

Bridgegate Care Ltd

# Bridgegate Care

## Inspection report

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### Ratings

Overall rating for this service

Requires Improvement ●

Is the service safe?

**Requires Improvement** ●

Is the service effective?

**Requires Improvement** ●

Is the service caring?

**Good** ●

Is the service responsive?

**Good** ●

Is the service well-led?

**Requires Improvement** ●

# Summary of findings

## Overall summary

### About the service

Bridgegate Care Ltd is a domiciliary care agency providing personal care to people with health and social care needs in their own homes. Not everyone who used the service received personal care. CQC only inspects where people receive personal care. This is help with tasks related to personal hygiene and eating. Where they do, we also consider any wider social care provided. At the time of our inspection there were 4 people who received personal care using the service.

### People's experience of using this service and what we found

Systems and processes were not always in place to support people's safety. Risks to people had not always been outlined in detail to ensure the risk was prevented or reduced. People were supported by staff who had not always undergone a robust recruitment process. Staff were not all up to date with training so there was a risk of not meeting people's needs.

The providers systems and processes had not always effectively monitored the quality of the service being provided. Audits undertaken to monitor the quality of care provided had not always identified issues needing improvement.

There were sufficient staff to meet people's needs. People told us they felt safe and ensured they were safeguarded from harm. People and family members spoke of the reliability of the service. People received the support they required with their medicines. Staff worked consistently with the providers policy and procedure for infection prevention and control.

People's needs were assessed and kept under review and reflected all aspects of people's care. People, and family members contributed to the assessment process. People's health care needs were recorded, and staff liaised with health care professionals when required.

People were supported to have maximum choice and control of their lives and staff supported them in the least restrictive way possible and in their best interests; the policies and systems in the service supported this practice.

People and family members spoke of the kind and caring approach of staff. People and family members said they were involved in decisions about their care, and their views were respected by staff. The registered manager and staff had received compliments as to the quality of the care provided, which included comments about the caring approach of staff.

People and their relatives were aware of how to raise a concern. They were confident any issues raised would be swiftly and effectively followed up and acted on.

Staff were supported through ongoing monitoring and good communication, which ensured information

was shared in a timely manner to support in the delivery of personal care.

People's views and that of family members and staff were sought through surveys, which were analysed and used to identify if improvements were needed.

For more details, please see the full report which is on the CQC website at [www.cqc.org.uk](http://www.cqc.org.uk)

Rating at last inspection and update

This service was registered with us on 15 March 2021 and this is the first inspection.

Why we inspected

This inspection was carried out to provide the first rating of this service following registration.

Follow up

We will continue to monitor information we receive about the service, which will help inform when we next inspect.

## The five questions we ask about services and what we found

We always ask the following five questions of services.

### Is the service safe?

The service was not always safe.

Details are in our safe findings below.

**Requires Improvement** ●

### Is the service effective?

The service was not always effective.

Details are in our effective findings below.

**Requires Improvement** ●

### Is the service caring?

The service was caring.

Details are in our caring findings below.

**Good** ●

### Is the service responsive?

The service was responsive.

Details are in our responsive findings below.

**Good** ●

### Is the service well-led?

The service was not always well-led.

Details are in our well-led findings below.

**Requires Improvement** ●

# Bridgegate Care

## Detailed findings

### Background to this inspection

We carried out this inspection under Section 60 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (the Act) as part of our regulatory functions. We checked whether the provider was meeting the legal requirements and regulations associated with the Act. We looked at the overall quality of the service and provided a rating for the service under the Health and Social Care Act 2008.

#### Inspection team

This inspection was carried out by 1 inspector.

#### Service and service type

This service is a domiciliary care agency. It provides personal care to people living in their own homes.

#### Registered manager

This provider is required to have a registered manager to oversee the delivery of regulated activities at this location. A registered manager is a person who has registered with the Care Quality Commission to manage the service. Registered managers and providers are legally responsible for how the service is run, for the quality and safety of the care provided and compliance with regulations. At the time of our inspection there was a registered manager in post.

#### Notice of inspection

We gave the service 2 days' notice of the inspection. This was because it is a small service and we needed to be sure that the registered manager would be in the office to support the inspection. We also gave time for the registered manager to send us inspection information, so we did not have to spend an extended amount of time in the office of the service.

Inspection activity started on 25 October 2022 and ended 26 October 2022. We visited the office location on 26 October 2022.

