

# Hilldales Residential Care Home Ltd Hilldales Residential Care Home

### **Inspection report**

10-13 Oxford Park Ilfracombe Devon EX34 9JS Date of inspection visit: 16 August 2022 19 August 2022

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Tel: 01271865893

Ratings

### Overall rating for this service

Requires Improvement

Is the service safe?	Requires Improvement 🛛 🔴
Is the service effective?	Good •
Is the service caring?	Good •
Is the service responsive?	Good •
Is the service well-led?	Requires Improvement 🛛 🔴

### Summary of findings

### Overall summary

#### About the service

Hilldales Residential Care Home is a residential care home providing accommodation and personal care up to 56 people. The service provides support to adults who have needs arising from alcohol problems or mental health issues. At the time of our inspection there were 39 people using the service.

#### People's experience of using this service and what we found

We were not assured that the provider was using PPE effectively and safely. On the first day of our inspection, staff were either not wearing masks or were not wearing them in line with best practice. This meant, potentially, people were not protected from the risk of infections.

We were not assured that the provider was preventing visitors from catching and spreading infections. On both days of inspection, we were not asked for evidence of a negative lateral flow test (LFT) or asked to complete any screening documentation before entering the home. This did not assure us that people living at the service and visitors were prevented from catching or spreading infections.

The provider's policy regards to visiting was in line with government guidance. However, we could not be assured that staff were ensuring visitors were following the government's protocols to minimise the risk of infection and or spread of COVID-19.

The provider's staff training matrix did not reflect the level of training that staff had received. The provider was in the process of transitioning from three yearly to yearly training to comply with the provider's actions to update and complete all training annually. The training matrix was in the process of being developed and had not been finalised at the time of our inspection.

Staff were able to demonstrate knowledge and competency in their roles when supporting people living at the home. For example, encouraging and supporting people to reduce their alcohol consumption with input from relevant professionals and providing appropriate support to help people manage their mental health well-being.

People told us staff were well trained and competent in their jobs; and did not raise any concerns. Comments included, "I have lived here for 31 years, excellent staff" and "The staff appear to know their jobs."

The registered manager recognised that improvements were needed to staff supervision. An action plan was in place to address this to ensure staff received supervision on a three-monthly basis. Staff had, however, received an annual appraisal in April 2022. Staff did feel well supported in their roles. Comments included, "The support is really good, we pull together."

Despite systems being in place to monitor the quality and safety of the service, these had not identified the concerns we found regards to infection control. Specifically, the safe and effective use of Personal

Protective Equipment (PPE) and effective screening of visitors before entering the home.

People were supported to have maximum choice and control of their lives and staff supported them in the least restrictive way possible and in their best interests; the policies and systems in the service supported this practice.

People said they felt safe with staff; staff practice showed they knew them well. People were at ease and looked comfortable in the company of staff. Measures to manage risk were as least restrictive as possible to protect people's freedom. People's rights were protected because the service followed the appropriate legal processes. Medicines were safely managed on people's behalf.

Care files were personalised to reflect people's personal preferences. People were supported to maintain a balanced diet.

Health and social care professionals were regularly involved in people's care to ensure they received the care and treatment which was right for them. A professional praised the service regards to how proactive they were at contacting them for advice and guidance. They commented, "They (staff) are on the ball. They do an amazing job. The paperwork is thorough, no problems with medicines and staff ensure they take people to appointments."

People received kind and compassionate care from staff who used positive, respectful language people understood and responded well to.

There were sufficient staff to meet people's needs. People were supported by a core team of staff. Staff confirmed that people's needs were met promptly, and they felt there were sufficient staffing numbers. There were effective staff recruitment and selection processes in place.

Staff spoke positively about communication and how the registered manager worked well with them and encouraged their professional development.

For more details, please see the full report which is on the CQC website at www.cqc.org.uk

Rating at last inspection

This service was registered with us on 8 March 2021 and this is their first inspection.

Why we inspected

This inspection was prompted by a review of the information we held about this service.

We looked at infection prevention and control measures under the Safe key question. We look at this in all care home inspections even if no concerns or risks have been identified. This is to provide assurance that the service can respond to COVID-19 and other infection outbreaks effectively.

