

The London Borough of Hillingdon

Merrimans Respite Care Unit

Inspection report

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28 October 2020

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20 November 2020

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

Merriman's Respite Unit provides short term accommodation and personal care over two floors for adults with a range of needs including, physical and learning disabilities in order to give their carers a break from their caring responsibilities. The London Borough of Hillingdon had designated one unit for people with learning disabilities who might need respite care having been tested as COVID 19 positive. This designated care setting would offer support to two people in a separate environment to the rest of the service.

We found the following examples of good practice.

- ☐ Bedrooms in the designated care setting had en-suite bathrooms to help promote good infection prevention and control practices.
- ☐ The designated care setting was uncluttered and clean. The area had its own equipment and an arrangement had been made to safely provide, meals, snacks and drinks to people.
- ☐ The designated care setting had access to outside space so people could spend time in fresh air.
- The designated setting would provide tailored person-centred activities to people in their own bedrooms.
- ☐ There were cleaning schedules in place with daily record sheets and monthly infection control which were audited by the management team.
- ☐ The designated care setting was clearly identified. The unit was not physically separate from the rest of the home but the doors in between were closed and accessed by key-codes. Arrangements for entry and exit were safe.
- Staff breaks were managed appropriately to support social distancing and to ensure adequate staff cover in the unit.

We were assured of the provider's safe management of infection, prevention and control. However, the service was not suitable for the purposes of a designated setting because, plans had not been agreed to confirm a designated staff team and some repair works to maintain good infection control were not yet completed.

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

Merrimans Respite Care Unit

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 28 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 staff.
- We were assured the provider was using a variety of methods to support accessible information to help people understand how to keep safe during the pandemic.

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