#### What we did before the inspection

We reviewed information we had received about the service and we sought feedback from the local authority. The provider was not asked to complete a Provider Information Return (PIR) prior to this inspection. A PIR is information providers send us to give some key information about the service, what the

service does well and improvements they plan to make.

During the inspection

We spoke with 2 people who used the service about their experience of the care provided and two relatives. We spoke with 2 care staff and the registered manager. We reviewed a range of records. This included 2 care plans. We looked at 3 staff files in relation to recruitment and staff supervision. A variety of records relating to the management of the service, including policies and procedures were also reviewed.

# Is the service safe?

## Our findings

This is the first inspection of this newly registered service. This key question has been rated Requires Improvement. This meant some aspects of the service were not always safe and there was limited assurance about safety. There was an increased risk that people could be harmed.

### Assessing risk, safety monitoring and management

- People were not fully protected from risks associated with their care and support.
- Risk assessments were in place for a range of issues including reducing the risk of pressure sores developing and assisting people with their continence needs. However, assessments were not fully detailed. For example, for people with continence needs, there was little information as to how to assist them. The registered manager quickly rectified this and sent us amended risk assessments which included this information. We did not find evidence people had been harmed as a result of this lack of detail, as people told us staff assisted them when needed and kept them safe.
- Environmental risk assessments were completed. The assessments identified risks in people's homes. This enabled staff to take action to reduce and mitigate the chance of harm to people.

### Staffing and recruitment

- Staff were not always recruited safely. Recruitment systems for current staff showed evidence of good character and criminal records checks had been completed for staff. These checks help prevent unsuitable people from working with people who used the service. However, references for one staff member had not been sought from the last employer, which could have revealed issues of concern. The registered manager quickly rectified this issue and sent us the outstanding reference.
- Care plans identified the number of staff required to deliver care safely. People and relatives told us that the required number of staff were always sent to provide personal care. There were no missed calls reported.

### Preventing and controlling infection

- People were protected from the risk of infection. Everyone told us staff wore personal protective equipment (PPE) during the COVID-19 pandemic, which protected people from the risk of infection.
- Staff told us they had received training from the registered manager in infection control, including COVID-19 and donning and doffing of PPE. They said there was always enough PPE available to ensure people were protected from infection, and that the registered manager always ensured supplies were in place.

### Systems and processes to safeguard people from the risk of abuse:

- People were protected from the risk of abuse. People and relatives said staff followed safe working practices and they felt there was good protection from the risk of abuse. One person said, "I have never had any concern about staff keeping me safe."
- Staff understood how to safeguard people. Staff were aware of reporting concerns to the registered manager if abuse was suspected or alleged. They knew how to report to a relevant outside agency if no action had been taken by management. Staff had confidence that management would act if there were any concerns about people's safety.

- The registered manager was aware of their duty to report any safeguarding concerns to the local authority safeguarding team. To date, there had not been any concerns about peoples' safety.

#### Learning lessons when things go wrong

- Processes were in place for the reporting and follow up of accidents or incidents.
- To date, no incidents had occurred.

#### Using medicines safely

- People safely received their medicines. Records showed medicines had been given as prescribed, which helped people with their health needs.
- Staff told us they had received training in medicine administration from the registered manager. They said their competency was tested to ensure they knew how to supply medicine to people safely.
- The medicine policy supported people to receive their medicines in the way they preferred. They had the choice to manage their own medicines, which meant they kept their independence.



# Is the service effective?

## Our findings

Effective – this means we looked for evidence that people's care, treatment and support achieved good outcomes and promoted a good quality of life, based on best available evidence.

This is the first inspection for this newly registered service. This key question has been rated requires improvement. This meant the effectiveness of people's care, treatment and support did not always achieve good outcomes or was inconsistent.

Staff support: induction, training, skills and experience

- Staff training did not contain all issues staff needed to be aware of, such as first aid and some people's health conditions. We saw no evidence of harm of this lack of training. However, there was a risk that staff may not understand and act on people's health needs. The registered manager said this training was planned to be provided in the near future. We saw evidence this was the case.
- People and relatives told us staff seemed well trained and they had no concerns.
- Staff had received supervision, though this had been sporadic. The registered manager said that there was only a small number of staff and they all worked together. This meant the registered manager was able to observe and provide guidance as this arose. This allowed the registered manager to have detailed oversight of staff support needs.
- Staff thought the training they received meant they could provide effective care to people.

