

Cumbria County Council

Tarn House

Inspection report

Mill Lane
Walney Island
Barrow-in-Furness
Cumbria
LA14 3XX

Tel: 01229404103

Date of inspection visit:
20 May 2021

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25 June 2021

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

Tarn House provides accommodation and personal care for up to 14 adults who have a learning disability and/or a physical disability. There were 11 people living in the home when we inspected.

The service was a large home, bigger than most domestic style properties. It did not meet current best practice guidance around people who have a learning disability living in domestic style accommodation. The size of the service having a negative impact on people was mitigated by the home being arranged as two areas where small groups of people lived, and a one bedroom flat one person could use.

We found the following examples of good practice.

Staff followed robust infection prevention and control procedures to prevent people visiting the home from catching and spreading infection. There was clear guidance around social distancing and the symptoms of COVID-19.

Staff checked visitors' temperatures and visitors were asked to complete a health questionnaire. Visitors were asked to show evidence of a negative Lateral Flow Device COVID-19 test, taken on the day of their visit.

Staff had been imaginative in devising activities for people to follow in the home. Activities were provided to support people's wellbeing during the pandemic.

Staff had supported people to look forward to life after the pandemic. People had been asked what activities they were looking forward to when restrictions were lifted and supported to plan how they would engage in the activities they chose.

People had been supported to maintain relationships that were important to them. When 'in person' visits were not possible, staff supported people to use technology to contact their families and friends. The registered manager supported people to access the community in a safe way when this was permitted.

Staff used appropriate Personal Protective Equipment, (PPE), to protect people from the risk of infection. The staff were trained in Infection Prevention and Control and how to use PPE safely.

The provider followed government guidance on COVID-19 testing of staff. People who lived in the home were supported to test for COVID-19. The provider had accessible information for people about COVID-19 testing and the COVID-19 vaccination programme.

The home was clean and hygienic. Additional cleaning had been introduced, including regular cleaning of frequently touched surfaces.

The registered manager had links with appropriate agencies for advice about protecting people from

infection during the pandemic. She followed best practice guidance around supporting people who have a learning disability to ensure people's safety and wellbeing.

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

Tarn 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 20 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.