We have found evidence that the provider needs to make improvements. Please see the Safe and Well-led sections of this full report.

You can see what action we have asked the provider to take at the end of this full report.

You can read the report from our last comprehensive inspection, by selecting the 'all reports' link for Hilldales Residential Care Home on our website at www.cqc.org.uk.

#### Follow up

We will request an action plan from the provider to understand what they will do to improve the standards of quality and safety. We will work alongside the provider to monitor progress. We will continue to monitor information we receive about the service, which will help inform when we next inspect.

### The five questions we ask about services and what we found

We always ask the following five questions of services.

Is the service safe?	Requires Improvement 😑
The service was not always safe.	
Details are in our safe findings below.	
Is the service effective?	Good ●
The service was effective.	
Details are in our effective findings below.	
Is the service caring?	Good 🔍
The service was caring.	
Details are in our caring findings below.	
Is the service responsive?	Good •
The service was responsive.	
Details are in our responsive findings below.	
Is the service well-led?	Requires Improvement 🗕
The service was not always well-led.	
Details are in our well-led findings below.	



# Hilldales Residential Care Home

**Detailed findings** 

# Background to this inspection

#### The inspection

We carried out this inspection under Section 60 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (the Act) as part of our regulatory functions. We checked whether the provider was meeting the legal requirements and regulations associated with the Act. We looked at the overall quality of the service and provided a rating for the service under the Health and Social Care Act 2008.

As part of this inspection we looked at the infection control and prevention measures in place. This was conducted so we can understand the preparedness of the service in preventing or managing an infection outbreak, and to identify good practice we can share with other services.

#### Inspection team

The inspection was carried out by one inspector.

#### Service and service type

Hilldales Residential Care Home is a 'care home'. People in care homes receive accommodation and nursing and/or personal care as a single package under one contractual agreement dependent on their registration with us. Hilldales Residential Care Home is a care home without nursing care. CQC regulates both the premises and the care provided, and both were looked at during this inspection.

#### **Registered Manager**

This service is required to have a registered manager. A registered manager is a person who has registered with the Care Quality Commission to manage the service. This means that they and the provider are legally responsible for how the service is run and for the quality and safety of the care provided.

At the time of our inspection there was a registered manager in post.

#### Notice of inspection

This inspection was unannounced on the first day and announced on the second day.

#### What we did before the inspection

We reviewed information we had received about the service since the last inspection. We sought feedback from the local authority and professionals who work with the service. We used all this information to plan our inspection.

#### During the inspection

We spoke with nine people using the service. We also spoke with eight members of staff, which included the registered manager.

We reviewed a range of records. We looked at a variety of records relating to the care and support provided; three staff files in relation to recruitment; staff training; various policies and procedures and specific audits/reports relating to the quality and safety of the service to ensure people received safe care and support specific to their individual needs.

#### After the inspection

After our visit we sought feedback from health and social care professionals to obtain their views of the service provided to people. We received feedback from three health and social care professionals. We continued to seek clarification from the provider to validate evidence found.

### Is the service safe?

### Our findings

Safe – this means we looked for evidence that people were protected from abuse and avoidable harm.

This is the first inspection of this newly registered service. This key question has been rated requires improvement. This meant some aspects of the service were not always safe and there was limited assurance about safety. There was an increased risk that people could be harmed.

#### Preventing and controlling infection

• We were not assured that the provider was using PPE effectively and safely.

On the first day of our inspection, staff were either not wearing masks or were not wearing them in line with best practice. This meant, potentially, people were not protected from the risk of infections. We spoke with the registered manager twice about this, who proceeded to speak with staff. However, some staff continued to not abide to guidance regards to wearing masks effectively.

• We were not assured that the provider was preventing visitors from catching and spreading infections. On both days of inspection, we were not asked for evidence of a negative lateral flow test (LFT) or asked to complete any screening documentation before entering the home. This did not assure us that people living at the service and visitors were prevented from catching or spreading infections.

#### Visiting in care homes

The provider's policy regards to visiting was in line with government guidance. However, we could not be assured that staff were ensuring visitors were following the government's protocols to minimise the risk of infection and or spread of COVID-19.

