

Isle of Wight Council

Westminster House

Inspection report

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07 February 2022

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Ratings

Overall rating for this service

Inspected but not rated

Is the service safe?

Inspected but not rated

Summary of findings

Overall summary

Westminster house is a residential care home registered to provide accommodation and personal care for up to 10 people with a learning disability or autism. At the time of the inspection there were 4 people living at the service.

Westminster House provides all single bedrooms, suitable communal areas and access to a rear patio and garden.

We found the following examples of good practice

There were procedures in place to support safe visiting by family members or professionals. Staff undertook screening of all visitors. Rapid response lateral flow tests (LFT) were undertaken for visitors before they entered the home. Visitors were provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and guided to its safe use.

People and staff were regularly tested for COVID-19. Staff had LFT testing three times a week as well as standard Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests weekly. The registered manager understood the actions they needed to take should any tests return a positive result.

The service had a good supply of PPE to meet current and future demand. Staff were using this correctly and in accordance with current guidance and disposal was safe at the time of this inspection.

The registered manager was aware of actions they should take should a person return from a hospital admission. The home had space for people to socially distance whilst in communal areas. All bedrooms in use were for single occupancy.

The home was kept clean. Staff kept records of their cleaning schedules, which included a rolling programme of continuously cleaning high touch surfaces, such as light switches, grab rails and door handles.

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

Westminster 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.

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 7 February 2022 and was announced. We gave the service 4 hours' notice of the inspection.

Is the service safe?

Our findings

Staffing

- The manager told us they had measures in place to mitigate the risks associated with COVID-19 related staff pressures. The service was not providing a respite service which meant they had the necessary staff available to meet the needs of four people who were living longer term at Westminster House.

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

- We were assured that the provider's infection prevention and control policy was up to date. The provider had a comprehensive range of up to date policies and procedures relevant to all aspects of the service relating to infection prevention and control and COVID – 19. The registered manager understood how to access relevant up to date government guidance.
- We were assured that the provider was meeting shielding and social distancing rules.
- We were assured that admissions and people returning from hospital would be supported appropriately to reduce risks to other people. The registered manager understood the actions they should take if a person returned from hospital.
- We were assured that the provider was using PPE effectively and safely. Staff confirmed they had received relevant training and had ample supplies of PPE.
- We were assured that the provider was accessing testing for people using the service and staff. Where necessary specific assessments under mental capacity legislation had been completed for people unable to provide informed consent for COVID – 19 testing.
- We were assured that the provider was promoting safety through the layout and hygiene practices of the premises. The home was clean and additional cleaning of high touch points was in place.
- We were assured that the provider was making sure infection outbreaks can be effectively prevented or managed. The registered manager understood who to contact for advice.
- We were assured that the provider was preventing visitors from catching and spreading infections.

Visiting in Care Homes

- The service was facilitating visits for people living in the home in accordance with the current guidance. There were procedures in place to support safe visiting by family members. Staff undertook screening of all visitors and rapid response lateral flow tests (LFT) were undertaken for visitors before they entered the home. Visitors were provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and guided to its safe use.

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.