

Carewell (Health Care) Limited

St Mary's Care Home

Inspection report

Church Chare
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County Durham
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Date of inspection visit:
10 February 2022

Date of publication:
11 March 2022

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

St Mary's is a residential care home which provides personal and nursing care for up to 54 people. The service supports older adults, some of whom were living with dementia. At the time of our inspection 41 people were using the service.

We found the following examples of good practice during our inspection:

- Systems were in place to prevent people, staff and visitors from catching and spreading infections.
- People and their relatives were supported to keep in contact using a range of technology.
- Additional cleaning of all areas and frequent touch surfaces was being carried out regularly.
- People were supported to understand the pandemic and the need for infection prevention and control (IPC) measures, such as staff wearing face masks.
- People and staff participated in a regular testing programme.
- Appropriate vaccination status checks were in place.
- Staff wore appropriate PPE and the service had ample PPE supplies.

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

St Mary's Care Home

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 10 February 2022 and was unannounced.

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 somewhat 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 somewhat 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.
- Relatives and external professionals were supported to visit the service safely in line with government guidance.

We have also signposted the provider to resources to develop their approach regarding the appropriate storage of PPE and prioritising maintenance work in bathrooms so these can be cleaned effectively. We have received assurances from the provider on both issues.

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.