

Home Group Limited

Aviary House

Inspection report

60 Burton's Way
Smith's Wood
Birmingham
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Date of inspection visit:
04 February 2022

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27 April 2022

Ratings

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

Summary of findings

Overall summary

Aviary House is a supported living service which provides personal care for up to 24 adults with mental health needs and learning disabilities or autistic spectrum disorder. People live in self-contained flats with shared communal areas. Aviary House also provides short term and emergency accommodation and personal care for up to four people. At the time of our inspection 23 people were living at Aviary House, six of these people required support with personal care. Three people were receiving short term support at Aviary House.

We found the following examples of good practice.

Staff reduced the risk of visitors from catching and spreading infection. Staff asked all visitors to show evidence of, or complete, a COVID-19 lateral flow test on arrival. Professional visitors to the service were also asked to provide they had been vaccinated against COVID-19. Visitors were requested to wear face masks whilst visiting the service and masks were available for visitors if required. Hand sanitiser was available throughout the service.

Staff had access to and wore Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) whilst in the service and delivering care. Staff had received ongoing training about the use of PPE (PPE) and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and regular observations were completed by the registered manager to ensure staff were following the correct procedures.

Arrangements were made that in the event of an outbreak of COVID-19 staff would work in cohorts with specific people to reduce the risk of spreading the infection throughout the service.

When people were admitted to the service, they were required to complete tests for COVID-19 prior to and following admission. There was a regular testing schedule for staff and people who lived at the service which followed current national guidance.

Staff had plentiful supplies of PPE which complied with current national guidance. Staff had received ongoing training about the use of PPE and infection prevention and control. Regular observations were completed by the registered manager to ensure staff were following the correct procedures.

The service was clean. Daily cleaning schedules were in place and the registered manager checked these were done to an acceptable standard. Regular "deep cleans" of the service were completed by an external organisation.

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

Aviary 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 04 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.

Visiting in care homes

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.
- The provider was complying with current government guidance regarding visiting arrangements. Visiting was supported in people's own properties and regular telephone or video calls were all encouraged by the provider.