

The White Horse Care Trust

Holly Lodge

Inspection report

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Ratings

Overall rating for this service	Good	
Is the service safe?	Good	
Is the service effective?	Good	
Is the service caring?	Good	
Is the service responsive?	Requires improvement	
Is the service well-led?	Good	

Overall summary

Holly Lodge provides accommodation with nursing and personal care for up to 18 people with a learning disability and associated health needs. The service is one of many, run by the White Horse Care Trust, within Wiltshire and Swindon. At the time of our inspection 17 people were living in the home. The home had a vacant bed which was used to provide respite care.

The inspection took place on 1 and 2 September 2015. This was an unannounced inspection. During our last inspection in June 2014 we found the provider did not satisfy the legal requirements in two of the areas that we looked at. They sent us a plan of what actions they were going to take to make the necessary improvements. During this inspection we saw that some improvements had been made to address the areas identified during our last inspection.

A registered manager was employed by the service. A registered manager is a person who has registered with the Care Quality Commission to manage the service. Like

Summary of findings

registered providers, they are 'registered persons'. Registered persons have legal responsibility for meeting the requirements in the Health and Social Care Act 2008 and associated Regulations about how the service is run.

People living at Holly Lodge were not able to verbally tell us what they thought about the care and support they received. Relatives spoke positively about the high standard of care and support their family member received.

The service was responsive to people's needs and wishes. Care plans were centred on people's needs and preferences. However daily monitoring records were not always being completed by staff.

We observed staff interacting with people in a kind and friendly manner. Staff always informed people about what they were doing and what was going to happen next.

The registered manager responded to all safeguarding concerns. There were systems in place to protect people from the risk of abuse and potential harm. Staff were aware of their responsibility to report any concerns they had about people's safety and welfare.

Staff told us they felt supported. Staff received training and supervision to enable them to meet people's needs. The registered manager and provider had systems in place to ensure safe recruitment practices were followed. People's medicines were managed appropriately so people received them safely.

People were supported to eat and drink enough. Where people were identified at being at risk of malnutrition, referrals had been made to appropriate nutritional specialists. There were arrangements in place for people to access specialist diets where required.

Arrangements were in place for keeping the home clean and hygienic and to ensure people were protected from the risk of infections.

The registered manager and staff had knowledge of the Mental Capacity Act 2005. The service was meeting the requirements of the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS). Appropriate mental capacity assessments and best interests had been undertaken by relevant professionals. This ensured the decision was taken in accordance with the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) 2005, and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS).

There are systems in place to respond to any emergencies. The registered manager and provider had systems in place to monitor the quality of service people received.

Summary of findings

The five questions we ask about services and what we found

We always ask the following five questions of services.		
Is the service safe? This service was safe.	Good	
Relatives told us they had confidence in the service their family received and felt they were safe.		
There were enough staff deployed to fully meet people's health and social care needs.		
There were risk assessments and systems in place to ensure that people's environments were safe.		
Is the service effective? This service was effective.	Good	
People received effective care and support to meet their individual needs.		
People were supported to have enough to eat and drink. There were arrangements in place for people to access specialist diets where required.		
People had access to healthcare services and received on-going healthcare support.		
Is the service caring? This service was caring.	Good	
People were treated in a kind and caring manner.		
Relatives told us they were happy with the care and support their family member received.		
People's care needs were understood by staff.		
Is the service responsive? This service was not always responsive.	Requires improvement	
Care plans were centred on people's needs and preferences. However daily monitoring records were not always being completed by staff.		
People received care which was individual and responsive to their needs.		
There were systems in place to support people to make complaints.		
Relatives told us they could speak with the registered manager or staff if they were unhappy or had any concerns.		
Is the service well-led? This service was well-led.	Good	

Summary of findings

The provider carried out regular audits to monitor the quality of the service. Learning also took place following incidents and actions were taken where needed.

There was a registered manager in post.

Staff and relatives said they found the registered manager approachable. Staff felt supported and told us they felt able to challenge poor practice.



Holly Lodge

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, to look at the overall quality of the service, and to provide a rating for the service under the Care Act 2014.

