

# Community Housing and Therapy

# Highams Lodge

## Inspection report

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## Ratings

Overall rating for this service	Inspected but not rated
Is the service safe?	<b>Inspected but not rated</b>

# Summary of findings

## Overall summary

Highams Lodge is a 'care home'. People in care homes receive accommodation and nursing or personal care as a single package under one contractual agreement. CQC regulates both the premises and the care provided, and both were looked at during this inspection. Highams Lodge accommodates up to 15 adults in one adapted building. The service provided support to people with complex mental health needs and substance misuse issues within a therapeutic environment. This is a step-down service to prepare people with the necessary life skills before moving on to more independent living. At the time of our inspection 14 people were using the service.

We found the following examples of good practice.

- The service had a screening process for visitors when entering the building, including temperature checks and provision of personal protective equipment (PPE). As well as wearing a mask, all visitors were required to wear a disposable apron before entering the main communal areas and use a hand sanitiser, which helped to reduce the risks of spreading infection.
- People isolating were supported in creative ways to ensure they were able to continue to receive the support they needed and reduce the spread of infection. This included, providing meals to people in their rooms and supporting them to maintain their well-being through individual activities.
- Staff were supported to travel safely to and from work using a private minicab service, to avoid the use of public transport and reduce the risks associated with Covid-19 and spreading infection.
- Staff and people using the service took part in regular weekly testing for Covid-19. Additionally, staff carried out lateral flow testing twice a week, which enabled them to receive test results within 15-30 minutes. This helped the service to reduce the risk of spreading infection and allowed them to closely monitor and act immediately to ensure government guidelines can be followed where positive test results were discovered.
- The service conducted regular fogging cleaning (professional antiviral disinfectant sprayed using a fogging machine) to help manage infection of hard to reach areas and provide a safe living/working environment. Domestic staff were employed to carry out daily cleaning and sanitising of the communal areas took place. We observed staff cleaning the communal areas during our visit. This helped to minimise the risk of spreading infection.

## 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**

# Highams 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 coronavirus pandemic we are looking at the preparedness of care homes in relation to infection prevention and control. This was a targeted inspection looking at the infection control and prevention measures the provider has in place.

This inspection took place on 3 February 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.