

Medway Community Healthcare C.I.C

Darland House

Inspection report

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Date of inspection visit:
21 January 2021

Date of publication:
26 February 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

Darland House is registered as a care home that provides accommodation and nursing care for up to 40 people. The service is set over two floors and divided into four separate living areas, each with their own communal rooms.

The provider had identified a living area as a proposed designated setting. This was one of the 10-bedded living areas on the second floor of the service. At the time of the inspection, 10 people were being cared for in this living area. One person has been admitted recently with COVID-19, however the other nine people were free from infection having recovered from the illness.

We found the following examples of good practice.

- Each living area, including the proposed designated setting, was self-contained. They had their own laundry areas and assigned care and domestic staff for each shift.
- Each room, bedroom, communal area or office had been risk assessed to identify the maximum numbers of people allowed in the room to ensure social distancing.
- Living areas and the proposed designated setting were accessed by a key-fob entry system. Staff did not move into other parts of the service to reduce the risk of spread of infection.
- The service participated in weekly testing for staff and carried out lateral flow testing for visitors.
- We were assured that this service met good infection prevention and control guidelines.

However, we had some concerns about the suitability of the service as a designated setting. This was because people who had recovered from COVID-19 remained within the proposed designated living area until a vacant room became available elsewhere in the service, or suitable accommodation could be found elsewhere. Senior management told us this could take on average between three and six months. There was a risk therefore that people could become re-infected. We discussed our concerns with the provider and local authority that although we were assured that the service met good infection control processes, it did not meet the criteria to be identified as a designated setting. They agreed and made the decision to remove their application for this service to be used as a designated setting.

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

Darland House

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.

The service had been identified for use by the Local Authority as a designated setting in response to the Winter Plan for people discharged from hospital with a positive Covid-19 status. This inspection was to see if the service was compliant with infection control and prevention measures and met the criteria for a designated setting.

This inspection took place on 21 January 2021 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 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.