

Larchwood Care Homes (North) Limited Whitby House

Inspection report

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Whitby
Ellesmere Port
Cheshire
CH65 7AE

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22 February 2022

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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

About the service

Whitby House is a residential care home providing personal and nursing care to 27 people at the time of the inspection. The service can support up to 40 people across two floors, each of which has separate adapted facilities.

We found the following examples of good practice.

The service had a dedicated staff team. People were supported in the service in accordance with national guidance.

The registered manager and staff supported people and their relatives to understand the policies and procedures surrounding protection against COVID 19, the isolation processes and how the service could help them to keep people safe.

During our visit we observed the staff using Personal Protective Equipment, (PPE) safely. There were sufficient stocks of PPE available.

People living in the home and staff were tested regularly for COVID-19. Staff had been vaccinated as required.

The home was clean and hygienic. Cleaning schedules were in place and PPE stations placed around the home. Additional cleaning protocols were in place to ensure all areas of the building were regularly sanitised.

Relatives spoke positively about visiting and the communication from the service. Comments included; "Staff have supported with keeping contact during the pandemic and have done really well at protecting everyone" and "I do an LFT test before visiting then put on full PPE. I visit [Name] in their room and use the call bell if I need anything rather than leaving the room."

The five questions we ask about services and what we found

We always ask the following five questions of services.

Is the service safe?

Inspected but not rated

Further information is in the detailed findings below.

Whitby 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 care homes with outbreaks of COVID-19, we are conducting reviews to ensure that the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) practice is safe and that services are compliant with IPC measures. This was a targeted inspection looking at the IPC practices the provider has 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 one day's 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.
- 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 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.