

New Excel Homes Ltd

Aarondale Care Home

Inspection report

Sunny Brow
Off Chapel Lane, Coppull
Chorley
Lancashire
PR7 4PF

Tel: 01257471571

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01 March 2021

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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

Aarondale Care Home is a residential care home and at the time of the inspection was providing personal care to older people and some younger adults with support needs. The service can support up to 48 people.

At the time of the inspection there were strict rules in place throughout England relating to social restrictions and shielding practices. These were commonly known as the 'national lockdown - stay at home policy'. This meant the Covid-19 alert level was high and there were tighter restrictions in place affecting the whole community.

We found the following examples of good practice:

The provider and registered manager had comprehensive processes to minimise the risk to people, staff and visitors from catching and spreading infection. Most authorised visitors were checked at the door of the home to make sure they were safe to enter. Some of these processes needed to be extended to cover visiting health and social care professionals. The registered manager implemented this change during the inspection.

There was weekly testing of staff and every 28 days for people living in the home. Hand sanitiser and personal protective equipment (PPE) were available throughout the home. There were signs to remind staff, visitors and people about the use of PPE, the importance of washing hands, regular use of hand sanitisers and appropriate social distancing.

Where appropriate, 'socially-distanced' visits had been taking place before the inspection. There was a visiting pod that had been created at the front of the home so that visitors did not have to enter the home itself. The facility incorporated appropriate protections for visitors and their loved ones. It was a high quality construction that could be used in all weather conditions. Visitors could contact an administrator to arrange visits. The registered manager said visiting facilities would be extended further to incorporate a gazebo on a lawn in the garden. It was hoped this would be available in the summer months.

Infection control policy and people's risk assessments had been considered and revised following the pandemic so that people were protected in the event of becoming unwell or in the event of a Covid-19 outbreak in the home.

The provider insisted people were tested before admission and consistent with local guidance, people had not been admitted to the home for the most part of the pandemic. However, at the time of inspection, this position had been reviewed. In line with changes in restrictions and new guidance relevant to the geographical area, the service had started admitting people to assist with the wider health and social care position. We spoke with one person who had recently been admitted and was shielding during the inspection. They confirmed the level of support and care was good and that they were looking forward to fully integrating into the home. We were satisfied the service, staff, people and visitors were following the

rules

People's mental wellbeing had been promoted by innovative use of social media and electronic tablets so people could contact their relatives and friends. Where required, staff supported people with this technology.

The home was clean and hygienic. Staff also had comprehensive knowledge of infection prevention, access to good practice guidance and had attended Covid 19 specialist training hosted by the provider. We noted this followed best practice and the latest guidance. There were sufficient staff to provide continuity of support and ensure safeguards were in place should there be a staff shortage.

If required, staff could receive Covid 19 related supervision and had access to appropriate support to manage their wellbeing. The registered manager had a good understanding and knowledge of the staff team.

The provider and registered manager encouraged residents and staff appropriately around taking up the vaccines to Covid 19. This programme had been rolled out shortly before the inspection.

Further information is in the detailed findings below.

The five questions we ask about services and what we found

We always ask the following five questions of services.

Is the service safe?

People were Safe. We were assured the provider managed infection prevention and control at the time of the inspection.

Inspected but not rated

Aarondale Care 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 coronavirus pandemic we are looking at the preparedness of care homes in relation to infection prevention and control. This was a targeted inspection looking at the infection control and prevention measures the provider has in place.

This inspection took place on 1 March 2021 and was announced.

Is the service safe?

Our findings

How well are people protected by the prevention and control of infection?

- 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 any infection outbreaks could be effectively prevented or managed.
- We were assured that the provider's infection prevention and control policy was up to date.