

Blair House Care Home Limited

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Inspection report

18 Roe Lane
Southport
Merseyside
PR9 9DR

Tel: 01704500123

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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

Blair House is a care home that provides nursing care and support to people with mental health needs. The home is registered for 41 people.

We identified prior to the inspection that no people living in the service had tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days.

There had been some service users positively previously and one member of staff had recently tested positive as a result the service had made the decision no new admissions would be undertaken until advice from local infection prevent control team had agreed.

People were supported to understand and comply with visiting and social restrictions in line with all best practice guidance and this was communicated and updated as needed.

The service supported people to follow social distancing, isolating and hygiene practices as much as possible.

The provider demonstrated a good understanding of what and how to access local IPC resources (e.g. local health protection team) when they need advice and support.

Where the provider is responsible for cleaning, there are clear schedules in place, which include the frequency of cleaning of high touch areas. Records show compliance with the cleaning schedule.

Risk assessments were in place for service users who did not wish to be vaccinated and for those service users who access the community.

Staff are trained and know how to immediately instigate full infection control measures to care for a person who develops symptoms, who tests positive or who has been exposed to the virus to avoid the virus spreading to other people and staff.

The five questions we ask about services and what we found

We always ask the following five questions of services.

Is the service safe?

We were assured that this service met good infection prevention and control guidelines as a designated care setting

Inspected but not rated

Blair House Care Home

Detailed findings

Background to this inspection

As part of CQC's response to care homes with outbreaks of COVID-19, we are conducting reviews to ensure that the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) practice is safe and that services are compliant with IPC measures. This was a targeted inspection looking at the IPC practices the provider has 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 19 January 2022 and was announced. We gave the service 24 hours of notice of the inspection

Is the service safe?

Our findings

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.

Staffing

- The provider told us they had measures in place to mitigate the risks associated with COVID-19 related staff pressures. There is only one staff member currently isolating. Cleaning staff stated that there was a lot of work to make sure that they cleaned everything properly. The service has recruited an additional cleaner to work on the weekends.

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. All visitors must present a COVID pass and a confirmation of a negative test undertaken within 24 hrs on entry to the building. This is checked by staff and recorded on a survey when visitors sign in. Essential carers were also supported to be appropriately trusted and visit their relatives. However, the service needs to make sure that they also check temperatures of visitors on entry into the building.
- We were assured that the provider was meeting shielding and social distancing rules. The provider had done all that they could rearranged communal areas to provide social distancing. Staff and people living in the service were aware of the need to maintain social distancing.
- We were assured that the provider was admitting people safely to the service. There service had an admittance procedure, this included ensuring that a recent negative result for coronavirus had been recorded before admittance. At the time of the inspection there were no service users with a positive result. There had been people living in the service who had tested positive to maintain safety the provider had had made the decision to close to any further admittances. The service was awaiting confirmation that they could reopen to admissions.
- We were assured that the provider was using PPE effectively and safely. There was enough PPE available for staff and visitors. Throughout the service there was PPE readily available for staff to replace as needed. Staff were observed to correctly wear and use PPE. Some of the people living in the service also choose to wear a face covering when mixing with other people.
- We were assured that the provider was accessing testing for people using the service and staff. Testing was in place for all staff when they commenced their shift. Testing practice was normally lateral flow test (LFT) three a week and a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) weekly. People living in the home who frequently accessed the community were also tested on alternative days to help limit the risks.

- We were assured that the provider was promoting safety through the layout and hygiene practices of the premises. There were clear monitored cleaning schedules in place that were monitored by the housekeeper in order to make sure that cleaning was appropriate.
- We were assured that the provider was making sure infection outbreaks can be effectively prevented or managed. The registered manager sought advice appropriately and followed external infection control advice when received.
- We were assured that the provider's infection prevention and control policy was being updated. The policy was available for all staff and regular updates were made available to make sure staff were aware of best practice. In discussion with staff their understanding of good hand cleaning technique was not in keeping with best practice. The manager arranged to ensure that staff received an update in appropriate technique and assessed.
- We were assured the provider was facilitating visits for people living in the home in accordance with the current guidance. All visitors were checked on entry that they were up to date with vaccinations and had tested negatively within last 24 hours. Logs were kept of any testing and monitored to make sure that the service would be able to plan and mitigate any risks.

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. Checks were in place and logs of staff vaccination status including boosters were recorded and monitored. Where staff had not yet received a booster vaccination the service encouraged them to undertake the latest vaccination. Risk assessments were in place for people living in the service that did not want to receive an immunisation.

We have also signposted the provider to resources to develop their approach.