This inspection took place on 1 and 2 September 2015 and was unannounced. Two inspectors carried out this inspection. During our last inspection in June 2014 we found the provider had not satisfied the legal requirements in two of the areas that we looked at. They sent us a plan of what actions they were going to take to make the necessary improvements. During this inspection we saw that some improvements had been made to address the areas identified during our last inspection.

Before we visited we looked at previous inspection reports and notifications we had received. Services tell us about important events relating to the care they provide using a notification.

We used a number of different methods to help us understand the experiences of people who use the service. This included talking with the relatives of five people about their views on the quality of the care and support being provided to their family member. We looked at documents that related to people's care and support and the management of the service. We reviewed a range of records which included five care and support plans, staff training records, staff duty rosters, staff personnel files, policies and procedures and quality monitoring documents. We looked around the premises and observed care practices for part of the day.

During our inspection we observed how staff supported and interacted with people who use the service. We spoke with the registered manager, nursing services manager, a registered nurse, five support workers, two housekeeping staff and the cook. We also spoke with a member of agency staff who was working at Holly Lodge during our inspection. We received positive feedback from a health and social care professional who works alongside Holly Lodge.



Is the service safe?

Our findings

People were not able to verbally tell us if they felt safe living at Holly Lodge. During our inspection we saw that people did not hesitate to seek support and approach staff when required. This indicated that people felt comfortable with staff. Relatives told us they felt their family member was safe living at the home. Comments included "I have confidence in the care X receives which makes me feel they are safe", "I can pop in anytime I like which gives me peace of mind that she is safe and well looked after" and "I am very confident in their ability to keep her safe. They know her very well."

There were processes in place to protect people from abuse and keep them free from harm. Staff were knowledgeable in recognising signs of potential abuse and felt confident with reporting any concerns they may have. They said that as people were not able to verbally tell them they would look for signs such as people's moods changing or unexplained bruising which may indicate that abuse was taking place. Any concerns about the safety or welfare of a person were reported to the registered manager who investigated the concerns and reported them to the local authority safeguarding team as required.

Where people behaved in a way that may challenge others, staff managed the situation in a positive way ensuring people's dignity was protected. They sought to understand what caused people to become distressed and then display these behaviours. There were management plans in place which were regularly reviewed to ensure staff continued to support people appropriately.

People's medicines were managed so that people received them safely. The majority of people using the service had received a review of their medicines within the last twelve months; however not all people had. The registered manager was aware of this and said they were in the process of booking review appointments for people with the GP.

People received their medicines as prescribed. Nursing staff were knowledgeable about the medicines people were prescribed, the reasons for prescribing and any interactions with other medicines the person was receiving. This meant there was no set "medicines round". Instead people received their medicines at staggered times throughout the day. We observed people receiving their

medicines throughout the day. It was explained to people it was time to take their medicines and were offered drinks with them. Staff waited until people had swallowed all medicines before signing the medicines administration record (MAR chart). People were not rushed, and we saw medicines being given on time.

Medicines were stored in locked trolleys on all three units. The majority of staff wore red "do not disturb" tabards (in line with the providers medicines policy) when administering the medicines. This meant there was less risk of them being disturbed and therefore less risk of any medicine errors occurring. One staff member was not wearing the tabard and had left two boxes of medicines unattended. They told us they had been disturbed whilst administering the medicines. The inspectors found the medicines and pointed them out to the nurse who immediately stored them away. This was the only unsafe practise we saw, all other medicines were safely locked away.

People's MAR charts contained up to date photographs and informed staff how they preferred to take any medicines. For example one person's guidance included, 'please tell me you're giving me my medication' and 'I will normally happily take my tablets on a spoon'. MAR charts had been signed by staff to indicate the person had received their medicines as prescribed.

We saw one person was being offered their medicines in food. The medicines were not being given covertly (without the person's knowledge) because staff were informing the person that the tablets were in the food when they were administering them. There was a letter in place from the person's GP confirming that staff should continue with this practise as the person did not have the capacity to understand the consequences of not taking their medicine. This meant that staff were informed that it was in the person's best interests to receive their medicines this way.

