

London Borough of Camden

Breakaway Short Breaks

Inspection report

120 Rowley Way
London
NW8 0SP

Tel: 07771666871

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24 February 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

Breakaway Short Breaks is a care home that provides respite care for up to eight adults with learning disabilities and Autism. People stay for varying periods. The service is provided by the London Borough of Camden. Four people were using the service at the time of the inspection.

We found the following examples of good practice.

The service has identified which people were in the clinically extremely vulnerable group and whether shielding measures needed to be implemented. Staff wore appropriate PPE and we observed 2 meters of social distancing. Cohorting of exposed and unexposed to COVID-19 people using the service had been risk assessed within the zoned building plan.

There were separate designated areas for donning/doffing PPE. Signage on donning/doffing PPE was visible helping staff to remember where to dispose of PPE.

Weekly COVID-19 tests for both people using the service and staff were carried out as well as instant testing for staff twice per week. Risk assessments had been carried out for people using the service and staff belonging to higher risk groups.

Rooms designated for specific activities such as for visitors were subject to regular enhanced cleaning. Communal areas such as outdoor spaces and garden areas had been used creatively to help with infection prevention and control process. There was good ventilation in all areas.

Only four people were using the service which is half the usual maximum capacity of eight. Therefore the number of people in and out of the home was minimised. There was a process in place to ensure personal items and toiletries were not mixed up or shared across. Each person had ensuite facilities.

The manager liaised with cleaning staff to review processes and make sure they were in line with national guidance. There was a designated room for storage and managing laundry.

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

Breakaway Short Breaks

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 24 February 2021 and was announced. Following the inspection, in order to provide us with further assurance we asked the provider to send us additional policies and care documentation. We followed this up with a telephone interview with the registered manager.

Breakaway Short Breaks is a respite service providing personal care to a maximum of eight people who have learning disabilities and autism. During the pandemic the service has reduced numbers to six people at any one time so that the building can be used in line with Covid-19 needs such as providing separate space for people. In addition, the criteria for admissions had been amended so that emergency admissions and longer term stays had been accommodated. At the time of our inspection there were four people living in the service.

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 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.

The provider's internal infection control documents needed to be updated. Additional external staff training had been arranged for after the inspection.

We have also signposted the provider to resources to develop their approach.