

# Gemini Care Limited

# The Lodge

## Inspection report

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31 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 Lodge is a residential care home without nursing providing personal care to up to 44 people. There are two buildings on the site comprising of a large house supporting mostly older people, some living with dementia and a coach house for up to five people being supported with their mental health needs. At the time of the inspection there were 33 people living in The Lodge.

We found the following examples of good practice.

We observed staff following good infection prevention and control practices including appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE) in line with government guidance to reduce the risk of infection.

The Lodge was clean throughout. Increased cleaning was taking place across all aspects of the service. This included ensuring all high touch points were regularly sanitised.

Windows and doors were observed to be open to support with ventilation whilst a comfortable temperature was maintained.

Policies, and procedures were in place to assist the registered manager and staff to manage any risks associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

People living at The Lodge and staff were undertaking COVID-19 testing in line with Government guidance. Appropriate action had been taken if anyone contracted the virus including staff who were supported to self-isolate. Staff absence was being effectively managed where shift cover was required.

People had clear care plans in place in relation to COVID-19, this ensured risks could be mitigated and people could be supported in a personalised way.

## 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**

# The 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 care homes with outbreaks of COVID-19, we are conducting reviews to ensure that the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) practice is safe and that services are compliant with IPC measures. This was a targeted inspection looking at the IPC practices the provider has 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 31 January 2022 and was announced. We gave the service three days' 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.

### Visiting in care homes

- At the time of the inspection, the home was closed to non-essential visitors due to a COVID-19 outbreak. Where applicable some people in the home were isolating in their bedrooms. However, for some people living with a cognitive impairment who had tested positive, isolating in their bedrooms had proved challenging. To reduce the risk of infection transmission in the home and to keep everyone safe, the registered manager had zoned off a specific area of the home for these people to isolate together with designated staff on shift to support them.
- The management team were planning a phased reopening of the home once the isolation period had ended. This included using a designated visiting area and booking system to manage visitor numbers safely. In the interim window visits, video and telephone calls were in place for people and their relatives to maintain their relationships.

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.