

# A1 Residential Care Limited The Bellingham Residential Care Home

#### **Inspection report**

47 Church Road Lytham Lytham St Annes Lancashire FY8 5PR Date of inspection visit: 01 December 2016

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Tel: 01253737356

#### Ratings

#### Overall rating for this service

Good

Is the service safe?	Good 🔍
Is the service effective?	Good 🔴
Is the service caring?	Good 🔴
Is the service responsive?	Good 🔍
Is the service well-led?	Good

### Summary of findings

#### **Overall summary**

This inspection visit took place on 01 December 2016 and was unannounced.

At the last inspection on 07 October 2015 we asked the provider to take action to make improvements because we found breaches of legal requirements. This was in relation to safeguarding people from unsafe care, staffing levels, governance of the home and failure of the service to notify Care Quality Commission (CQC) of instances when people had required hospital treatment. The provider sent us an action plan saying they would meet the legal requirements. During our inspection visit on 01 December 2016 we found these actions had been completed.

The Bellingham provides accommodation and residential care for up to 15 older people. The home is a two storey corner property set in a residential area close to Lytham town centre. There are thirteen single rooms and one double room all with en suite facilities. There are a range of aids and adaptations available suitable to meet the needs of people using the service. There is a garden area around the home. Public transport links are close by. At the time of our inspection visit there were 10 people who lived at the home.

There was a registered manager in place. A registered manager is a person who has registered with the Care Quality Commission to manage the service. Like registered providers, they are 'registered persons'. Registered persons have legal responsibility for meeting the requirements in the Health and Social Care Act 2008 and associated Regulations about how the service is run.

People who lived at the home told us they were happy with their care and liked the staff who looked after them. One person said, "This place is fantastic. The staff are excellent, really caring and friendly people." One person visiting their relative said, "It's such a relaxed and friendly atmosphere I always feel I am visiting [relatives] home not a care home."

We observed staff providing support to people throughout our inspection visit. We saw they were kind and patient and showed affection towards the people in their care.

We saw people who lived at the home were clean and well dressed. They looked relaxed and comfortable in the care of staff supporting them. One person visiting the home said, "I know [relative] is safe and I don't need to worry about them. I knew when I chose this home it was the right place for [relative]. They are getting the best care possible."

We looked at the recruitment of two recently appointed staff members. We found appropriate checks had been undertaken before they had commenced their employment confirming they were safe to work with vulnerable people.

Staff spoken with and records seen confirmed a structured induction training and development programme was in place. Staff received regular training and were knowledgeable about their roles and responsibilities.

They had the skills, knowledge and experience required to support people with their care and social needs.

We found sufficient staffing levels were in place to provide support people required. We saw staff members could undertake tasks supporting people without feeling rushed. People who lived at the home told us they felt safe because staff responded when they required their help. One person said, "The staff are always available when I need them. I find they are very attentive."

Staff knew people they supported and provided a personalised service. Care plans were organised and had identified the care and support people required. We found they were informative about care people had received. They had been kept under review and updated when necessary to reflect people's changing needs.

Risk assessments had been developed to minimise the potential risk of harm to people during the delivery of their care. These had been kept under review and were relevant to the care provided.

We found people had access to healthcare professionals and their healthcare needs were met. We saw the service had responded promptly when people had experienced health problems.

We found the registered manager had systems in place to record safeguarding concerns, accidents and incidents and take necessary action as required. Staff had received safeguarding training and understood their responsibilities to report unsafe care or abusive practices.

The registered manager understood the requirements of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA) and the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS). This meant they were working within the law to support people who may lack capacity to make their own decisions.

The environment was maintained, clean and hygienic when we visited. No offensive odours were observed by the inspectors. We spoke with four people who lived at the home who all said they were happy with the standard of hygiene. One person visiting the home said, "The first thing I noticed when I came to look around the home was how clean it was. The place is always spotless."

We found equipment used by staff to support people had been maintained and serviced to ensure they were safe for use.

We found medication procedures at the home were safe. Staff responsible for the administration of medicines had received training to ensure they had the competency and skills required. Medicines were safely kept with appropriate arrangements for storing in place.

