

The Orders Of St. John Care Trust

Apple Trees Care & Reablement Centre

Inspection report

Arlington Gardens
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22 October 2020

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Ratings

Overall rating for this service	Inspected but not rated
Is the service safe?	Inspected but not rated

Summary of findings

Overall summary

Apple Trees Care and Reablement Centre is a care home registered for 64 older people including people living with dementia. The home is split into four households with 16 bedrooms in each. At the time of our inspection 48 people were using the service.

We found the following examples of good practice.

- The service had developed a dedicated unit with en-suite rooms to care safely for people who were admitted to the service with Covid-19. The area had its own access and was able to be separated from the rest of the home. Measures were in place to keep people safe and well cared for, and to reduce the risk of infection spread to other areas. For example, staff only worked in this unit and did not access other areas of the service.
- Enhanced cleaning schedules including regular cleaning of touch areas such as handrails and door handles were in place. This reduced the risk of cross infection. Additional equipment had been purchased to enhance infection control measures. For example, portable handwashing stations, decontamination devices which neutralized rooms and soft furnishings and a machine that was able to determine how clean an area was by measuring bacteria.
- People were able to access the garden which had a specific 'covid secure' garden area which enable people who tested positive for covid to still enjoy the outdoors without placing anyone else at risk.
- Changes to staff practice throughout the pandemic period included staff not working across different floors and having access to different exit and entry routes. This reduced the risk of infection spread. Staff had received additional training in infection prevent and control and the use of PPE.
- Staff employed by the service did not work in any other care setting. This meant the risk of cross infection was reduced. A team of bank staff were used to cover vacant shifts as far as possible.
- The provider was proactive in keeping up to date with best practice guidance and had been involved in pilot schemes to assist with advancement in technology, infection control and covid testing.
- The infection prevention and control policy was up to date. People and staff had risk assessments in place to identify their individual risks associated with Covid-19. This meant protective measures could be put in place to keep people and staff safe.

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

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 the service were following safe infection prevention and control procedures to keep people safe.

Inspected but not rated

Apple Trees Care & Reablement Centre

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 22 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.