Where people were prescribed PRN "as required" medicines there were protocols in place to inform staff of the process to be followed. For example, we looked at the plan for one person who had been prescribed sedatives on a PRN basis. The care plan relating to sleeping was very detailed and informed staff of the steps they should follow before administering a sedative. PRN administration records were kept with the MAR charts so that staff could



Is the service safe?

easily access information about the last time medicines had been administered. Where the sedatives had been administered this had been documented with the reasons why.

Fridge items were stored correctly in a medicines fridge and temperatures monitored. Fridge items had been dated and signed when opened. This meant staff were able to identify when opened medicines had expired.

The provider's Medication Policy stated that nurses should be assessed as competent to administer medicines on an annual basis. One nurse told us they had been assessed during the past six months. Because some people took some time to take their medicines, one nurse said they occasionally asked a support worker to assist people to take their medicines. The medicines were given to the support worker by the nurse. The provider's policy stated this was an acceptable practise, but that only support workers who had completed a "Medication Competency workbook" were able to assist people. One nurse said they were aware of this, but there was no up to date information available for nurses to know which support workers had completed the workbook. This meant there was a risk of support workers who had not been assessed as competent being asked to assist with medicine administration. We have spoken with the registered manager who agreed to provide a list immediately.

During a previous inspection it was noted that some of emergency medicines for people had expired and would therefore not be available for staff to use. We saw there was a new system in place where the expiry dates of emergency medicines were highlighted. We were told one member of staff was responsible for re-ordering medicines and that if they were not at work for any reason, the responsibility was delegated to another member of staff. This meant the risk of medicines expiring before use had been reduced significantly.

People were protected from the risk of being cared for by unsuitable staff. There were safe recruitment and selection processes in place to protect people receiving a service. All staff were subject to a formal interview in line with the provider's recruitment policy. We looked at six staff files to ensure the appropriate checks had been carried out before staff worked with people. This included seeking references from previous employers relating to the person's past work performance. Staff were subject to a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check before new staff started working. The DBS helps employers to make safer recruitment decisions by providing information about a person's criminal record and whether they are barred from working with vulnerable adults.

There was enough qualified, skilled and experienced staff to meet people's needs. The registered manager explained that there was always a minimum of one registered nurse on duty. Staffing levels were set according to the needs of people on each unit. Staff told us that cover was always sought for staff absences. The registered manager and nursing services manager would also be available to provide nursing cover. On both days of our inspection the registered manager provided nursing cover at certain times during the day. We looked at the home's roster which indicated there was a consistent level of staff each day.

Housekeeping staff and care staff explained what measures were in place to maintain standards of cleanliness and hygiene in the home. For example, there was a cleaning schedule which all housekeeping staff followed to ensure all areas of the home were appropriately cleaned. Staff could explain the procedures they would follow to minimise the spread of infection and how they would handle soiled laundry. The service had adequate stocks of personal protective equipment such as gloves and aprons for staff to use to prevent the spread of infection. A monthly audit of infection control was carried out as part of the overall management monitoring system. We found bedrooms and communal areas were clean and tidy.



Is the service effective?

Our findings

People were not able to tell us themselves whether they believed that the staff who cared and supported them had the right skills to do so. Relatives spoke positively about the service their family member received. Comments included "Care is set up to meet her needs. There is lots of specialist training going on for staff" and "They always keep me up to date with anything that is going on in X's life."

People had access to food and drink throughout the day and staff supported them as required. Where people had complex nutritional needs identified, appropriate external advice and support was sought and appropriate risk assessments were in place. For example, several people using the service had a PEG (percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy) or a PEJ (percutaneous endoscopic jejunostomy) which are used when people are unable to swallow or to eat enough. These people had all been regularly reviewed by the Speech and Language therapy team and nutritional plans were in place in line with their advice.

A relative told us that their family member sometimes refused to eat. This had resulted in a loss of weight. They explained because Holly Lodge regularly monitored this person's weight their concerns regarding weight loss had led to a referral for professional support. They said "They are really good at making sure X has enough to eat and drink. They will also give food supplements if they feel X has not eaten enough."

