

Lomack-Health Company Limited

Lomack House

Inspection report

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22 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

Lomack House is a residential care home supporting up to nine people living with a learning disability or who were autistic. The service was supporting eight people at the time of this inspection.

We found the following examples of good practice.

A process was in place to support safe visiting at the home. This included all visitors providing a negative COVID-19 lateral flow test and proof of vaccination prior to entry to the home. In addition, screening questions were required to be completed and temperature taken and recorded by staff to be assured of COVID-19 status. Once these processes had been completed, staff would request appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to be worn and visitors were directed to use a dedicated entrance to the home.

Staff had received training on the safe wearing, taking off and disposal of PPE. Staff were observed wearing appropriate PPE during the inspection.

The manager told us information had been provided in a pictorial format to support people in making decisions relating to the COVID-19 vaccination. The manager maintained a record of staff COVID-19 vaccinations and COVID-19 test results.

At the time of inspection, the home was visibly clean with no unpleasant odour. The manager told us a daily walk of the home took place which included monitoring of cleanliness and hygiene. Cleaning schedules were completed by staff and monitored by the manager.

During the COVID-19 pandemic people had been supported to maintain contact with their families and friends through the use of video and telephone calls. In addition, the staff had sent newsletters, emails and photographs to families updating them on events, celebrations and changes in COVID-19 government guidance.

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

Lomack House

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 22 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.
- The provider had in place a visiting policy which was reflective of current government guidance. In addition, the provider had completed a risk assessment to support visits conducted by essential care givers, nominated visitors and professionals.

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.