

The Disabilities Trust

# Thomas Edward Mitton House

## Inspection report

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04 November 2020

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## Ratings

Overall rating for this service	Inspected but not rated
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Is the service safe?	<b>Inspected but not rated</b>
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# Summary of findings

## Overall summary

Thomas Edward Mitton House provides care and support to up to 16 people who are recovering from an acquired brain injury, neurological condition or stroke. Support is usually short term in order for people to regain their independence. At the time of the visit there were 14 people using the service.

We found the following examples of good practice.

- When people were admitted to the service, which was usually from hospital, they isolated in their rooms for the length of time recommended by government guidance. If anyone found this difficult, for example due to heightened anxiety or increased risk of falls, additional one to one support was provided so they could safely manage the period of self-isolation.
- Admissions processes had changed since the onset of the pandemic to reduce the risk of infection. People were admitted on the same day as they received a negative COVID-19 test result, including over the weekend. Government guidance was followed to ensure people's safety.
- There was a regular programme of COVID-19 testing in place for staff and people using the service. This meant swift action could be taken if anyone received a positive test result.
- There were numerous personal protective equipment (PPE) stations in the corridors near people's bedrooms. This meant staff had easy access to plentiful supplies of masks, gloves, aprons and hand sanitiser to use when they were in close contact with people. There were posters and information about COVID-19 on display throughout the service.
- Safe arrangements were in place for visitors to the service including health professionals and relatives. This included a booking system, temperature check upon arrival and the provision of PPE including masks and hand sanitiser. The service were going to consider implementing a visitor agreement or risk assessment in addition to the processes they had in place.
- Staff movement between different units had stopped during the pandemic. Staff in Thomas Edward Mitton House did not work in other locations within the organisation or elsewhere. Consistent agency staff were used and they participated in the testing programme. These measures reduced the risk of staff spreading infection.
- Infection prevention and control audits took place monthly. These were rotated between senior members of staff so the same person did not do the same audit every time. This reduced the risk of things getting overlooked and made the process more effective.
- The management team were supported by a COVID-19 helpline set up by the company. They used this to

seek guidance or advice on any queries associated with the virus.

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?**

No ratings were awarded following this inspection. This was a thematic review seeking to identify examples of good practice in infection prevention and control.

### **Inspected but not rated**

# Thomas Edward Mitton 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 coronavirus pandemic we are conducting a thematic review of infection control and prevention measures in care homes.

The service was selected to take part in this thematic review which is seeking to identify examples of good practice in infection prevention and control.

This inspection took place on 4 November 2020 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.