People who lived at the home told us they were happy with the variety and choice of meals available to them. We saw regular snacks and drinks were provided between meals to ensure people received adequate nutrition and hydration. Comments received included, "They come round every morning and tell us the choices for the day. I enjoy all the meals." And, "Good home cooking, the chef is brilliant."

People told us they enjoyed the activities organised by the service. These were arranged both individually and in groups.

The service had a complaints procedure which was made available to people on their admission to the home. People we spoke with told us they were happy and had no complaints.

The registered manager used a variety of methods to assess and monitor the quality of the service. These included satisfaction surveys and care reviews. We found people were satisfied with the service they received. Comments received from people's relatives included, 'We are impressed with the effort all staff take to make it feel so homely.' And, 'The continuity of staff is so impressive. They know and understand [relatives] needs so well.'

Is the service safe? Goo	
is the set vice sale: 600	d 🔍
The service was safe.	
The service had procedures in place to protect people from abuse and unsafe care.	
Staffing levels were sufficient with an appropriate skill mix to meet the needs of people who lived at the home. Recruitment procedures the service had in place were safe.	
Assessments were undertaken of risks to people who lived at the home, staff and visitors. Written plans were in place to manage these risks. There were processes for recording accidents and incidents.	
People were protected against the risks associated with unsafe use and management of medicines. This was because medicines were managed safely. The service was safe.	
Is the service effective? Goo	d
The service was effective.	
People were supported by staff who were sufficiently skilled and experienced to support them to have a good quality of life.	
People received a choice of suitable and nutritious meals and drinks in sufficient quantities to meet their needs.	
The registered manager was aware of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA) and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguard (DoLS). They had knowledge of the process to follow.	
Is the service caring? Goo	d
The service was caring.	
People were able to make decisions for themselves and be involved in planning their own care.	

The five questions we ask about services and what we found

We observed people were supported by caring and attentive staff who showed patience and compassion to the people in their care.	
Staff undertaking their daily duties were observed respecting people's privacy and dignity.	
Is the service responsive?	Good 🔍
The service was responsive.	
People participated in a range of activities which kept them entertained.	
People's care plans had been developed with them to identify what support they required and how they would like this to be provided.	
People told us they knew their comments and complaints would be listened to and acted on effectively.	
Is the service well-led?	Good
The service was well led.	
Systems and procedures were in place to monitor and assess the quality of service people received.	
The registered manager had clear lines of responsibility and accountability. Staff understood their role and were committed to providing a good standard of support for people in their care.	
A range of audits were in place to monitor the health, safety and welfare of people who lived at the home. Quality assurance was checked upon and action was taken to make improvements, where applicable.	



# The Bellingham Residential 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 checked whether the provider is meeting the legal requirements and regulations associated with the Health and Social Care Act 2008, to look at the overall quality of the service, and to provide a rating for the service under the Care Act 2014.

This inspection visit took place on 01 December 2016 and was unannounced.

The inspection team consisted of two adult social care inspectors.

Before our inspection on 01 December 2016 we reviewed the information we held on the service. This included notifications we had received from the provider, about incidents that affect the health, safety and welfare of people who lived at the home and previous inspection reports. We also checked to see if any information concerning the care and welfare of people who lived at the home had been received.

We reviewed the Provider Information Record (PIR) we received prior to our inspection. This is a form that asks the provider to give some key information about the service, what the service does well and improvements they plan to make. This provided us with information and numerical data about the operation of the service. We used this information as part of the evidence for the inspection. This guided us to what areas we would focus on as part of our inspection.

We spoke with a range of people about the service. They included four people who lived at the home, one person visiting their relative, the registered manager, care manager and two staff members. Prior to our inspection visit we contacted the commissioning department at the local authority and Healthwatch Lancashire. This helped us to gain a balanced overview of what people experienced accessing the service.

During our inspection we used a method called Short Observational Framework for Inspection (SOFI). This

involved observing staff interactions with the people in their care. SOFI is a specific way of observing care to help us understand the experience of people who could not talk with us.

We looked at care records of two people, the services training matrix, supervision records of two staff, arrangements for meal provision, records relating to the management of the home and the medicines records of four people. We reviewed the services recruitment procedures and checked staffing levels. We also checked the building to ensure it was clean, hygienic and a safe place for people to live.

