

Islington Social Services

Islington Social Services - 4 Orchard Close

Inspection report

4 Orchard Close
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08 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

About the service:

4 Orchard Close is a residential care home providing care for up to seven people with a learning disability. All six of the people using the service at present also had a range of physical disabilities and healthcare needs. This meant staff were required to work closely with other health and social care providers to provide specialist care and support.

We found the following examples of good practice.

Information sharing with families about the impact and changing guidance around management of COVID-19 was well maintained. The provider had been effectively engaging with people using the service and relatives about changes to guidance throughout the pandemic.

The service had, apart from times earlier in the pandemic when people had been advised to shield, worked well at re-establishing visiting. The registered manager was aware of recent changes to government guidance around visiting and had worked well at ensuring visits could take place in as safe a way as possible.

Regular agency staff were used to cover for any staff absence that occurred. The registered manager told us that these staff were prevented from working in other care services and they had arrangements in place with the staffing agencies to ensure this happened. The registered manager also told us that the service had not thus far experienced any significant staffing pressures and were confident that the measures they had in place to respond had been effective and would continue to be so.

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

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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 8 February 2022 and was announced. We gave the service just over 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 was facilitating visits to people living at the home by relatives. The provider was co-ordinating visits to people in a planned way to ensure these could take place in as safe a way as possible.

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.