

Meridian Healthcare Limited

Ash Court Care Home

Inspection report

Brookside Avenue
Liverpool
Merseyside
L14 7NB

Tel: 01512597522

Date of inspection visit:
17 January 2022

Date of publication:
28 January 2022

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

Ash Court is a care home that offers residential care for up to 42 people. At the time of the inspection there were 25 residents. The home is located in Knotty Ash with local shops, a post office and church nearby.

We found the following examples of good practice.

Appropriate measures were taken to avoid staff, residents and visitors to the home from catching or spreading infection. There were designated areas for relatives and friends to visit or visitors could see people in their own rooms if preferred.

There was adequate room in the home for people to socially distance and to minimise close physical contact with others. New people were admitted safely and people in isolation did not use communal areas. Staff maintained communication and activity with people in their rooms when isolating.

All staff and residents had been vaccinated and there was a regular testing regime in place. The use of agency staff was kept to a minimum to maximise infection control of people living and working in the home.

At the time of the inspection we were told that all staff had undertaken appropriate infection control training and there were two infection control leads. However, at the time of writing the report we had not received the infection prevention and control policies, procedures and audits requested.

Stocks of the right standard of personal protective equipment (PPE) were well-maintained and staff used and disposed of it correctly. Most staff were observed to be wearing appropriate PPE throughout the inspection. However one member of staff was seen not wearing a mask.

We were told that the home was in the process of recruiting for a new housekeeper and we observed the home to be mostly clean and hygienic throughout. However, we did observe some areas of the home were not as visually clean as would be expected. We pointed these out to the home manager at the time.

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

Ash Court Care Home

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 17 January 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 somewhat 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 somewhat assured that the provider's infection prevention and control policy was up to date.
- We were assured the provider was facilitating visits for people living in the home in accordance with the current guidance.

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 service was meeting the requirement to ensure non-exempt staff and visiting professionals were vaccinated against COVID-19.