

Alpha Care SW Ltd

Brunel House

Inspection report

158 Victoria Road
Plymouth
Devon
PL5 1QY

Date of inspection visit:
02 February 2022

Date of publication:
17 February 2022

Ratings

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Overall rating for this service | Inspected but not rated |
| Is the service safe? | Inspected but not rated |

Summary of findings

Overall summary

Brunel House is a residential care home providing accommodation and personal care for up to seven people with a learning disability. People may also be living with a physical disability and/or a sensory impairment. At the time of the inspection there were five people living at the service.

We found the following examples of good practice;

- The provider was following best practice guidance in terms of ensuring visitors to the home did not spread Covid-19. All visitors were asked to provide proof of a negative lateral flow test (LFT) before entering the home. A booking in system was in place to monitor visits and to ensure everyone remained safe.
- The provider was facilitating visits for people living in the home in accordance with current guidance. At the time of the inspection people were being supported to spend time with their relatives inside and away from the home. When this was not possible due to changes in guidance staff had supported people to stay in touch using social-media, garden visits and by phone.
- The provider ensured enough stock of appropriate protective equipment (PPE) was available for people, staff and visitors. There was clear signage around the home about the correct guidance for donning, doffing and disposal of PPE. Facilities were available to ensure PPE was disposed of safely.
- Staff were adhering to PPE guidance and practices. Hand- washing facilities, and hand washing guidance was available around the home. We saw staff washing their hands frequently between care tasks.
- Where possible staff encouraged people to keep a safe distance from each other. Enhanced cleaning was in place to reduce the risks of cross infection.
- Staff continued to support people to access health services. Arrangements were in place to ensure people remained safe if they required a hospital admission.
- The providers recruitment process and contingency planning helped ensure staffing levels remained safe in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak in the service.
- Policies, procedures and risk assessments relating to COVID-19 were up to date. This helped ensure staff had correct and up to date information to keep people safe.

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

Brunel House

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 02 February 2022 and was announced. We gave the service 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 for people living in the home in accordance with current guidance.

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 service was meeting the requirement to ensure non-exempt staff and visiting professionals were vaccinated against COVID-19.