

Cygnet Learning Disabilities Midlands Limited

The Fields

Inspection report

Spa Lane
Woodhouse
Sheffield
South Yorkshire
S13 7PG

Tel: 01142691144
Website: www.cygnethealth.co.uk

Date of inspection visit:
13 January 2022

Date of publication:
04 February 2022

Ratings

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

Summary of findings

Overall summary

The Fields is a care home providing personal and nursing care to people with learning disabilities aged 18 and over.

The home was large, bigger than most domestic style properties. It was registered for the support of up to 54 people. 54 people were using the service at the time of this inspection. This is larger than current best practice guidance. The service has not been developed and designed in line with the principles and values that underpin Registering the Right Support and other best practice guidance. However, the size of the service having a negative impact on people was mitigated by the home being split into seven individual units. At the time of our inspection these units were not socially mixing due to the risk of cross-infection from Covid-19.

The home is located within a residential area. This ensures people who use the service can live as full a life as possible and achieve the best possible outcomes. The principles reflect the need for people with learning disabilities and/or autism to live meaningful lives that include control, choice, and independence. People using the service receive planned and co-ordinated person-centred support that is appropriate and inclusive for them.

We found the following examples of good practice;

Family visitors to the home were required to complete and record negative lateral flow tests (LFTs) to show staff upon entry onsite on the morning of their visit. The service's management team told us nearly all family visitors showed staff proof of vaccination although this wasn't legally required. The service's management team had helped some professionals and resident family visitors to sort their Covid-19 vaccination passports for future use.

The service carried out drive-by visits from a minibus with residents to their family homes so they could meet and socialise without contact outdoors. Residents could videocall their family relatives via social messaging networks at any time including during lockdowns when they were unable to visit. The service bought two tablet devices to facilitate this.

The service used their own minibus transport for any residents needs including day trips, outings, medical appointments and shopping runs. A driver dropped off and picked up residents visiting family before thoroughly cleaning the bus. Residents onboard were distanced by being spaced apart, all staff wore facemasks and the bus windows were kept open.

Staff would tell and help any site visitors wearing cloth masks to use proper personal protective equipment (PPE) instead.

The five questions we ask about services and what we found

We always ask the following five questions of services.

Is the service safe?

See detailed findings section.

Inspected but not rated

The Fields

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 13 January 2022 and was short term announced. We gave the service 20 hours' notice of the inspection. We spoke to six staff members including the registered manager, deputy home manager and head of housekeeping, four residents and one resident's family member.

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. For example, they had increased use of bank staff to cover the shortfalls of staffing availability due to Covid-19.

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 admitting people safely to the service.
- We were assured that the provider was accessing testing for 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 were assured the provider was facilitating visits for people living in the home in accordance with the current guidance.
- We were somewhat assured that the provider was meeting shielding and social distancing rules. Service staff individually risk assessed and reviewed all 54 residents as they could not ensure all residents maintained social distancing. Staff minimised their contact with residents without causing them distress. During our inspection one resident who had tested positive for Covid-19 was unable to self-isolate or socially distance. Staff had mitigated the risk to other residents and themselves. For example, the same night staff supported them with one-to-one care in a designated area of their unit. A support worker always sat with the resident to supervise them including with meals. Staff helped the resident to take daily LFTs and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) Covid-19 tests. We have also signposted the provider to resources to develop their approach.
- We were somewhat assured that the provider was using PPE effectively and safely. Staff told us they could not ensure all residents wore PPE correctly if at all but were encouraged and helped to if they could understand why. Staff mitigated risk to residents and themselves as best they could by wearing PPE such as facemasks, gloves and handwashing regularly.

- We were assured that the provider was accessing testing for people using the service, but staff were not always able to ensure residents used them.

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.