

Shaw Healthcare (Specialist Services) Limited

The Links

Inspection report

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Dudley
West Midlands
DY1 3DN

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Date of inspection visit:
11 March 2021

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06 April 2021

Ratings

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

Summary of findings

Overall summary

The Links is registered to provide accommodation and personal care to a maximum of five younger adults. People may live with a mental health diagnosis or a learning disability. At the time of our inspection four people lived at the home.

We found the following examples of good practice.

- Procedures were in place for safe visits by healthcare professionals, contractors and relatives. These included the wearing of full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Relatives could visit their family member on an appointment only basis. The provider had deemed the conservatory as safe for this purpose as it was spacious and airy.
- The premises were spacious, and all bedrooms were single occupancy. This promoted social distancing and reduced any risk of infection transmission within the home.
- Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) processes had been followed when new people were admitted to the home.
- Staff took a COVID-19 test three times a week and people every 28 days. People or staff who tested positive were required to self-isolate in line with current government guidance.
- The premises were clean and appropriate cleaning products were used.

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

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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 coronavirus pandemic we are looking at the preparedness of care homes in relation to infection prevention and control. This was a targeted inspection looking at the infection control and prevention measures the provider has in place.

This inspection took place on 11 March 2021 and was announced.

Is the service safe?

Our findings

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.