## Our findings

When we last inspected the service we looked at how people would be supported in the event of emergencies. We found people did not have personal evacuation plans (PEEPS) in place for staff to follow should there be an emergency. During this inspection we found peeps paperwork had been introduced to ensure information was in place to aid evacuation. Staff spoken with understood their role and were clear about the procedures that needed to be followed in the event of people needing to be evacuated. They were able to describe what assistance each individual required. This meant people could be assured they would be evacuated in a safe and timely manner during an emergency.

When we last inspected the service we found insufficient numbers of suitably qualified, competent, skilled and experienced staff were not deployed to make sure they could meet people's care needs. During this inspection we found staffing levels were suitable with an appropriate skill mix to meet the needs of people who used the service. We saw the deployment of staff throughout the day was organised. People who required support with their personal care needs received this in a timely and unhurried way. The atmosphere in the home was calm and relaxed and we saw staff engaged with people they supported in conversation. One person who lived at the home said, "I cannot praise the staff enough they are fantastic. Always available when you need them."

We spoke with four people who lived at the home who all said they had confidence in the staff who supported them and felt safe when they received their care. Comments received included, "The staff are lovely people and I feel safe in their care." And, "I love it here it feels like home. The manager and her staff are the best." One person visiting their relative said, "I have no worries about [relative] I know they are in safe hands. It's a pleasure to visit I am always made welcome."

Staff spoken with had received moving and handling training and they felt competent when using moving and handling equipment. We observed staff assisting people with mobility problems. We saw people were assisted safely and appropriate moving and handling techniques were used. The techniques we saw helped staff to prevent or minimise the risk of injury to themselves and the person they supported.

Care plans seen had risk assessments completed to identify the potential risk of accidents and harm to staff and the people in their care. The risk assessments we saw provided instructions for staff members when delivering their support. Where potential risks had been identified the action taken by the service had been recorded. For example one person had a pressure mat in their room as it had been identified they were at risk of falling. Pressure mats are used to alert staff when people at risk of falling are out of bed at night.

We looked around the building and found it had been maintained, was clean and hygienic and a safe place for people to live. We observed staff making appropriate use of personal protective clothing such as disposable gloves and aprons. Staff spoken with and records seen confirmed they had received infection control training. We saw cleaning schedules were completed and audited by the registered manager to ensure hygiene standards at the home were maintained. People who lived at the home told us they were happy with the hygiene standards in place. One person visiting the home said, "The first thing I noticed when I came to look around the home was how clean it was and no unpleasant smells anywhere. The place is always spotless when I visit."

We found windows were restricted to ensure the safety of people who lived at the home. We checked a sample of water temperatures and found these delivered water at a safe temperature in line with health and safety guidelines. Call bells were positioned in rooms close to hand so people were able to summon help when they needed to.

We found equipment had been serviced and maintained as required. Records were available confirming gas appliances and electrical equipment complied with statutory requirements and were safe for use. Equipment including moving and handling equipment (hoist and slings) were safe for use. We observed they were clean and stored appropriately, not blocking corridors or being a trip/fall hazard. The fire alarm and fire doors had been regularly checked to confirm they were working. Legionella checks had been carried out.

The registered manager had procedures in place to minimise the potential risk of abuse or unsafe care. Records seen confirmed the registered manager and staff had received safeguarding vulnerable adults training. The staff members we spoke with understood what types of abuse and examples of poor care people might experience. They understood their responsibility to report any concerns they may observe and knew what procedures needed to be followed.

There had been no safeguarding concerns raised with the local authority regarding poor care or abusive practices at the home since our last inspection. Discussion with the registered manager confirmed they had an understanding of safeguarding procedures. This included when to make a referral to the local authority for a safeguarding investigation. The registered manager was also aware of their responsibility to inform the Care Quality Commission (CQC) about any incidents in a timely manner. This meant we would receive information about the service when we should do.

Records had been kept of incidents and accidents. Details of accidents looked at demonstrated action had been taken by staff following events that had happened. The registered manager had fulfilled their regulatory responsibilities and submitted a notification to the Care Quality Commission (CQC) about a serious injury suffered by a person who lived at the home.

