

Mr & Mrs B & K Vijayakumar

Ashlodge

Inspection report

83-85 Cantelupe Road
Bexhill On Sea
East Sussex
TN40 1PP

Tel: 01424217070

Date of inspection visit:
25 February 2022

Date of publication:
30 March 2022

Ratings

Overall rating for this service

Inspected but not rated

Is the service safe?

Inspected but not rated

Summary of findings

Overall summary

Ashlodge provides accommodation and personal care for up to 16 older people with care needs associated with older age. This includes people with physical and health needs and people with a dementia and memory loss. Ashlodge is a detached property close to the seafront in Bexhill -on-Sea. At the time of this inspection there were 16 people living at the service.

We found the following examples of good practice.

People were supported by staff to have visits from their friends and family in various ways throughout the pandemic. When face to face visits had not been possible, people had, had window/door visits and visits in the garden. Visitors were asked to confirm they had completed a test for COVID-19, had their hands sanitized and were provided with full PPE to wear whilst visiting.

The home was clean and there was regular domestic staff who completed a cleaning programme. The cleaning products had been reviewed and updated to ensure suitability for cleaning during a pandemic. The cleaning programme now included regular cleaning of high touch areas.

There was an allocated infection control lead who monitored staff practice and carried out regular infection control audits. There was a good supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) and staff had received specific COVID-19 training. Staff received regular updates on IPC.

Regular testing for people and staff was taking place, in accordance with government guidelines. Staff entered the service through a back room, where they changed into clean work clothes. Staff were seen to be wearing masks when in the service. Hand sanitisers were available and placed in strategic areas in the service. Suitable bins were placed around the home to dispose of PPE safely.

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

Ashlodge

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 25 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 preventing visitors from catching and spreading infections.

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.

- During the inspection it was noted that staff were not ensuring professionals and contractors visiting the service had been vaccinated. The registered manager immediately reviewed the visiting procedure to ensure staff checked the vaccination status of visiting professionals and contractors before allowing them to enter the service.

The Government has announced its intention to change the legal requirement for vaccination in care homes. Changes made by the registered manager following the inspection ensured they were now meeting the current requirement to ensure non-exempt staff and visiting professionals were vaccinated against COVID-19.

- 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.

Visiting in care homes

The registered manager ensured visiting by friends and relatives was completed in accordance with government guidelines.

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