

Tinkers Hatch Limited

Tinkers Hatch

Inspection report

New Pond Hill Cross In hand
Heathfield
East Sussex
TN21 0LX

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Date of inspection visit:
10 February 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

Tinkers Hatch is a care home providing accommodation and personal care for 32 people living with a learning disability or autism. There were 19 people living at the home at the time of the inspection.

We found the following examples of good practice.

The home was clean and tidy. There was regular cleaning throughout the day, and this included high-touch areas. During the outbreak an external cleaning company had taken over the day to day cleaning of the home. Staff told us this had worked well. Staff and people received regular testing in line with government guidelines.

Staff were provided with adequate supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) and were seen to be wearing this. Information about PPE was displayed around the home. Staff risk assessments had been completed and these included information about what was required to keep them safe.

During the outbreak, as far as possible, people who had tested positive for Covid-19, were unwell or self-isolating were cared for in their own rooms to minimise the risk of spreading the virus. Tinkers Hatch includes a main house and a cottage. During the outbreak people from the main house and cottage have been kept separate. There were designated staff teams for each area.

During the outbreak the provider had contracted a meals service to provide people's main meals. One person told us, "The meals were really good, it was like having a picnic in my room every day."

At the time of the inspection the isolation period had passed and people were able to move around their own areas of the home freely. Due to their learning disabilities people did not always understand the need to socially distance. We saw people engaging in a variety of activities with staff.

The registered manager was aware of the impact Covid-19 had and were aware it would take time for people and staff to fully recover both physically and mentally. They told us they were planning a celebration for when Tinkers Hatch left the outbreak period.

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

Tinkers Hatch

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 care homes with outbreaks of coronavirus, we are conducting reviews to ensure that the Infection Prevention and Control practice was safe and the service was compliant with IPC measures. This was a targeted inspection looking at the IPC practices the provider has in place.

This inspection took place on 10 January 2021 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.

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