

Miss M Levett

Little Acorns

Inspection report

43 Silverdale Road
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN20 7AT

Tel: 01323720520

Date of inspection visit:
11 November 2020

Date of publication:
03 December 2020

Ratings

Overall rating for this service	Inspected but not rated
Is the service safe?	Inspected but not rated

Summary of findings

Overall summary

Little Acorns provides accommodation and support for up to 20 people, most of whom were living with dementia. There were 16 people living at the service when we inspected, one person was currently in hospital.

We found the following examples of good practice.

Measures had been implemented to ensure people entering the home, including healthcare professionals, did so following current guidance regarding Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and social distancing. This included temperatures being taken on arrival and a series of questions asked to monitor risk from people entering the home. The provider was not currently taking new admissions.

Regular Covid-19 testing was taking place for people and staff. Some people found the process of being swabbed too distressing and they were unable to be tested. Staff had access to guidance and policies regarding Covid-19 and infection prevention and control.

Covid-19 risk assessments had been completed for people.

The provider had maintained good stocks of PPE. Social distancing rules were being followed where possible.

Further information is in the 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?

Inspected but not rated

Inspected but not rated

Little Acorns

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 11 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 admitting people safely to the service.
- 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.

We were somewhat assured that the provider was meeting shielding and social distancing rules. People who were Covid-19 positive were not all able to safely isolate. This was due to people's dementia or anxiety which meant it was not safe for them to remain in their rooms. Staff guided people with dementia who walked with purpose to communal areas of the home where they could be supported to remain socially distanced.

We were somewhat assured that the provider was promoting safety through the layout and hygiene practices of the premises. There was currently no designated housekeeping staff working at the home. A family member of the provider was completing housekeeping duties however they had not completed any Infection Prevention Control (IPC) or Covid-19 training. A more detailed cleaning schedule was needed to ensure IPC practices could be clearly evidenced and documented. We signposted the provider to e-learning IPC training for all staff. The provider booked refresher training for staff and implemented a more robust cleaning schedule following the inspection.

We were somewhat assured that the provider was making sure infection outbreaks can be effectively prevented or managed. We signposted the provider to guidance to ensure IPC and PPE measures and systems were monitored and reviewed effectively.

We were somewhat assured that the provider was using PPE effectively and safely. IPC measures needed to be consistently followed by staff to ensure infection transmission risk was minimised. We signposted the provider to guidance to ensure that PPE usage was improved. This included laundry and disposal of waste.