People's healthcare needs were regularly monitored. Health care plans were detailed and recorded people's specific needs, such as epilepsy and pressure ulcer prevention. There was evidence of regular consultations with health care professionals where needed, such as dentists, doctors and specialists. Concerns about people's health had been followed up and there was evidence of this in people's care plans. There was information to support nursing staff should the person be admitted to hospital. This is included medical history, preferred communication, likes and dislikes.

A relative told us about one of the nurses who they described as "Very interested" in the people they are supporting and who would complete research into their medical conditions to gain more knowledge. They explained that when their relative first moved to Holly

Lodge the nursing staff were not knowledgeable of their medical condition. The nurse found a course specific to their relative's syndrome which the provider funded them to attend. They said this gave them confidence that this was the right home for their relative.

Newly appointed care staff went through an induction period which included shadowing an experienced member of staff. Staff told us they had completed training at the start of their employment and received regular updates. A new member of the nursing team said they had been supported to complete their induction at their own pace. All staff said they felt they had the necessary skills and knowledge to undertake their roles. Staff we spoke with and observed demonstrated they had the necessary knowledge and skills to meet the needs of the people using the service. They were able to describe people as individuals. Staff knew about people's likes, dislikes and preferences.

Staff were aware of their roles and responsibilities. Training records confirmed staff had received the core training required by the provider, such as safeguarding, infection control, manual handling and health and safety. Nurses said they had access to training in order to maintain their continuing professional development. There was management and leadership training for nurses taking place on the day of our inspection. One nurse said training opportunities for nurses had been "sparse" previously but that this was improving.

Individual meetings were held between staff and their line manager every six weeks. These meetings were used to discuss progress in the work of staff members; training and development opportunities and other matters relating to the provision of care for people living in the home. During these meetings, guidance was provided by the line manager in regard to work practices and opportunity was given to discuss any difficulties or concerns staff had.

CQC is required by law to monitor the application of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA) and the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) and to report on what we find. The Mental Capacity Act 2005 sets out what must be done to make sure that the rights of people who may lack mental capacity to make decisions are protected, including when balancing autonomy and protection in relation to consent or refusal of care or treatment. This includes decisions about depriving people of their liberty so that they get the



Is the service effective?

care and treatment they need where there is no less restrictive way of achieving this. DoLS require providers to submit applications to a 'Supervisory Body', the appropriate local authority, for authority to do so.

The registered manager and staff had knowledge of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and had received training in this area. The registered manager explained that capacity assessments had been undertaken for some areas such as people having medicines or blood tests and that best interest meetings had taken place. They still had some assessments to complete but had needed to prioritise what they needed to complete first. Records we reviewed showed these assessments and meetings had taken place. The meetings involved the person, family, staff members and other health and social care professionals.

DoLS require providers to submit applications to a 'Supervisory Body', the appropriate local authority, for authority to do so. All necessary Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards applications had been submitted by the provider to the appropriate local authority. We saw that some applications had been authorised by one local authority whilst some were still waiting to be processed by another local authority. Where applications had been authorised the registered manager was monitoring the expiry dates to ensure that the applications were kept up to date and relevant.



Is the service caring?

Our findings

Throughout the day we saw staff interacting with people with kindness and compassion. Staff always informed people about what they were doing and what was going to happen next. People who were unable to verbally express their views appeared comfortable with the staff who supported them. We saw people smiling and laughing with staff when they were approached.

Staff knew people well and were observed laughing and joking with people. They knew people's preferences and were able to tell us about the people they were caring for and their needs. When staff spoke with people we saw they took the time to listen and ensure that people could express themselves. Some people were able to verbalise certain words or sounds, others communicated through eye contact and facial expressions.

Relatives spoke positively about the care and support their family member received. Comments included "The staff are absolutely wonderful. This place is the very best we've been to", They take the time to get to know her and build a good relationship" and "The staff are very good. I am pleased with the care and respect X gets."

One relative told us about the time their family member had been in hospital. They explained that staff had visited their family member and then had phoned them with an update of how they were getting on. They felt this showed that staff were genuinely caring of the people they supported and their families.