The service had not ensured people were fully protected from the risk of infections. This is a breach of Regulation 12 (Safe care and treatment) of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014.'

- We were assured that the provider was supporting people living at the service to minimise the spread of infection.
- We were assured that the provider was admitting people safely to the service.
- We were assured that the provider was responding effectively to risks and signs of infection.
- 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.

Systems and processes to safeguard people from the risk of abuse

• People said they felt safe with staff; staff practice showed they knew them well. People were at ease and looked comfortable in the company of staff.

• Staff demonstrated an understanding of what might constitute abuse and knew how to report any concerns they might have. For example, staff knew how to report concerns within the organisation and externally such as the local authority, police and the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

• Staff had received safeguarding training, to ensure they had up to date information about the protection of vulnerable people. This training was in need of refreshing. By the second day of our inspection, staff had updated their safeguarding training online.

• The registered manager demonstrated an understanding of their safeguarding role and responsibilities. They explained the importance of working closely with commissioners, the local authority and relevant health and social care professionals on an on-going basis. There were clear policies for staff to follow. Staff confirmed that they knew about the safeguarding adults' policy and procedure and where to locate it if needed.

Assessing risk, safety monitoring and management; Learning lessons when things go wrong

• People's individual risks were identified, and the necessary risk assessment reviews were carried out to keep people safe. For example, risk assessments for falls, diabetes, smoking, alcohol misuse, self-harm and continence management.

• Risk management considered people's physical and mental health needs and showed that measures to manage risk were as least restrictive as possible.

• There were governance systems which ensured the environment and equipment were effectively maintained. Checks included, hot water temperatures, fire safety and window restrictors.

• There was evidence that learning from incidents and investigations took place and appropriate changes were implemented. For example, care plans and risk assessments were updated. Actions had been taken in line with the service's policies and procedures. Where incidents had taken place, involvement of other health and social care professionals was requested where needed to review people's plans of care and treatment.

### Staffing and recruitment

- The staff team met people's care needs. People said staff were kind and compassionate in their approach.
- The registered manager explained that staff skills were integral to enable people's care and support needs to be met. They added that people received support from a consistent staff team. This ensured people were able to build up trusting relationships with staff who knew their needs.
- We asked how unforeseen shortfalls in staffing arrangements due to sickness were managed. They explained that regular staff would fill in to cover the shortfall, so people's needs could be met by staff members who knew and understood them. In addition, the service had on-call arrangements for staff to contact if concerns were evident during their shift.

• There were effective recruitment and selection processes in place. Staff had completed application forms and interviews had been undertaken. In addition, pre-employment checks, which included references from previous employers and Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks, were completed. DBS checks provide information including details about convictions and cautions held on the Police National Computer. The information helps employers make safer recruitment decisions.

### Using medicines safely

- People's medicines were managed so they received them safely.
- Appropriate arrangements were in place for obtaining medicines. The home received people's medicines from a local pharmacy each month. When the home received the medicines, they were checked, and the amount of stock documented to ensure accuracy.
- Medicines were safely administered. Medicines administration records were appropriately signed by staff when administering a person's medicines. Audits were undertaken to ensure people were receiving their

medicines as prescribed. The checks also ensured medicines remained in date.

• Staff received medicine training to ensure they were competent to carry out this task. Staff confirmed they were confident supporting people with their medicines.

### Is the service effective?

# Our findings

Effective – this means we looked for evidence that people's care, treatment and support achieved good outcomes and promoted a good quality of life, based on best available evidence.

This is the first inspection for this newly registered service. This key question has been rated good. This meant people's outcomes were consistently good, and people's feedback confirmed this.

