

Thomas House (St. Helens) Ltd

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Inspection report

Thomas House Care Home
168 Prescott Road
St Helens
Merseyside
WA10 3TS

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03 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

Thomas House is a residential care home privately owned and managed and located in St Helens near to the town centre. It is registered to provide accommodation and personal care for up to 26 people. At the time of this inspection 18 people were living at the home.

We found the following examples of good practice.

Visitors were able to spend time seeing and speaking with loved ones in various ways such as window visits, telephone calls and video viewing. People's health and wellbeing was regularly reviewed and the home had access to consistent support from one GP practice.

The building had been adapted to ensure good practices of infection prevention and control and maintain social distancing as much as possible. Tables in the dining room had been limited to three from six and people were served in their own rooms if they wished.

We observed many areas around the home where personal protective equipment (PPE) could be put on and disposed of safely to minimise the spread of infection. People were screened if they needed to enter the building and there was a specific room for visitors to wash their hands and put on or remove their PPE.

COVID-19 testing was undertaken three times weekly for staff and monthly for residents who were able and willing. There were process and procedures in place to manage positive results and we saw evidence of this at the time of inspection. There was a programme in place to ensure that staff and people residing at the home were vaccinated and a process to assess and mitigate risk if anyone declined the vaccination.

Stocks of the right standard of personal protective equipment (PPE) were well-maintained and staff used and disposed of it correctly. Staff had been trained in infection control practices and up to date information and guidance and support was provided by the local council.

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.

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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 3 March 2021 and was announced.

Is the service safe?

Our findings

S5 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.