We observed one person who appeared to be experiencing some discomfort. Staff offered the person some pain relief which they accepted. When this didn't appear to relieve the person of their discomfort the person was then offered a warm bath in line with their care plan. Staff explained this helped the person to relax when they were anxious as they enjoyed this.

Another person whose sleep pattern had been disrupted was sleeping during the first day of our inspection. Staff were concerned that this person was not getting enough fluids so sought the advice of the registered nurse. Before entering the persons room staff knocked and gently tried to wake the person to have a drink. They respected the person's wish to go back to sleep and not get up.

We observed the lunchtime experience on the first day of our inspection on two units. People were supported at a pace that was suitable to them. Staff encouraged people and offered help when needed. We noted that people were given their meals, but not offered a choice, although there were other choices available.

During our visit we observed people being able to choose where they wished to spend their time. This included spending time in their bedrooms, the communal lounge or garden.

People had access to local advocacy services although the registered manager told us that no one was currently using this service. They explained about one person who had been supported by an advocate when had needed to make a choice about their living arrangements. Where needed family members had been involved to speak on behalf of people or assist them to share their views. The home had links with the local advocacy service who were working with the home to monitor the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) which were in place.



Is the service responsive?

Our findings

The care plans we looked at were person centred and contained a large amount of information about people. Where people were unable to contribute to their own plan of care, it was clear where family input had been sought. However, some of this information was repeated several times throughout the plans and was not always consistent or easy to find. Many of the care plans were linked, but it was not easy to find the plans they were linked to. The files containing the care plans were very large, and although they had all been reviewed monthly, it was not always easy to identify when a person's needs had changed. For example, one person's care plan contained two sections relating to their nutritional needs. In one section the plan stated the person should be offered tasters. In another section, the plan stated the person lacked interest in tasters. Another plan referred to a person's preferences for personal care and dressing in two different sections, with slightly different guidance for staff. In one section it stated the person didn't like footwear and only wore shoes when going out, whilst in another section it stated the person didn't like socks. A member of staff told us the person never wore shoes or socks. This meant there was a risk of staff not being able to meet people's individual preferences because the information was not available in an easy to access format.

We found that the registered person had not designed care and treatment to reflect people's preferences and ensure that support plans reflected people's care and support needs because accurate and appropriate records were not maintained. This was a breach of Regulation 9 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014.

We also saw daily monitoring records were not always being completed by staff. For example in one person's care plan it was documented that staff should "Turn the tube (that was in place to attach the PEG feed) through 360 degrees daily". However the chart in place for staff to sign to confirm this had been carried out was incomplete. According to the records in place, during July 2015 there were 17 occasions when the tube had not been turned and 12 occasions during August 2015. This meant there was a risk that care was not always being delivered in accordance with the care plan.

There were also gaps in people's fluid and repositioning charts. For example we saw in one person's records that it was recorded that they had only been repositioned twice that day which was not in line with their care plan. Where people were at risk of not receiving sufficient fluids monitoring charts were in place. Records we reviewed showed there were periods throughout the day were there was no record of fluids being offered for several hours. There was also no evidence to say that fluids had been offered and refused. When we spoke with staff they were confident that people would have been repositioned and fluids offered and that staff had just not recorded this. This meant there was no way of knowing if the care had definitely been received by people.

We found that the registered person had not maintained accurate records in respect of each person, including a record of the care and treatment provided. This was a breach of Regulation 17 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014.

Where people had stated a preference care was provided when and where they needed it. For example care plans showed how people liked to receive their personal care. One care plan we looked at gave clear details of how staff should assist the person into the bath and how they should maintain their privacy and dignity throughout. The plan also gave additional information such as the length of the time the person liked to soak in the bath for.

People's care plans contained records on personal histories which included information on important relationships, past education and interest and hobbies. Staff told us this helped them to get to know the person and also provided topics of conversation to support developing relationships.

The home had taken steps to make sure the person's needs were responded to in the event they went into hospital. Each person had a health in hospital care plan which also gave information on how to support the person during their stay.

