

Mrs Karen Bradley

# Links Lodge

## Inspection report

16 Links Road  
Blackpool  
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Tel: 01253354744

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11 February 2022

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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

Links Lodge is a detached house situated in a residential area of North Shore, Blackpool. The home is registered to accommodate up to 10 adults, with a learning disability who require assistance with personal care. At the time of the inspection six people lived at the home. The home specialises in supporting people with learning disabilities who are living with dementia. Most rooms were single occupancy, with one double room available for those wishing to share facilities. Some rooms had en-suite bathrooms, and communal bathing facilities and toilets were available throughout the home.

We found the following examples of good practice.

The provider had dedicated staff to ensure people were admitted safely and continued to be supported in the service in accordance with national guidance. Infection prevention and control (IPC) policies and procedures were kept under review. We found safe processes were in place and appropriate action had been taken. The local commissioner's IPC team was providing advice and support when required.

Social media systems such as computer systems, 'face time' access were used to facilitate contact between people and their relatives. One relative said, "They have kept me informed all along and with regular visits, it is a fantastic place." The registered manager was facilitating safe visiting in line with government guidance.

During our visit we observed the staff using Personal Protective Equipment, (PPE) safely. The registered manager told us sufficient stocks of PPE were available and we confirmed this on the visit.

People living at Links Lodge and staff were tested regularly for COVID-19. There were no staff employed who had not been vaccinated as now required.

The home was clean and hygienic. Cleaning schedules were in place and PPE stations in each of the rooms. Staff carried out regular checks of the environment and cleanliness and any issues would be addressed.

## 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**

# Links Lodge

## **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 11 February 2022 and was announced. We gave the service 24 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.

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.