

Springhill Care Group Limited

Birch Green Care Home

Inspection report

Ivydale
Birch Green
Skelmersdale
Lancashire
WN8 6RS

Date of inspection visit:
26 January 2022

Date of publication:
15 February 2022

Tel: 0169550916
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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

Birch Green Care Home is in a residential area of Skelmersdale, Lancashire. It provides accommodation for up to 74 people, who require support with nursing or personal care needs. There are two separate units, each of which has separate adapted facilities. One of the units specialises in providing care to people living with dementia. A passenger lift is available for easy access to the first floor. All bedrooms are of single occupancy, some have en-suite facilities and those without have wash basins. At the time of our inspection 69 people were living at Birch Green.

We found the following examples of good practice.

The upper floor had recently been refurbished and provided dementia friendly facilities. The bathrooms displayed handwashing posters which had been adapted to be dementia friendly. Staff had been given information on 'mindful communication during COVID-19' and posters were displayed in staff areas. Staff made adjustments to aid communication with people living with dementia whilst wearing personal protective equipment and these were reflected in the resident's 'face mask care plan'.

Staff facilitated visits for residents in line with guidance. Each resident had a visiting and communication care plan and well being coordinators took a lead in ensuring visits were booked and coordinated in a safe way. Visit slots were allocated in each area so staff could limit foot fall across communal areas as visitors arrived and left.

All areas of the home were visibly clean and tidy. Domestic staff took pride in their work and in maintaining strong infection prevention and control measures.

Staff completed risk assessments and care plans for residents for all aspects of their life which may be affected by COVID 19 such as visits outside the home, testing, vaccinations. Where residents lacked capacity to make decisions with regards to infection prevention and control measures appropriate capacity assessments and best interest decision making protocols had been followed.

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

Birch Green Care Home

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 26 January 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 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.
- We were assured the provider was facilitating visits for people living in the home in accordance with the current guidance.

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.