People were supported to follow their interests and to take part in social activities that mattered to them. During our inspection several people went out for part of the day and we overheard one person being asked where they would like to sit on the minibus. Staff showed us a box which had bottles containing different smells. They explained that one



Is the service responsive?

person really liked to smell different things. They said they were also going to find pictures of the smells to help the person identify them. The bottles included fragrances such as cut grass and marzipan.

On the second day of our inspection we observed people taking part in a music activity provided by an outside company. The registered manager explained that they had recently identified an activity co-ordinator role whose remit was to help develop activities for people living at Holly Lodge.

The provider took account of complaints and there were clear procedures in place to ensure complaints were responded to in a timely manner. Relatives we spoke with all told us they knew how to make a complaint. They said they would feel comfortable raising any concerns they had and felt these would be responded to by the registered manager and staff.



Is the service well-led?

Our findings

There was a registered manager in post. Staff were aware of the organisations visions and values. They told us their role was to provide safe care and support and to support people to be as independent as possible. The registered manager told us they regularly worked as part of the team, and during our inspection we observed them administering medicines.

Staff spoke positively about working at Holly Lodge and the support they received. Comments included "I feel well supported and I can speak up if I feel the need to", "We have a core staff here who really do care, but a lot of good staff have left" and "I enjoy it here; we really do work as a team".

The provider had systems in place to monitor the quality of the service. This included audits carried out periodically throughout the year by the home manager, nursing services manager and senior management. The audits covered areas such as infection control, care plans, the safe management of medicines and health and safety. Areas requiring action were identified and we saw records of follow up actions and completion dates.

There was evidence that learning from incidents / investigations took place and appropriate changes were implemented. Where someone had recently injured themselves whilst in bed this had led to a review of their sleep system. The home had looked at the least restrictive option to keep this person safe. We saw that as a result of this a new sleep system had been implemented for the person.

Staff members' training was monitored by the interim manager to make sure their knowledge and skills were up to date. There was a training record of when staff had received training and when they should receive refresher training. Staff told us they received the correct training to assist them to carry out their roles.

People's relatives told us they were regularly involved with the service and reviewing their family member's care and support. They told us they could raise concerns or make suggestions on how best to support the person. One relative told us they attended a review meeting each year where they could discuss care needs and make suggestions. They said "I am supported to have a voice that is not only listened to but responded to as well".

The provider worked in partnership with other health and social care professional and organisations to support care provision. This included the local advocacy service, occupational therapists, consultants and healthcare professionals.

We asked the registered manager how they could up to date with good working practices. They said they attended a monthly meeting with other registered managers within the trust. This gave them the opportunity to share information and ideas. They also attended local forums with other providers to keep their practice up to date.

We discussed with the manager any plans they had for improving the service in the coming year. They told about the staffing restructure on each unit which involved recruiting team leaders. This would allow the nurses more time to attend to nursing duties whilst the team leaders developed the social side of the service and would be responsible for managing each unit. They were also introducing a full time activities co-ordinator to support people to accessed structured opportunities.

Staff told us they were aware of the planned staffing restructure on each unit and all felt that the new team leader posts would improve the support staff received.

The management operated an on call system to enable staff to seek advice in an emergency. This showed leadership advice was present 24 hours a day to manage and address any concerns raised. There were procedures in place to guide staff on what to do in the event of a fire.

Action we have told the provider to take

The table below shows where legal requirements were not being met and we have asked the provider to send us a report that says what action they are going to take. We did not take formal enforcement action at this stage. We will check that this action is taken by the provider.

Regulated activity	Regulation
Accommodation for persons who require nursing or personal care	Regulation 9 HSCA (RA) Regulations 2014 Person-centred care
	We found that the registered person had not designed care and treatment to reflect people's preferences and ensure that support plans reflected people's care and support needs because accurate and appropriate records were not maintained. 9 (1) (a)(b)(c)

Regulated activity Accommodation for persons who require nursing or personal care Regulation 17 HSCA (RA) Regulations 2014 Good governance We found that the registered person had not maintained accurate records in respect of each person, including a record of the care and treatment provided. 17 (2) (c)