

The Fremantle Trust

Cotswold Cottage

Inspection report

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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

Cotswold Cottage is a care home which can provide care and support for up to eight adults with learning disabilities and autism spectrum disorders. Eight people were living there at the time of our inspection.

We found the following examples of good practice.

On arrival at the home, staff checked the temperature of visitors and sprayed disinfectant on the soles of their footwear. Visitors were asked to provide evidence of completing a lateral flow (rapid result) swab test or they could have one carried out on the premises. Visitors were required to wash their hands after they entered the home and wear a face mask.

There had not been any positive cases of Covid-19 throughout the pandemic. Regular testing was carried out for staff and people who use the service. Everyone using the service had been fully vaccinated.

There had not been any new admissions during the pandemic. A risk assessment was in place in the event of anyone needing to return to the home after a hospital admission.

Enhanced cleaning practices had been introduced. Staff had received training on infection prevention and control. The risks of potential exposure to the virus had been assessed for all staff, considering health conditions and high risks associated with people from black, Asian and other ethnic minority backgrounds. Arrangements were in place to promote well-being. For example, there was an employee assistance programme which staff could access and a Covid mailbox had been set up if anyone had any concerns or queries.

People had been supported by a consistent group of staff. No agency workers had been used to cover the home, reducing the potential for cross-infection. Appropriate self-isolation and testing arrangements had been put in place when staff needed to support another of the provider's services.

Supplies of PPE were available to staff throughout the premises. A business contingency plan and Covid-19 risk assessment were in place, to reduce the effects of potential disruption to people's care. There were policies and procedures to provide guidance for staff on safe working practices during the pandemic. Auditing and observation of care practice took place to ensure these were adhered to.

Staff had supported people to keep in contact with their families and facilitated face to face visits. The provider had kept families informed of the safety measures that would be needed if they visited the home.

There were a couple of areas where the home could improve its infection control practice. These were in relation to wearing of face masks and ensuring all areas of the building were kept clean.

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

Cotswold Cottage

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 the preparedness of care homes in relation to infection prevention and control. This was a targeted inspection looking at the infection control and prevention measures the provider has in place.

This inspection took place on 10 May 2021 and was announced.

Is the service safe?

Our findings

S5□ 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 accessing testing for people using the service and staff.
- We were assured that the provider's infection prevention and control policy was up to date.
- We were assured the provider was facilitating visits for people living in the home in accordance with the current guidance.
- We were somewhat assured that the provider was using PPE effectively and safely. However, we found one member of staff wearing their face mask under their chin whilst in a bedroom. Another person's mask did not fit well, resulting in it slipping down and exposing their nose.
- We were somewhat assured that the provider was promoting safety through the layout and hygiene practices of the premises. However, the sink in the laundry needed cleaning and there were no disposable towels in there for staff to use after they had washed their hands. Some wall tiles needed replacing in one bathroom and flooring needed attention in another, in order that these areas could be kept clean. All bathrooms had been due to be refurbished in 2020, with this being postponed due to the pandemic. At the time of this visit, it was not known when the work would now take place.

We have signposted the provider to resources to develop their approach.