Assessing people's needs and choices; delivering care in line with standards, guidance and the law

- Assessments of people's needs were in place. This enabled people to have choice and ensured the service was able to meet their needs and preferences.
- People confirmed that staff always respected their choices in how they wanted to live their lives.

Supporting people to eat and drink enough to maintain a balanced diet

- People were supplied with relevant assistance to ensure they had enough food and fluids.
- People and relatives told us staff provided support to eat and drink when needed. One person told us, "Staff give me the food I want. There have been no problems at all." A relative said, "My [family member] has a much better diet now than with the previous agency. That's down to the staff. They know what they are doing."
- Care plans detailed the support people required from staff to eat and drink.

Staff working with other agencies to provide consistent, effective, timely care; Supporting people to live healthier lives, access healthcare services and support

- The service worked with medical professionals. This included working with district nurses to assist a person with pressure area needs. This support helped to ensure people received the treatment they needed.
- People were confident their healthcare needs were met. A person said staff had contacted the ambulance service when they had a fall. This meant staff had effectively acted for the person to receive medical treatment for their condition.

Ensuring consent to care and treatment in line with law and guidance

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA) provides a legal framework for making particular decisions on behalf of people who may lack the mental capacity to do so for themselves. The MCA requires that, as far as possible, people make their own decisions and are helped to do so when needed. When they lack mental capacity to take particular decisions, any made on their behalf must be in their best interests and as least restrictive as possible. People can only be deprived of their liberty to receive care and treatment when this is in their best interests and legally authorised under the MCA. In care homes, and some hospitals, this is usually through MCA application procedures called the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS). We checked whether the service was working within the principles of the MCA, whether appropriate legal authorisations were in place when needed to deprive a person of their liberty, and whether any conditions relating to those authorisations were being met.

- People had mental capacity assessments in place when required.
- People and relatives told us there were no restrictions on people's decisions and choices.
- The registered manager was aware of the process to put best interest decisions in place when relevant and who to consult about this. This ensured people's liberty was not unlawfully deprived.
- One person said, "I always get told what staff are going to do, which is no problem as they know what they are doing." This indicated people were involved in how their care was provided to them and whether they chose to receive it.

# Is the service caring?

## Our findings

Caring – this means we looked for evidence that the service involved people and treated them with compassion, kindness, dignity and respect.

This is the first inspection for this service. This key question has been rated Good. This meant people were supported and treated with dignity and respect; and involved as partners in their care.

Ensuring people are well treated and supported; respecting equality and diversity

- People told us they were well treated and supported. They said all staff were very friendly and caring. Staff respected the way they wanted to live their lives.
- Staff members had a good knowledge of the person being supported. They were positive about providing quality care to meet people's needs.
- The registered manager and staff members fully understood the need to respect people and their diversity. Staff said they respected people and their individual choices.

Supporting people to express their views and be involved in making decisions about their care

- People were supported to be involved in making decisions about their care. People and their relatives told us they were involved in planning care. They said the registered manager spent time with the person to fully understand their needs.
- Staff members were aware of how people liked to receive their care. For example, choices such as what food and drinks people wanted and the clothes they wanted to wear.

Respecting and promoting people's privacy, dignity and independence

- People were respected, and their privacy, dignity and independence was encouraged.
- People said that staff fully respected their independence and encouraged this, such as with washing if they were able to do this.
- People and their relatives said staff promoted privacy and dignity when providing care. Staff members gave examples of how they did this. Which included covering the person when providing personal care, closing curtains and doors and asking visitors to leave the room when personal care was to be provided.
- Staff members said they always encouraged people to be independent and would only provide support when needed.
- Staff were aware of keeping information safe and confidential. This was supported by the provider's policy on confidentiality which stressed the importance of doing this.

# Is the service responsive?

## Our findings

Responsive – this means we looked for evidence that the service met people's needs.

This is the first inspection for this newly registered service. This key question has been rated Good. This meant people's needs were met through good organisation and delivery.

Planning personalised care to ensure people have choice and control and to meet their needs and preferences

- People's care was personalised. People said staff always communicated and chatted to them, so they felt they were recognised and respected.
- They said they had choice and control over the way their care was provided. For example, whether they wanted to get up, what clothes they wanted to wear and whether they wanted to wash themselves.
- Care plans did not fully detail the person's personal history such as family and their interests and hobbies, though it did include their likes and dislikes and religion. The registered manager said this information would be extended. This would then provide staff with more personalised information to understand and engage with what was important to the person.

