

Cambridgeshire County Council

Cambridgeshire County Council - 6 St Lukes Close Huntingdon

Inspection report

6 St Lukes Close
Huntingdon
Cambridgeshire
PE29 1JT

Tel: 01480456941

Date of inspection visit:
22 February 2022

Date of publication:
03 March 2022

Ratings

Overall rating for this service

Inspected but not rated

Is the service safe?

Inspected but not rated

Summary of findings

Overall summary

Cambridgeshire County Council - 6 St Luke's Close Huntingdon is a 'care home' that provides respite care and support, and personal care for up to six people with physical and learning disabilities. People used the service for varying lengths of time such as overnight and weekend respite visits throughout the year. There were two people using the service when we visited.

We found the following examples of good practice.

Family and friends could visit people who lived at the service in line with current guidance.

External health and social care professionals and visitors such as contractors showed their vaccination status and completed a rapid COVID-19 test, prior to entering the service. They also had to wear the correct PPE. There was a separate building based in the services garden to facilitate this when needed.

Staff supported people to use computer tablets and phones to video call and/or communicate with family and friends. This promoted people's social well-being. There were business contingency plans in place to help with any staff absences due to staff leave, staff being unwell or having to self-isolate due to COVID-19.

The providers compliance team had undertaken a COVID-19 risk assessment of the building. Following this to promote social distancing and good infection control practices, the number of people who could be admitted to the service at one time were reduced. Staff also staggered the times people were admitted into the service. This allowed time for staff to deep clean rooms and reduced the number of people who gathered in one area.

Staff completed a rapid COVID-19 test before each shift and sent the result to the registered manager for their records. Staff were observed to be wearing their PPE correctly including face masks. Staff were bare below the elbow and wore a minimum amount of jewellery with long hair tied up that promoted good infection control.

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

Cambridgeshire County Council - 6 St Lukes Close Huntingdon

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 22 February 2022 and was announced. We gave the service 24 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.

Visiting in care homes

- As this was a short stay respite and emergency placements service, family and friends had not often visited people who resided there even before COVID-19. The operations manager confirmed that if family and friends wished to visit people this would be allowed in line with government 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 Government has announced its intention to change the legal requirement for vaccination in care homes, but the service was meeting the current requirement to ensure non-exempt staff and visiting professionals were vaccinated against COVID-19.