

Somerset Care Limited

Frith House

Inspection report

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17 May 2021

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Ratings

Overall rating for this service	Inspected but not rated
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Is the service safe?	Inspected but not rated
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Summary of findings

Overall summary

Frith House is a residential care home for 83 people. The home specialises in the care of older people including people who have a dementia. The home is divided into two parts. The residential part of the home can accommodate 53 people. The area of the home which cares for people living with dementia is part of the Somerset Specialist Residential Care (SRC) scheme. This means people living in this part of the home are supported by a specialist NHS community nurse on consultancy basis. At the time of the inspection there were 62 people living in the home.

We found the following examples of good practice.

The provider had previously had an outbreak of COVID-19 in the home. At the time of the inspection all residents and staff had tested negative.

When staff came on shift, they recorded their temperatures, sanitised their hands and put on their personal protective equipment (PPE) before entering the building. Staff then walked through the building to the staff room to get changed. The registered manager told us they would review this and ask staff to get changed in a different room which meant they would not walk through the building until they had their uniform on. This will further reduce the risk of cross contamination.

Staff had good knowledge of infection prevention and control (IPC). All staff had received IPC training, including how to safely put on and take off PPE such as gloves, aprons, and face coverings. A staff member said, "We get asked questions as part of the training." The registered manager told us, "Staff get observed by our IPC lead." We saw several posters around the home with reminders of how to maintain good infection control.

The home was clean and tidy. The provider employed a team of housekeepers seven days a week. There was a robust cleaning schedule that included disinfecting touch points several times a day.

We saw staff wearing appropriate PPE. All rooms we saw, had foot operated bins to dispose of clinical waste. There were no PPE stations kept outside of rooms due to the risk of people removing it so staff removed PPE before leaving people's bedrooms.

The provider's visitors policy was clear and in line with national guidance. Visitors were required to follow the home's infection control procedures. The provider had created a visitor pod and had allowed room visits for one relative. The provider had updated their policy to reflect the new guidelines that will now allow up to five people visiting.

The home was split into two floors. The registered manager explained how they would implement zoning as the corridors were able to be closed off in the event of another outbreak. There was a contingency plan in place that described key people to be contacted in the event of an outbreak. The registered manager said

they had received support from their GP surgery, the local commissioning team and the provider's senior management team during the outbreak.

The provider was admitting people to the home, mainly for short periods of respite stay. The registered manager told us no one would be admitted without a negative test and their belongings would go into isolation for 72 hours prior to the person moving in. Once people came in, they were isolated in their rooms for 14 days. The provider's admissions policy confirmed this was the correct process for the home.

The registered manager ensured regular testing was carried out, this included weekly PCR tests for staff and monthly for people living in the home. This was in line with COVID-19 testing guidance. The registered manager had recorded consent in line with the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

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

Frith 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 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 17 May 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.
- We were assured the provider was facilitating visits for people living in the home in accordance with the current guidance.

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