff said they supported each other to maintain high standards in use of PPE.

Testing was carried out in-line with national guidance.

Flooring and furniture had been replaced to facilitate effective hygiene practices. A deep cleaning and surface cleaning programme was followed daily.

There had been no outbreaks at the service. Staff were supported to isolate on full-pay when a risk was identified.

Management plans, policies and procedures reflected best practice to support staff in minimising transmission risks and responding safely to outbreaks. The registered manager kept staff and relatives informed of changes to national requirements.

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

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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 48 hours 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.

Visiting in care homes

- One person's relative was tested alongside staff as an essential care giver which allowed them to visit with minimal restrictions. Other visitors used the purpose built visiting pod with external access and a wall to ceiling clear barrier onto the lounge. The pod allowed visits to take place with minimal disruption to people, within a comfortable and familiar place. During their visits, relatives saw people interacting with staff and engaged in everyday activities. Window and garden visits and video calls were also supported.

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.