

Abbey Chase Residential and Nursing Homes Limited

Abbey Chase Nursing Home

Inspection report

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Date of inspection visit:
10 February 2022

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23 February 2022

Ratings

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

Overall summary

Abbey Chase Nursing Home provides accommodation, nursing and personal care for up to 62 older people, some of whom may be living with dementia. There were 54 people living at the home at the time of our inspection.

We found the following examples of good practice:

There were enough staff available to keep people safe and meet their needs. The provider had developed contingency plans to cover unplanned staff absence, such as staff needing to self-isolate because of COVID-19.

There were vacancies for care, nursing and ancillary staff at the time of our inspection, which meant agency staff were used regularly. The provider had minimised the impact of this on people's care by using regular agency staff where possible and ensuring agency staff had the induction and information they needed to understand people's needs.

The provider had taken action to recruit new staff, including reviewing pay rates and offering career development opportunities and local accommodation. The provider had also taken steps to retain existing staff, including recognising and rewarding staff for the work they did.

People who lived at the home were supported to access testing for COVID-19 and to have their COVID-19 vaccinations. If people contracted COVID-19, they were supported to self-isolate in their bedrooms.

The service had put measures in place to enable safe visiting. Visitors were required to provide evidence of a negative lateral flow test and to complete COVID-19 screening. Family visits were planned to ensure there were never multiple visitors in the home simultaneously. Professionals visiting the home also had to demonstrate their COVID-19 vaccination status.

Staff took part in a COVID-19 testing regime. Any staff who contracted COVID-19 did not return to work until they had completed an appropriate period of self-isolation.

The premises were clean and hygienic. Additional cleaning had been implemented since the advent of the pandemic and standards of infection prevention and control (IPC) were audited regularly. Staff had access to the personal protective equipment (PPE) they needed and had attended training in its use.

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

Abbey Chase Nursing 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 10 February 2022 and was announced. We gave the service a short notice period of the inspection.

Is the service safe?

Our findings

Staffing

- The provider 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 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.
- 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.