

Lowfield House Limited

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Inspection report

Railway View Avenue
Clitheroe
Lancashire
BB7 2HA

Tel: 01200428514

Date of inspection visit:
09 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

Lowfield house Limited is a care home providing accommodation and personal care for up to 24 people. The service does not provide nursing care. At the time of the inspection, there were 20 people living in the home.

We found the following examples of good practice.

IPC policies and procedures were followed and kept under review. The home was clean and odour free. There were designated domestic staff and cleaning schedules were followed. We discussed ensuring cleaning schedules reflected the frequency of cleaning high touch areas. The registered manager carried out regular checks of the environment and cleanliness and any shortfalls were being acted on.

The registered manager was accessing testing for people using the service and staff. Clear records showed safe processes were followed in response to any positive COVID tests, in line with government guidance. There were enough staff to provide continuity of support should there be a staff shortage. The registered manager spoke positively about the hard work, care and commitment provided by staff.

There were enough stocks of personal protective equipment (PPE). We observed staff and management using PPE correctly and there were procedures in place to support staff with its use. Staff had received training in the use of PPE and infection control. Signage was in place to remind staff, visitors and people about the use of PPE, the importance of washing hands and regular use of hand sanitisers.

The registered manager was facilitating safe visiting in line with government guidance. Visitor assessments were carried out to consider temperature checks, current health needs, lateral flow test results and COVID-19 symptoms; PPE and sanitisers were readily available. The registered manager was following safe guidance in relation to admissions to the home.

The five questions we ask about services and what we found

We always ask the following five questions of services.

Is the service safe?

Inspected but not rated

Inspected but not rated

Lowfield house Limited

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 the Care Quality Commission's (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 9 February 2022 and was announced. We gave the service one day's 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 the provider was preventing visitors from catching and spreading infections.
- We were assured the provider was meeting shielding and social distancing rules.
- We were assured the provider was admitting people safely to the service.
- We were assured the provider was using PPE effectively and safely.
- We were assured the provider was accessing testing for people using the service and staff.
- We were assured the provider was promoting safety through the layout and hygiene practices of the premises. We discussed how the records relating to regular cleaning of high touch areas could be improved.
- We were assured the provider was making sure infection outbreaks can be effectively prevented or managed.
- We were assured the provider's infection prevention and control policy was up to date.

Visiting in care homes

- The provider was facilitating safe visiting in line with government guidance and people were able to maintain contact with their family members. Visitor assessments were carried out to consider temperature checks, current health needs, lateral flow test results and COVID-19 symptoms prior to entry to the home. PPE and sanitisers were available for any visitors.

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.