

Ashgale House Limited

Ashgale House

Inspection report

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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

Ashgale House is a care home providing accommodation and personal care for up to 14 people living with learning disabilities, some of whom may have autism and additional physical disabilities. At the time of the inspection there were six people living in the home. Accommodation was provided across two floors.

We found the following examples of good practice.

The home had an up to date infection prevention and control policy. All staff had received training about infection prevention and control (IPC), and in the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). Management staff carried out monitoring checks of staff IPC practice and shortfalls were addressed.

Personalised COVID-19 risk assessments had been carried out on people and staff who may be disproportionately at risk of COVID-19. These included management strategies to reduce the risks of infection from COVID-19.

The provider had ensured the home always had a suitable supply of PPE including face masks, disposable gloves and aprons. This minimised the risk of spread of infection in the home and people and staff becoming unwell. We observed staff used PPE effectively to safeguard the people living in the home, staff and visitors.

The home was very clean. Staff completed two hourly cleaning of high touch surfaces including light switches to minimise the spread of infection. Infection prevention and control champions completed comprehensive monthly IPC checks of the environment and other areas of the service. Action was taken to address any shortfalls found.

The provider followed current government visiting guidance. Management recognised the importance to people's well-being of having visits from friends and relatives. They ensured that safe visiting arrangements were in place. Visiting procedures included ensuring visitors had a confirmed negative lateral flow test, used hand sanitiser and wore a face mask. Personalised visiting was supported. People's friends and relatives told us they visited their loved ones. Some people were supported by staff to visit their relatives. People also kept in contact with their families and friends by telephone and video calls. Two people told us they had regular contact with friends and relatives.

During the pandemic the provider ensured that staff kept up to date with all relevant pandemic guidance. The management staff ensured that updates were promptly communicated to staff, people and relatives. This and regular communication with the host local authority and public health teams helped to ensure the home carried out good IPC practice that kept people safe.

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

Ashgale House

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 24 February 2022 and was announced. We gave the service one days' 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 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.
- The provider ensured that government visiting guidance was being followed. Personalised visiting was taking place.

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 Government has announced its intention to change the legal requirement for vaccination in care homes, but the service was meeting the current requirement to ensure non-exempt staff and visiting professionals were vaccinated against COVID-19.