Meeting people's communication needs Since 2016 onwards all organisations that provide publicly funded adult social care are legally required to follow the Accessible Information Standard (AIS). The standard was introduced to make sure people are given information in a way they can understand. The standard applies to all people with a disability, impairment or sensory loss and in some circumstances to their carers.

- The registered manager was aware of the need to put systems in place when needed. This included providing information in large print, audio and pictures. There was information in care plans regarding people's communication needs.
- The registered manager was aware of the need to respect the person's preferred communication style. This allowed people to feel valued as they could always express themselves.

Improving care quality in response to complaints or concerns

- A complaints policy and procedure were in place so complaints could be recorded and dealt with formally. The procedure implied that the Care Quality Commission investigate complaints. This is not the case as CQC cannot, by law, investigate individual complaints. The registered manager amended this policy and sent it to us.
- Care had not yet needed to be improved as a result of complaints or concerns being raised with the registered manager. To date, no complaints had been made.
- People and their relatives told us if they had any concerns, they would have no hesitation about discussing this with the registered manager. This is because they always found management caring and responsive to their views.

End of life care and support

- This was not yet needed at the time of the inspection.
- People and their relatives said that the person's wishes and any relevant information would be supplied

when they were ready to share it.

- The registered manager was aware of the need to respect people's end-of-life preferences to include respecting people's religious and cultural wishes. They said that this information would include personal preferences, such as which visitors they wanted to see, the temperature of the bedroom and whether they wanted music playing.

# Is the service well-led?

## Our findings

This is the first inspection for this newly registered service. This key question has been rated requires improvement. This meant the service management and leadership was inconsistent. Leaders and the culture they created did not always support the delivery of high-quality, person-centred care.

Managers and staff being clear about their roles, and understanding quality performance, risks and regulatory requirements

- Audits and checks had been carried out to check the service met people's needs. These included checks on care records, call times and medicines. However, they were not always effective as they had not identified issues we found including the lack of detail in safety risk assessments, lack of information in peoples' life histories, and the lack of a relevant reference for a staff member. This meant opportunity to learn lessons may have been missed.
- The registered manager understood their role and the needs of their staff team. Staff understood their responsibilities, and who to report to if they had concerns and needed help.
- Surveys of people's views showed high levels of satisfaction with the service.
- Staff were monitored by the registered manager continuously as they worked together. This showed staff were providing appropriate care and a positive approach to people. This allowed the registered manager to maintain oversight of how care was being delivered.

Continuous learning and improving care; Promoting a positive culture that is person-centred, open, inclusive and empowering, which achieves good outcomes for people

- The registered manager promoted a positive culture that was inclusive and empowering to achieve good outcomes for people. This had been successful for people and the relatives we spoke with. One person said, "I have had really good care and this is down to the manager and staff."
- Staff felt supported. They said whenever they had an issue, management always responded swiftly and positively. One staff member said, "The manager is always there to help if I need this." Staff told us they were thanked for the care they provided to people.

How the provider understands and acts on the duty of candour, which is their legal responsibility to be open and honest with people when something goes wrong

- The registered manager was aware of the duty of candour. If mistakes were made, they had a duty to be open and honest, issue an apology and take any necessary action.
- The registered manager understood information sharing requirements. They knew that when concerns had been identified, notifications should be sent to the CQC as required by law. There had not been a need to do this to date.

Engaging and involving people using the service, the public and staff, fully considering their equality characteristics

- Formal feedback had been sought from people and their relatives. This showed that they were very satisfied with the service.
- As there were only a small number of staff and they worked together, the registered manager spoke to

staff continuously about issues concerning care and received feedback from staff.

- People told us that they were treated fairly. They said they did not have any specific cultural or religious requirements, and all their needs had been met.

Working in partnership with others

- The service worked in partnership with others.
- The registered manager was aware of the need to work with health professionals to ensure people's needs were met. There was also information in place for management to liaise with specialist medical professionals when needed. Records showed this had taken place.
- Staff understood they needed to inform the registered manager and people's families if people were ill or had an accident.
- The registered manager was receptive to feedback when we discussed the inspection findings. They said the inspection enabled them to reflect on providing an even more personalised service for people in the future.