

Cygnet Learning Disabilities Midlands Limited

Birches

Inspection report

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Date of inspection visit:
11 January 2022

Date of publication:
21 January 2022

Ratings

Overall rating for this service	Inspected but not rated
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Is the service safe?	Inspected but not rated
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Summary of findings

Overall summary

Birches is a six-bed specialist residential service for adults with autism and who may present with behaviours that challenge. The home aims to provide a safe, comfortable and effective care environment for those in their care, promoting independence and community integration.

Within the service, there are three en-suite bedrooms on the first floor and three on the ground floor for ease of access for those who may have mobility issues. There are also two lounges, an arts and crafts room, an ADL kitchen and an IT suite.

We found the following examples of good practice.

- ☐ There were robust systems to ensure visitors to the home would not spread infection to residents or staff. All visitors were required to complete checks and declarations relating to COVID-19 symptoms.
- ☐ There was an established staff COVID-19 testing system and the home had used Mental Capacity Act (MCA) and Best Interest (BI) assessments to risk assess the requirement to test residents monthly against the level of distress testing may cause.
- ☐ Staff wore appropriate PPE correctly when supporting residents with activities of daily living.
- ☐ Managers received advice and support with infection prevention and control (IPC) issues from IPC leads from the provider group and a clinical lead nurse from the primary care network.

The five questions we ask about services and what we found

We always ask the following five questions of services.

Is the service safe?

We were assured the service was following safe infection prevention and control procedures to keep people safe.

Inspected but not rated

Birches

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 11 January 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.
- We were assured the provider was facilitating visits for people living in the home in accordance with the 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.