

Apple House Limited

# Apple House

## Inspection report

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31 March 2021

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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

Apple House is registered to provide accommodation with personal care and support for up to four people with a learning disability. At the time of the inspection three people lived at the service.

We found the following examples of good practice.

People, staff and visitors were protected from risks of infection by robust and up to date policies and procedures. Visitors completed a health questionnaire, had their temperature recorded and were asked to complete a rapid COVID-19 test, which provided a positive or negative test result within 30 minutes. The home had a garden pod where rapid tests were completed.

The home was visibly clean and hygienic. Staff used cleaning products recommended by the local authority. Daily cleaning schedules included frequently touched surfaces such as handrails and door handles. Regular cleaning audits were conducted to ensure safety standards were maintained.

The home had a good supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) which was audited weekly. Staff were observed wearing this correctly. Staff had received external training in how to put on and take off PPE and posters were available in the home as a reminder. Competency checks helped ensure a consistency of approach and the latest government guidelines were followed.

The home had supported people and staff to participate in the government's COVID-19 testing and vaccination programme. Staff had been trained to complete COVID-19 testing. Consent had been sought appropriately when required. Where people could complete the testing independently, they were given the opportunity to do so.

People and staff were encouraged to socially distance within the home. People demonstrated a good understanding of what they needed to do and why to keep themselves and others safe. The home had received positive feedback from people, relatives and staff who were surveyed on infection prevention and control (IPC) practices during the pandemic.

The home recognised the importance of supporting people's mental wellbeing and had worked creatively with people, their relatives and relevant health care professionals to maintain this. Staff had regular welfare checks and were assessed to determine if they were at any greater risk of infection from COVID-19. Where additional support needs were identified reasonable adjustments were offered.

## 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**

# Apple 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 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 31 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.