

Ashlong House Limited

Ashlong Cottage

Inspection report

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01 February 2022

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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

Ashlong Cottage is a residential care home which can support up to 6 people in one adapted building. The service specialises in supporting people with a learning disability and/or autistic people. At the time of this inspection the service was providing personal care and support to 6 people.

We found the following examples of good practice.

People were supported to stay in regular contact with their family and friends, who were able to visit with no undue restrictions. Staff made sure this was done in a safe way. Family and friends who were not able to visit, kept in touch with people through video and telephone calls.

Staff screened all visitors for symptoms of infection and gave them information about the safety procedures to follow when at the service. People and staff were tested for COVID-19 at appropriate intervals. The service made sure staff and visiting professionals had been vaccinated against COVID-19. Staff only worked at this location which helped reduce infection risks. The provider had been able to maintain staffing levels to make sure people experienced the same level of service.

Staff had been trained in COVID-19, infection prevention and control (IPC) and in the use of personal protective equipment (PPE). There were enough supplies of PPE and there were designated areas for donning and doffing this. Handwashing facilities were easily accessible to people, staff and visitors. Staff followed current guidance and practice throughout our visit.

The environment was clean and hygienic. Enhanced cleaning took place throughout the environment on a daily basis. Communal spaces were well ventilated and used creatively to ensure people could continue to interact with each other and staff in a safe way.

There was a designated lead for IPC at the service who undertook regular audits to make sure staff complied with current guidance and practice. The service's IPC policy and plans for managing an outbreak were up to date and in line with current guidance.

Further information is in the detailed findings below.

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

Ashlong Cottage

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 care homes with outbreaks of COVID-19, we are conducting reviews to ensure that the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) practice is safe and that services are compliant with IPC measures. This was a targeted inspection looking at the IPC practices the provider has 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 1 February 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.

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.
- The provider made sure people could receive visits from family and friends when they wanted, with no undue restrictions.