Staff support: induction, training, skills and experience

- The provider's staff training matrix did not reflect the level of training that staff had received. The provider was in the process of transitioning from three yearly to yearly training to comply with the provider's actions to update and complete all training annually. The training matrix was in the process of being developed and had not been finalised at the time of our inspection.
- Staff told us that they would like more specific training to help them support people proactively. For example, on alcohol use, epilepsy, drug use and mental health.
- Following our inspection, the provider sent us an action plan to regards to training. The plan stated, 'Ensure staff hit compliance with training and continue online training. This will be checked on a daily basis to allow us to establish what progress has been made and if there is anything, we can do to assist the staff with completion of training. Staff supervision will be carried out on staff failing to achieve this. Further action may be required if this continues.'
- Staff were able to demonstrate knowledge and competency in their roles when supporting people living at the home. For example, encouraging and supporting people to reduce their alcohol consumption with input from relevant professionals and providing appropriate support to help people manage their mental health well-being.
- People thought staff were well trained and competent in their jobs; and did not raise any concerns. Comments included, "I have lived here for 31 years, excellent staff" and "The staff appear to know their jobs."
- Some staff had completed nationally recognised qualifications in health and social care, which encouraged them to provide safe, compassionate care.
- Staff had completed an induction when they started work at the service. The induction required new members of staff to be supervised by more experienced staff to ensure they were safe and competent to carry out their roles before working alone. The induction formed part of a probationary period, so the organisation could assess staff competency and suitability to work for the service and the people who used it.
- The registered manager recognised that improvements were needed to staff supervision. An action plan was in place to address this to ensure staff received supervision on a three-monthly basis. Staff had, however, received an annual appraisal in April 2022. Staff did feel well supported in their roles. Comments included, "The support is really good, we pull together."

Supporting people to eat and drink enough to maintain a balanced diet

• People were supported to maintain a balanced diet. One person commented, "The food is good. The kitchen staff are excellent."

- People were provided with food and drink of their choice. Meals were prepared in a main kitchen, but people could access drinks and snacks freely throughout the day and night. Menu choices were provided.
- Staff recognised the importance of good nutrition and hydration.

• Care plans and staff guidance emphasised the importance of people having a balanced and nutritious diet to maintain their general well-being. Staff recognised changes in people's eating habits and in consultation with them contacted health professionals involved in their care.

Staff working with other agencies to provide consistent, effective, timely care; Supporting people to live healthier lives, access healthcare services and support

- Staff knew how to respond to people's specific health and social care needs. For example, recognising changes in a person's physical health.
- Staff were able to speak confidently about the care they delivered and understood how they contributed to people's health and well-being.
- People were supported to see appropriate health and social care professionals when they needed to meet their healthcare needs. We saw evidence of health and social care professionals' involvement in people's individual care on an on-going and timely basis.

Ensuring consent to care and treatment in line with law and guidance; Assessing people's needs and choices; delivering care in line with standards, guidance and the law

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA) provides a legal framework for making particular decisions on behalf of people who may lack the mental capacity to do so for themselves. The MCA requires that, as far as possible, people make their own decisions and are helped to do so when needed. When they lack mental capacity to take particular decisions, any made on their behalf must be in their best interests and as least restrictive as possible.

People can only be deprived of their liberty to receive care and treatment when this is in their best interests and legally authorised under the MCA.

In care homes, and some hospitals, this is usually through MCA application procedures called the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS).

We checked whether the service was working within the principles of the MCA, whether appropriate legal authorisations were in place when needed to deprive a person of their liberty, and whether any conditions relating to those authorisations were being met.

- Before people received any care and treatment they were asked for their consent and staff acted in accordance with their wishes. People's individual wishes were acted upon, such as how they wanted their personal care delivered.
- People's legal rights were protected because staff knew how to support people if they did not have the mental capacity to make decisions for themselves.
- People's capacity to make decisions about their care and support were assessed on an on-going basis in line with the Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA).
- People's capacity to consent had been assessed and best interest discussions and meetings had taken place. Care records demonstrated consideration of the MCA and how the service had worked alongside advocates and health and social care professionals when there were changes in a person's capacity to consent to care.

Adapting service, design, decoration to meet people's needs

- Hilldales Residential Care Home had been adapted to suit people's needs. The registered manager explained that they had bedrooms on all three floors of the building, which meant they could support people who were unable to manage an upstairs room.
- The provider was currently working through a structural and redecoration programme to improve the premises.

### Is the service caring?

### Our findings

Caring – this means we looked for evidence that the service involved people and treated them with compassion, kindness, dignity and respect.

This is the first inspection for this newly registered service. This key question has been rated good. This meant people were supported and treated with dignity and respect; and involved as partners in their care.

