

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

St Aidans

Inspection report

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02 February 2022

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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

St Aidans is a residential short-term break service that can provide care for up to six adults with a learning disability in single en-suite bedrooms. Some people may have other disabilities. At the time of the inspection there was no one using the service as it was closed to admissions.

We found the following examples of good practice:

The service was clean. Staff wore PPE correctly and there were signs around the home to remind people of the measures in place to reduce the risk of cross infection. A room had been set aside on each wing of the service for the use of staff to put on and take off PPE. Staff had completed training in infection prevention and control and the safe use of PPE.

The provider had a risk assessment in place which identified the action staff and people using the service should take to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19. The use of the environment had been adapted to enable people using the service to comply with social distancing requirements. Staff were allocated to work only with one person during each shift to reduce the risk of cross infection.

The provider had services and processes in place to support staff with their health and well-being. They had recently developed an infection prevention control policy to guide staff about how to manage the risk of cross infection in services registered with the Care Quality Commission.

We found the service was not following government guidance in relation to the admission of people to St Aidans or the testing of staff, people using the service and professional visitors. Since the service was currently closed to admissions, we did not find any evidence people had been harmed as a result of these shortfalls. Immediately following the inspection, we were assured action had been taken to ensure the service was following all relevant guidance before it reopened to overnight guests.

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

St Aidans

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 2 February 2022 and was announced. We gave the service 24 hours' notice of the inspection.

Is the service safe?

Our findings

Staffing

- The provider told us they had measures in place to mitigate the risks associated with COVID-19 related staff pressures

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

- We were somewhat assured that the provider was accessing testing for people using the service and staff. Although staff were undertaking twice weekly lateral flow tests (LFTs) when working at the service, this was not in line with the timescales in current government guidance. Staff were also not undertaking weekly PCR tests in line with current government guidance.
- We were somewhat assured that the provider was admitting people safely to the service. People who had tested positive for COVID-19 prior to their admission and those who were admitted from a household where a close contact had tested positive were required to isolate on admission to the service. However, the provider did not have a system in place to routinely test people prior to and following their admission into the service in line with current government guidance.
- We were somewhat assured that the provider was preventing visitors from catching and spreading infections. The provider had a system to check and log the vaccination status of professional visitors to the service. However, the provider did not ask professional visitors to the service to demonstrate a negative LFT test at least 72 hours prior to their visit or before entering the building. Due to the respite nature of the service, there were usually no visits by relatives during their family member's stay at St Aidans.
- We were assured that the provider was meeting shielding and social distancing rules.
- We were assured that the provider was using PPE effectively and safely.
- 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.

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

Visiting in care homes

As the service provided respite care and short breaks, relatives did not usually visit while their family member was at St Aidans. However, when necessary staff supported people to remain in contact with their family and friends during their stay in the service.

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.