

Independent Lifestyles Support Services LLP

Abi House

Inspection report

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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

Abi House is a residential service registered to provide accommodation and personal care for up to seven people, who have a learning disability and associated needs. There were six people living in the home at the time of our inspection. The building has two floors and a communal kitchen, dining area and lounge. There is an accessible outdoor area with a wooden 'cabin' for the use of people living in the home. The service is located in Worthing, close to the seafront and local shops.

We found the following examples of good practice:

The service had installed an outside wooden cabin after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic to facilitate safe visiting. The structure was divided into a smaller 'cubby' area and a larger room with seating which could be readily ventilated. We were told that people enjoyed having this extra space and used it often.

The provider had made physical improvements to the premises to keep people safe from the risk of infection. For example, they had installed more en-suite bathroom facilities so people living at the home did not have to share a bathroom. An extra window had been fitted on the first-floor landing to improve ventilation.

The service had carried out detailed risk assessments to enable people to visit and stay with their families safely. The assessments included contingency planning, for example, if a person or a family member had a positive lateral flow device test result while they were away so their return could be safely delayed if necessary. The impact of COVID-19 restrictions, for example, in limiting people's chosen activities had also been considered and mitigating actions and alternatives put in place to maintain people's physical and mental wellbeing.

The service had made use of a range of resources to ensure that infection prevention and control measures were well understood and implemented effectively by the whole staff team. For example, the service had made use of NHS materials and training for staff on how to don and doff personal protective equipment (PPE) correctly and checked that everyone could do this effectively. The management team had completed an NHS 'Train the trainer' course on the use of PPE to provide additional internal support for staff. The service carried out a weekly audit that included an observational check that staff were using PPE in line with the guidelines.

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

Abi 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 COVID-19 pandemic we are looking at how services manage infection control and visiting arrangements. This was a targeted inspection looking at the infection prevention and control measures the provider had 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 19 January 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.
- We were assured the provider was facilitating visits for people living in the home in accordance with the current guidance.

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.