Ensuring people are well treated and supported; respecting equality and diversity

- Staff saw people as their equal and created a warm and inclusive atmosphere.
- People received kind and compassionate care from staff who used positive, respectful language people understood and responded well to. People commented, "I like living here, the staff are alright. I have no concerns. The staff are caring" and, "Been here for four years, it's OK here. The staff are nice and work hard."
- Staff relationships with people were caring and supportive. Staff spoke confidently about people's specific needs and how they liked to be supported. Through our conversations with staff it was clear they were very committed and kind and compassionate towards people they supported. They described how they observed people's moods and responded appropriately.
- The service had received several written compliments. These included, "As always, thank you so much for all you do for (person) every day" and "Thank you all for the care given to my brother. We all appreciate the hard work that goes into care homes."

Supporting people to express their views and be involved in making decisions about their care

- Staff adopted a strong and visible personalised approach in how they worked with people. Staff spoke of the importance of empowering people to be involved in their day to day lives. They explained it was important people were at the heart of planning their care and support needs. People confirmed they had a care plan, which was discussed with them and no care was given without their consent.
- People were given time to listen, process information and respond to staff and other professionals.
- Staff supported people to express their views using their preferred method of communication.
- Staff took the time to understand people's individual communication styles and develop a rapport with them.
- People were enabled to make choices for themselves and staff ensured they had the information they needed.
- Staff respected people's choices and wherever possible, accommodated their wishes, including those relevant to protected characteristics.

Respecting and promoting people's privacy, dignity and independence

- Staff treated people with dignity and respect when helping them with daily living tasks.
- Staff told us how they maintained people's privacy and dignity when assisting with personal care. For example, asking what support they required before providing care and explaining what needed to be done so that the person knew what was happening.

• Staff adopted a positive approach in the way they involved people and respected their independence. For example, encouraging people to do as much as possible in relation to activities of daily living. A person commented, "I wanted to lose weight. Staff have supported me, and I have successfully lost seven stone in two years."

### Is the service responsive?

# Our findings

Responsive – this means we looked for evidence that the service met people's needs.

This is the first inspection for this newly registered service. This key question has been rated good. This meant people's needs were met through good organisation and delivery.

Planning personalised care to ensure people have choice and control and to meet their needs and preferences; Supporting people to develop and maintain relationships to avoid social isolation; support to follow interests and to take part in activities that are socially and culturally relevant to them

- People received personalised care and support specific to their needs and preferences. Care plans reflected people's health and social care needs.
- Care files included personal information and identified the relevant people involved in people's care, such as their GP, social worker, psychiatrist and community nurses. The care files were presented in an orderly and easy to follow format, which staff could refer to when providing care and support to ensure it was based on the person's wishes.
- Relevant assessments were completed and up to date, from initial planning through to on-going reviews of care, including cultural and religious preferences.
- Care plans were detailed and included personal preferences, such as how people wanted their personal care delivered. Staff said people's care plans and risk assessments were really useful in helping them to provide appropriate care and support on a consistent basis. Daily notes showed care plans were followed.

#### Meeting people's communication needs

Since 2016 all organisations that provide publicly funded adult social care are legally required to follow the Accessible Information Standard. The Accessible Information Standard tells organisations what they have to do to help ensure people with a disability or sensory loss, and in some circumstances, their carers, get information in a way they can understand it. It also says that people should get the support they need in relation to communication.

• The service understood people's communication needs and adapted the way they communicated based on the individual's needs.

• Staff were able to communicate with and understand each person's requests and changing moods as they were aware of people's known communication preferences. Care records contained communication details explaining how people communicated their wishes.

Improving care quality in response to complaints or concerns

- There were regular opportunities for people, and people that matter to them, to raise issues, concerns and compliments. This was through discussions with them by staff on a regular basis and knowing people's behaviours when unhappy.
- A system was in place to record complaints. Complaints were acknowledged and responded to in an appropriate time frame and other professionals informed and involved where appropriate.

End of life care and support

• At the time of inspection, no-one in the service was receiving end of life care. If that changed, the registered manager told us they would consult with the person, their relatives and health professionals to ensure they received care in line with their needs and preferences.