We looked at recruitment procedures the service had in place. We found relevant checks had been made before two new staff members commenced their employment. These included Disclosure and Barring Service checks (DBS), and references. A valid DBS check is a statutory requirement for people providing personal care to vulnerable people. We saw new employee's had provided a full employment history including reasons for leaving previous employment. Two references had been requested from previous employers. These provided satisfactory evidence about their conduct in previous employment. These checks were required to ensure new staff were suitable for the role for which they had been employed.

We looked at how medicines were prepared and administered. Medicines had been ordered appropriately, checked on receipt into the home, given as prescribed and stored and disposed of correctly. The registered manager had audits in place to monitor medicines procedures. This meant systems were in place to check people had received their medicines as prescribed. The audits confirmed medicines had been ordered when required and records reflected the support people had received with the administration of their medication.

We observed one staff member administering medicines during the lunch time round. We saw the medicines cabinet was locked securely whilst attending to each person. People were sensitively assisted as required and medicines were signed for after they had been administered. The staff member informed people they

were being given their medicines and where required prompts were given.

#### Is the service effective?

### Our findings

When we last inspected the service we found staff did not receive the support, training, professional development, supervision and appraisals that is necessary for them to carry out their role and responsibilities.

During this inspection we spoke with two staff members, looked at individual training records and the services training matrix. We saw staff had been enrolled on the care certificate which is a set of standards that social care and health workers stick to in their daily working life. It is the new minimum standards that should be covered as part of induction training of new care workers. Existing staff had achieved or were working towards national care qualifications. Records seen confirmed training provided by the service covered a range subjects including safeguarding, Mental Capacity Act (MCA) 2005, moving and handling, food hygiene and medication. This ensured people were supported by staff who had the right competencies, knowledge, qualifications and skills.

Discussion with staff and observation of records confirmed they received regular supervision. These are one to one meetings held on a formal basis with their line manager. Staff told us they could discuss their development, training needs and their thoughts on improving the service. They told us they were also given feedback about their performance. They said they felt supported by the registered manager who encouraged them to discuss their training needs and be open about anything that may be causing them concern.

We spoke with the registered manager about the Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA). The Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA) provides a legal framework for making particular decisions on behalf of people who may lack the mental capacity to do so for themselves. The Act requires that as far as possible people make their own decisions and are helped to do so when needed. When they lack mental capacity to take particular decisions, any made on their behalf must be in their best interests and as least restrictive as possible.

People can only be deprived of their liberty to receive care and treatment when this is in their best interests and legally authorised under the MCA. The application procedures for this in care homes and hospitals are called the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS).

The registered manager understood the requirements of the Mental Capacity Act (2005). This meant they were working within the law to support people who may lack capacity to make their own decisions. When we undertook this inspection the registered manager had completed applications to request the local authority to undertake (DoLS) assessments for people who lived at the home. This was because they had been assessed as being at risk if they left the home without an escort. We did not see any restrictive practices during our inspection visit and observed people moving around the home freely.

We found people received effective care because they were supported by an established and trained staff team who had a good understanding of their needs. Our observations confirmed the atmosphere was relaxed and people had freedom of movement. We saw people had unrestrictive movement around the

home and could go to their rooms if that was their choice. We saw people visiting the home were made welcome by staff and updated about their relative's welfare. One person visiting the home said, "Always made welcome when I visit and updated about [relatives] care if there have been any changes. They make me feel involved which I greatly appreciate."

On the day of our inspection visit we saw breakfast was served to meet the individual preferences for each person. There was no set time and people were given breakfast as they got up. We noted a variety of cereals and drinks were on offer along with a cooked breakfast if requested. Staff we spoke with understood the importance for people in their care to be encouraged to eat their meals and take regular drinks to keep them hydrated. Snacks and drinks were offered to people between meals including tea and milky drinks with biscuits.

The service operated a six week menu. Choices provided on the day of our inspection visit included beef stew and dumplings mashed potatoes, cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli. A variety of alternative meals were available and people with special dietary needs had these met. These included people who had their diabetes controlled through their diet and one person who required a soft diet as they experienced swallowing difficulties.

