

Central Bedfordshire Council

Allison House Residential Home

Inspection report

Swan Lane
Sandy
Bedfordshire
SG19 1NE

Tel: 03003008591

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28 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

Allison House Residential Home is a care home providing accommodation and personal care for up to 42 older people. At the time of our inspection, there were 34 people using the service.

We found the following examples of good practice.

The provider had systems in place to support safe visiting to the service. Visitors were required to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination and a negative lateral flow COVID-19 test taken on day of visit. In addition, visitors were required to have their temperature taken and complete a COVID-19 screening questionnaire.

People had been supported by staff to maintain contact with their relatives and friends during the COVID-19 pandemic through use of video and telephone calls. In addition, in line with government guidance alternate visiting including window visits, garden visits and face to face visits were promoted. The registered manager recognised the impact of COVID-19 on people's wellbeing and encouraged the role of the essential care giver.

Staff had received training in the correct use of personal protective equipment (PPE). During the inspection staff were observed wearing PPE correctly.

On the day of inspection, the home appeared to be visibly clean and hygienic with no unpleasant odours. During the pandemic cleaning schedules had been reviewed and updated to include enhanced cleaning of frequently touched surfaces.

All staff had received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccination. A record of COVID-19 vaccinations had been maintained by the registered manager.

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

Allison House Residential Home

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 28 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 had a visiting policy in place which was regularly reviewed and was supportive of enabling visits to the home.

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.