### Is the service well-led?

### Our findings

Well-led – this means we looked for evidence that service leadership, management and governance assured high-quality, person-centred care; supported learning and innovation; and promoted an open, fair culture.

This is the first inspection for this newly registered service. This key question has been rated requires improvement. This meant the service management and leadership was inconsistent. Leaders and the culture they created did not always support the delivery of high-quality, person-centred care.

Managers and staff being clear about their roles, and understanding quality performance, risks and regulatory requirements; How the provider understands and acts on the duty of candour, which is their legal responsibility to be open and honest with people when something goes wrong; Continuous learning and improving care

• Despite systems being in place to monitor the quality and safety of the service, these had not identified the concerns we found regards to infection control. Specifically, the safe and effective use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and effective screening of visitors before entering the home.

• Following our inspection, the provider sent us an action plan to address the concerns. Actions included, 'staff to be given instant supervision should they not be wearing facemasks, repeat infringement of these will lead to disciplinary action being taken' and spot checks carried out by the registered manager.'

• Audits had been completed on a regular basis as part of monitoring the service provided. These checks reviewed people's care plans and risk assessments, medicines, incidents, accidents and health and safety. This enabled any trends to be spotted to ensure the service was meeting the requirements and needs of people being supported. Where actions were needed, these had been followed up. For example, care plans and risk assessments of relevant health and social care professionals.'

• The service was open, honest and transparent with people when things went wrong. The management team recognised their responsibilities under the duty of candour requirements and followed the service' policies.

• The service had notified CQC in full about any significant events at the service. We use this information to monitor the service and ensure they respond appropriately to keep people safe.

Promoting a positive culture that is person-centred, open, inclusive and empowering, which achieves good outcomes for people; Engaging and involving people using the service, the public and staff, fully considering their equality characteristics

- Staff spoke positively about communication and how the registered manager worked well with them, encouraged team working and an open person-centred culture.
- Staff confirmed they were kept up to date with things affecting the overall service via conversations and memos on an on-going basis. Additional meetings took place on a regular basis as part of the service's handover system to ensure consistency of care and support.
- The registered manager recognised that team meetings needed to be reinstated following the Covid-19 pandemic. A team meeting was scheduled for 25 August 2022.
- The registered manager recognised that resident meetings needed to be reinstated following the Covid-19 pandemic. A resident meeting took place on 17 August 2022 which discussed the running of the home, any

improvements needed and menu choices. The meeting was fairly well attended,

- Hilldales Residential Care Home had a keyworker system in place, which enabled people to discuss their care and support needs and experience of the care and support received on an ongoing basis with a particular member of staff.
- The service was in the process of compiling surveys to be sent out to people using the service, relatives, staff and health and social care professionals as part of their ongoing quality monitoring and the development of Hilldales Residential Care Home.
- People's equality, diversity and human rights were respected. The service's vision and values centred around the people they supported. The organisation's statement of purpose documented a philosophy of maximising people's life choices, encouraging independence and people having a sense of worth and value. Our inspection found that the organisation's philosophy was embedded in Hilldales Residential Care Home. For example, people were constantly encouraged to lead rich and meaningful lives to aid their physical and mental health well-being.

Working in partnership with others

• The service worked with other health and social care professionals in line with people's specific needs. Staff commented that communication between other agencies was good and enabled people's needs to be met. Care files showed evidence of professionals working together. For example, GPs, social workers and various specialists specific to certain conditions/needs. Regular reviews took place to ensure people's current and changing needs were being met.

• A professional praised the service regards to how proactive they were at contacting them for advice and guidance. They commented, "They (staff) are on the ball. They do an amazing job. The paperwork is thorough, no problems with medicines and staff ensure they take people to appointments."

### Action we have told the provider to take

The table below shows where regulations were not being met and we have asked the provider to send us a report that says what action they are going to take.We will check that this action is taken by the provider.

Regulated activity	Regulation
Accommodation for persons who require nursing or personal care	Regulation 12 HSCA RA Regulations 2014 Safe care and treatment
	The service had not ensured people were fully protected from the risk of infections. This is a breach of Regulation 12 (Safe care and treatment) of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014.