At lunch time we carried out our observations in the dining room. We saw lunch was a relaxed and social experience with people talking amongst each other whilst eating their meal. We observed different portion sizes and choice of meals were provided as requested. We saw most people were able to eat independently and required no assistance with their meal. The staff did not rush people allowing them sufficient time to eat and enjoy their meal. People who did require assistance with their meal were offered encouragement and prompted sensitively. Drinks were provided and offers of additional drinks and meals were made where appropriate. The support we saw provided was organised and well managed.

The people we spoke with after lunch told us they enjoyed the food provided by the service. They said they received varied, nutritious meals and had plenty to eat. Comments received included, "The meals are excellent I enjoy them all. We have some lovely puddings." And, "They come round every morning to tell us the choices for the day. We have some lovely meals"

The Bellingham had been awarded a five-star rating following their last inspection by the 'Food Standards Agency'. This graded the service as 'excellent' in relation to meeting food safety standards about cleanliness, food preparation and associated recordkeeping.

People's healthcare needs were carefully monitored and discussed with the person as part of the care planning process. Care records seen confirmed visits to and from General Practitioners (GP's) and other healthcare professionals had been recorded. The records were informative and had documented the reason for the visit and what the outcome had been. This confirmed good communication protocols were in place for people to receive continuity with their healthcare needs.

### Our findings

People we spoke with told us they were treated with kindness and staff were caring towards them. Comments received included, "This place is fantastic. The staff are excellent, really caring and friendly people." And, "I couldn't have chosen a better home to live. I am well cared for." One person visiting their relative said, "It's such a relaxed and friendly atmosphere I always feel I am visiting [relatives] home not a care home. The staff are brilliant."

During our inspection visit we saw staff were caring and treated people with dignity. They were polite and attentive and quick to respond to people who required their assistance. We saw people looked cared for, dressed appropriately and well groomed. Staff we spoke with knew and understood people's history, likes, dislikes, needs and wishes. They knew and responded to each person's diverse cultural and spiritual needs and treated people with respect and patience.

We saw positive interactions between staff and the people they supported. We noted people appeared relaxed and comfortable in the company of staff. We saw people enjoyed the attention they received from staff who constantly asked if people were alright and if they needed anything. People we spoke with during our observations told us they received the best possible care.

We observed routines within the home were relaxed and arranged around people's individual and collective needs. We saw they were provided with the choice of spending time on their own or in the lounge area. We saw one person going for their afternoon walk in the homes garden after lunch. We saw them smiling and waving to staff during their walk. We observed the registered manager and staff members enquiring about people's comfort and welfare throughout the inspection visit. We saw they responded promptly if people required any assistance. For example we saw people being given drinks on request and assisted to the toilet where needed.

Staff had a good understanding of protecting and respecting people's human rights. Training had been provided by the service for guidance in equality and diversity. We discussed this with staff, they described the importance of promoting each individual's uniqueness.

We saw staff had an appreciation of people's individual needs around privacy and dignity. We observed they spoke with people in a respectful way, giving people time to understand and reply. We observed they demonstrated compassion towards people in their care and treated them with respect. One person we spoke with said, "It really is a lovely place to live. The staff are kind and caring and I feel respected. I am very happy here."

We looked at care records of two people. We saw evidence they or a family member had been involved with and were at the centre of developing their care plans. The plans contained information about people's current needs as well as their wishes and preferences. Daily records completed were up to date and well maintained. These described the daily support people received and the activities they had undertaken. The records were informative and enabled us to identify staff supported people with their daily routines. We saw evidence to demonstrate people's care plans were reviewed and updated on a regular basis. This ensured staff had up to date information about people's needs.

For example on one person's care plan it had been documented if they became irritable or non-compliant it may mean they had a urine infection. Staff had noted a change in the person's normal behaviour and following a visit from their doctor a urine infection had been diagnosed and antibiotics prescribed.

Staff we spoke with were knowledgeable about people's individual needs and how they should be met. They said care plans were easy to follow so they always knew what people's needs were. This meant staff knew the people they were caring for and had the knowledge and understanding of support people required.

We spoke with the registered manager about access to advocacy services should people require their guidance and support. The registered manager had information details that could be provided to people and their families if this was required. This ensured people's interests would be represented and they could access appropriate services outside of the service to act on their behalf if needed.

