

The Steppes Care Limited

The Steppes Residential Care Home

Inspection report

Cossack Square
Nailsworth
Stroud
Gloucestershire
GL6 0DB

Tel: 01453832406

Date of inspection visit:
27 January 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

The Steppes 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.

The Steppes accommodates 29 people in two adapted houses. There were 28 people accommodated when we visited. Nine people were living in the annex and 19 people in the main house.

We found the following examples of good practice.

The provider had sufficient stock of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) which was well organised in designated areas for donning and doffing (put on and take off). Staff participated in training sessions around infection control and using PPE.

The service had systems in place for safe visiting to allow people to see and speak to their friends and relatives. Visitation adjustments had been introduced including a visiting pod which had been created to safely facilitate relatives' visits on a pre-booked basis.

The provider participated in the Covid-19 regular testing programme for both people and staff.

The provider had robust systems to ensure safe admissions, including only allowing new admissions after a confirmed negative Covid-19 test result.

A cleaning schedule was in place to ensure effective cleaning took place, which included enhanced cleaning of frequently touched surfaces.

The service had ensured people's health needs had been assessed and plans were in place to minimise the risk of Covid 19 to their health and wellbeing.

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.

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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 27th 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 accessing testing for people using the service and staff. Regular testing was in place to maintain staff and people's safety.
- We were assured that the provider was preventing visitors from catching and spreading infections. Checks were in place prior to visitors entering the home.
- We were assured that the provider was meeting shielding and social distancing rules. People were supported to maintain social distancing as much as possible, for example tables were placed in-between armchairs.
- We were assured that the provider was admitting people safely to the service. People were supported to isolate on arrival, and screening checks were in place.
- We were assured that the provider was using PPE effectively and safely. Staff were observed using PPE and there were designated PPE stations for staff to use.
- 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. The registered manager knew what action to take in the event of an outbreak.
- We were assured that the provider's infection prevention and control policy was up to date.

People were supported to see their families in accordance with their preferences and in line with government guidance. Telephone and virtual contact supported bespoke visiting at the home.

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.