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Pathways

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

Pathways is a residential care home providing personal care to people who have a learning disability and/or autistic spectrum disorder. The service can support up to 12 people living in two adapted bungalows. At the time of our inspection there were six people accommodated in one bungalow. The premises was in keeping with the houses in the area.

We found the following examples of good practice.

The registered manager was following the government's guidance on whole home testing for people and staff. This included weekly testing and rapid testing for staff. Consent was gained from people each time prior to testing. Where consent was not gained from people using the service, they were not tested. This only occurred with one person and alternative arrangements were put in place to reduce risk.

Staff had received training on the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and infection control practices and processes were in place to minimise the spread of infection. There was an adequate supply of PPE.

Arrangements were in place to enable people's families to visit them. Risks were assessed and vacant facilities were used to reduce risk.

Increased cleaning regimes had been introduced including hard surface contact cleaning hourly.

Contingency plans were in place to ensure effective management of an outbreak, including use of a vacant bungalow for staff to stay over, staff working in teams and changed shift patterns to reduce footfall.

All people using the service had received their first Covid-19 vaccination.

People living at the service were in receipt of the Department of Health free winter supply of vitamin D. This is particularly important as individuals had been indoors for unusual extended periods due to measures introduced to stop the spread of Covid-19. The supplement supports people's general health.

Arrangements were in place to ensure fire prevention measures, systems and equipment were in place and working properly. Staff had received training in fire safety evacuation procedures.

Rating at last inspection

The last rating for this service was requires improvement (published 6 July 2019).

Why we inspected

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 coronavirus and other infection outbreaks effectively.

CQC have introduced targeted inspections to follow up on Warning Notices or to check specific concerns. They do not look at an entire key question, only the part of the key question we are specifically concerned about. Targeted inspections do not change the rating from the previous inspection. This is because they do not assess all areas of a key question.

The last comprehensive inspection found risks around fire safety and a breach of regulation 12 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014. The provider completed an action plan after the last inspection to show what they would do and by when to improve. As part of this targeted inspection we checked they had followed their action plan and to confirm they now met legal requirements. We found concerns under safe regarding fire safety had been resolved. We found no evidence people were at risk of harm and the service was no longer in breach of Regulation 12.

Follow up

We will continue to monitor information we receive about the service until we return to visit as per our re-inspection programme. If we receive any concerning information we may inspect sooner.

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

Pathways

Detailed findings

Background to this inspection

The Inspection

This was a targeted inspection to check whether the provider had met the requirements of the specific concern we had about fire safety. As part of CQC's response to the coronavirus pandemic we also looked at the preparedness of care homes in relation to infection prevention and control.

We will assess all of the key question at the next comprehensive inspection of the service.

Inspection team

This inspection was undertaken by one inspector

Service and service type

Pathways is a care home. People in care homes receive accommodation and nursing or personal care as a single package under one contractual agreement. CQC regulates both the premises and the care provided, and both were looked at during this inspection.

Notice of inspection

This inspection was unannounced.

What we did before inspection

We reviewed information we had received about the service since the last inspection. We sought feedback from the local authority. This information helps support our inspections. We used all of this information to plan our inspection.

During the inspection

We spoke with the provider/registered manager, the deputy manager and senior carer. We reviewed a range of records relating to the management of the service.

Is the service safe?

Our findings

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

At our last inspection we rated this key question requires improvement. We have not reviewed the rating at this inspection. This is because we have only looked at the part of the key question, we had concerns about.

We will assess all the key question at the next inspection of the service.

At the last inspection we found a breach of Regulation 12 in relation to fire safety. At this inspection we found people were safe and protected from the risk of fire and the provider met legal requirements.

Assessing risk, safety monitoring and management

- Following our last inspection a fire risk assessment was carried out by an external, independent company. Minor recommendations were made and these had been carried out by the provider.
- Staff had received training in fire safety.
- There were fully planned and practised fire evacuation procedures to ensure staff and people using the service understood what to do in the event of a fire.
- Records showed fire safety checks were carried out regularly to ensure fire safety equipment was working properly.
- People had personal emergency evacuation plans (PEEPs) which showed the type and level of support each individual required to evacuate in the event of a fire.

How well are people protected by the prevention and control of infection?

- 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.
- 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.