

Abilities Development Ltd

Abilities Short Breaks - Preston Road

Inspection report

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Harrow
Middlesex
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Tel: 02034112330

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17 February 2022

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08 April 2022

Ratings

Overall rating for this service

Inspected but not rated

Is the service safe?

Inspected but not rated

Summary of findings

Overall summary

Abilities Short Breaks - Preston Road provides accommodation and personal care for a maximum of three adults who have learning disabilities.

We found the following examples of good practice.

The service followed current government visiting guidance. There were arrangements to manage infection risks. An up to date infection control policy was in place and there were standard operating procedures that were regularly updated in line with changes in government policy.

All staff had received training about COVID-19, hand washing and in the proper use and on donning and doffing of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). The service carried out monitoring checks of staff infection prevention control (IPC) practice and further training was provided when needed. This helped to assure the provider that people were protected and safe.

Staff and people receiving care had received all doses of the vaccine. Where possible regular testing was also carried out for people in order to identify any positive cases as early as possible so that people could self-isolate to reduce the spread of infection. The service confirmed they had contacted families to ensure they had a confirmed negative lateral flow test when visiting people.

The service had identified people at particular risk of infection and were supported to minimise close physical contact by way of social distancing or isolation when needed. Staff were provided with appropriate PPE, which met recommended national guidance to carry out their role safely.

During the pandemic the provider promptly communicated with staff, people and relatives. This and regular communication with the host local authority, public health teams, community healthcare professionals and managers from other care homes helped to ensure the home carried out good IPC practice that kept people safe.

The service had ensured there were sufficient supplies of PPE. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the service was able to reliably get hold of enough of the right PPE to meet people's needs.

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

Abilities Short Breaks - Preston Road

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 17 February 2022 and was announced. We gave the service one working days' 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 service had measures in place to minimise risk to people and others visiting from spreading infections at the entrance and on entering the premises. The service showed us evidence they had shared information and communication with friends and family about current infections, so they were informed about decisions around visiting and restrictions. Information was easily accessible on arrival or before visits to ensure visitors followed guidance and procedures.