Before our inspection visit we contacted external agencies about the service. They included the commissioning department at the local authority and healthwatch Lancashire. Neither organisation contacted us to say they were concerned about the service.

#### Is the service responsive?

## Our findings

People who lived at the home told us they received a personalised care service which was responsive to their care needs. They told us the care they received was focussed on them and they were encouraged to make their views known about the care and support they received. We saw there was a calm and relaxed atmosphere when we visited. We observed staff members undertaking their duties in a timely manner and engaging people they supported in conversation. We saw they could spend time with people making sure their care needs were met.

We spoke with one person visiting the home. They told us they were glad their relative was living at the home. The person said, "I am happy with everything about the home. [Relative] is settled and happy. When I take her out she can't wait to get back."

We looked at care records of three people to see if their needs had been assessed and consistently met. We found each person had a care plan which detailed the support they required. The care plans had been developed where possible with each person identifying what support they required and how they would like this to be provided. People who had been unable to participate in the care planning process had been represented by a family member or advocate.

The care records we looked at were informative and enabled us to identify how staff supported people with their daily routines and personal care needs. We found care plans were flexible, regularly reviewed for their effectiveness and changed in recognition of the changing needs of the person. Personal care tasks had been recorded along with fluid and nutritional intake where required. People were having their weight monitored regularly. We saw where concerns had been identified with weight loss medical intervention had been sought.

People told us they were happy with the activities arranged to keep them entertained. We were told these were interesting and varied and fun to participate in. One person said, "I join in the activities we have a good laugh." One person visiting the home said, "They do provide some really good activities which [relative] tells me she enjoys. I attended a party organised at the home last week to celebrate the owners ten years of ownership. It was brilliant, lovely buffet and great entertainment. Everyone had a great time."

The service had a complaints procedure which was made available to people on their admission to the home. The procedure was clear in explaining how a complaint should be made and reassured people these would be responded to appropriately. Contact details for external organisations including social services and CQC had been provided should people wish to refer their concerns to those organisations. We looked at sample of complaints received by the service. We could see they had been taken seriously and responded to appropriately by the registered manager.

People we spoke with told us they knew how to make a complaint if they were unhappy. They told us they would speak with the manager who they knew would listen to them. All four people said they were happy with their care and had no complaints.

## Our findings

When we last inspected the service we found the provider had failed to notify (CQC) of instances when people had required hospital treatment. During this inspection we found the service had informed CQC of significant events promptly and correctly. This ensured CQC had information about severe incidents that had taken place and the registered manager had taken the appropriate action.

Comments received from staff, people who lived at the home and their visitors were positive about the registered manager's leadership. Staff members spoken with said they were happy with the leadership arrangements in place and had no problems with the management of the service. They told us they were well supported, had regular team meetings and had their work appraised. One member of staff said, "I have worked here for 12 years and I still love it. It's a wonderful place to work."

Staff spoken with demonstrated they had a good understanding of their roles and responsibilities. Lines of accountability were clear and staff we spoke with stated they felt the registered manager worked with them and showed leadership. Staff told us they felt the service was well led and they got along well as a staff team and supported each other.

The registered manager had procedures in place to monitor the quality of the service provided. Regular audits had been completed by the registered manager. These included reviewing care plan records and monitoring the environment. This included checking window restrictors were working and water temperatures were safe in line with health and safety guidelines. This helped to ensure people were living in a safe environment.

We found the registered manager had sought the views of people about their care and the service provided by a variety of methods. These included resident, relative and staff surveys. We saw people said the home was well organised, clean and odour free, staff were patient and caring and people liked the food provided. Comments seen included, 'We are impressed with the effort all staff take to make it feel so homely.' And, 'The continuity of staff is so impressive. They know and understand [relatives] needs so well.' And, '[Relative] was very confused when they first arrived at the home after one month in hospital. Due to the excellent care and good food they have improved beyond any expectation.'

We saw a sample of messages left by relatives of people who had lived at the home commenting on the service provided. Comments included, 'Deep down [relative] appreciated your kindness and knew he was in safe hands.' And, 'We made the right decision when we chose your home. [Relative] could not have received better care anywhere. You are all first class.'

The service had on display in the reception area of the home their last CQC rating, where people visiting the home could see it. This has been a legal requirement since 01 April 2015.