

Leonard Cheshire Disability

Birnbeck House - Care Home Learning Disabilities

Inspection report

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Date of inspection visit:
04 November 2020

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19 November 2020

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

Birnbeck House is a three-story Edwardian home situated just a short distance from the beach, promenade, and town centre. Birnbeck House delivers care for adults with learning disabilities and complex needs.

The provider had an outbreak of Corona virus within in the home. However, at the time of the inspection the outbreak had cleared, and we were assured the provider was keeping people safe. We found the following examples of good practice.

Staff had received training in infection control, including how to safely put on and take off personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, aprons and face coverings. One staff member told us, "I have PPE coming out of my ears, including sanitizer and disinfectant". We saw staff throughout the day wearing appropriate PPE and refreshing their PPE when moving from room to room.

Due to the recent outbreak the provider had stopped all visitors to the home, to help contain the virus. However, staff told us they worked with relatives and people living in the home to make sure people had contact with their loved ones through use of technology, this included phone and video calls.

Once the outbreak had cleared, staff told us visitors entering the home had their temperatures recorded and were asked to wash their hands, wear masks and maintain social distancing. When staff came on shift they would record their temperatures, sanitise their hands and put on their PPE before entering the building.

The registered manager told us how difficult it was to isolate areas using a zoning system because of the complex needs of people living in the home. The registered manager told us, "Two people were tested negative and their rooms were in the same corridor, we put signs up saying safe zone, we also had another person who was able to self-isolate". Adding, "We encouraged regular hand washing and implemented additional cleaning methods, staff supported people on a one to one basis, wiping areas they touched as they moved around the home". The registered manager also told us, "We contracted an external cleaning company for a two-week period to do additional cleaning in the evenings".

The registered manager had regular contact with Public Health England and the local commissioning team to monitor the outbreak. The registered manager showed us their action plan implemented to manage the outbreak and had confirmation on the day of the inspection that everyone had now tested negative.

The provider was not admitting people to the home currently as they had no vacancies. However, the registered manager ensured regular testing was carried out, weekly for staff and monthly for people living in the home. Staff we spoke with were confident and knowledgeable about how to protect people from the risk of infection and the environment was clean and well maintained.

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?

At our last inspection we rated this key question good. We have not reviewed the rating at this inspection. This is because we only looked at part of this key question.

Inspected but not rated

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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 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 4 November 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 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.