

Royal Mencap Society Southernwood

Inspection report

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Date of inspection visit:
11 December 2020

Date of publication:
07 January 2021

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

Southernwood is a care home for up to six people with learning disabilities. It is a purpose-built property with single bedrooms.

We found the following examples of good practice.

A sanitising station had been set up inside the front door so that hands could be cleaned before people entered the building. Contact tracing and health declaration forms were completed on arrival at the home and staff checked people's temperature.

Supplies of PPE were available to staff throughout the premises. A PPE station had been organised close to people's bedrooms, for ease of access.

Staff had received training on infection prevention and control. This included use of PPE and how to put it on and take it off. The risks of potential exposure to the virus had been assessed for all staff, taking into account health conditions and high risks associated with people from black, Asian and other ethnic minority backgrounds.

Staff and people who used the service were tested for Covid-19. People were tested prior to admission to the home, such as if they needed to return from hospital. A permanent admission to the home in the summer months was managed well. The person had been able to visit and meet others before the national lockdown period commenced in March 2020.

The home had effectively managed an outbreak of Covid-19. Visitors to the home were restricted due to the outbreak. The home facilitated contact between people who use the service and their families using technology and telephone contact.

The home liaised with appropriate external bodies for advice and guidance, such as Public Health England and the local authority. GP surgeries had also been in regular contact. A business contingency plan was in place, to reduce the effects of potential disruption to people's care. There were policies and procedures to provide guidance for staff on safe working practices during the pandemic. Auditing and observation of care practice took place to ensure these were adhered to.

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?

Further information is in the detailed findings below.

Inspected but not rated

Southernwood

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 care homes with outbreaks of coronavirus, we are conducting reviews to ensure that the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) practice was safe and the service was compliant with IPC measures. This was a targeted inspection looking at the IPC practices the provider has in place.

This inspection took place on 11 December 2020 and was announced.

Is the service safe?

Our findings

S5□ 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's infection prevention and control policy was up to date.

We have also signposted the provider to resources to develop their approach.