

Mr Matthew Lindley Faiers Lindley St George's House

Inspection report

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Good

Ratings

Overall rating for this service

Is the service safe?Requires ImprovementIs the service effective?GoodIs the service caring?GoodIs the service responsive?GoodIs the service well-led?Good

Overall summary

An unannounced inspection took place on 27 and 28 January 2016. It was carried out by one inspector. On 2 February 2016, the inspector met with the provider and the manager to give feedback. St George's House provides accommodation for up to 19 people who require personal care; 15 people were living at the home during our visit. The service provides care for older people; some people are living with dementia. The bedrooms are on the ground and first floors, which can be accessed by a chair lift via the stairs.

There was a registered manager who left the service in December 2014. A registered manager is a person who has registered with the Care Quality Commission to manage the service. Like registered providers, they are 'registered persons'. The Care Quality Commission (CQC) have recently interviewed a person for the registered manager's post. The service is owned by a provider, who is a registered person. Registered persons have legal responsibility for meeting the requirements in the Health and Social Care Act 2008 and associated Regulations about how the service is run.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is required to monitor the operation of the Mental Capacity Act (2005) (MCA) and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) and to report on what we find. DoLS are put in place to protect people where they do not have capacity to make decisions, and where it is considered necessary to restrict their freedom in some way, usually to protect themselves or others. At the time of the inspection, an application had been made to the local authority in relation to one person who lived at the service. This meant people's legal rights were protected.

People felt safe and well cared for. They told us care staff were "so nice", "very good and helpful" and "wonderful". They praised the standard of the food and the cleanliness of the home. They felt confident complaints and concerns would be addressed and said the manager and staff were approachable. Regular meetings were held for people to comment on their care and make suggestions for improvements. People were consulted about their care, and their wishes respected.

People told us about the skills of the staff who cared for them. They commented on their friendliness and positive approach. Staff said they were well supported and had access to a range of training and increased supervision.

Improvement was needed to ensure the tools necessary to measure risks to people's health and safety were used correctly, with a clear action plan put in place. Health professionals were consulted when people's care needs changed. Positive feedback was provided by visiting health professionals regarding the timeliness of referrals and the skills of the staff.

We found one breach of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014. You can see what action we have told the provider to take at the back of the full version of this report.

The five questions we ask about services and what we found

We always ask the following five questions of services.

Is the service safe? **Requires Improvement** Most aspects of the service were safe. Recruitment practices were robust. The manager could demonstrate that staff were suitable to work with vulnerable people before they started working with people. Medication was generally well managed. Improvements were needed to manage health risks to people relating to weight loss and pressure care. Staff knew their responsibilities to safeguard vulnerable people and to report abuse. Is the service effective? Good The service was effective. People were supported by committed staff who were trained to meet their emotional and health care needs. People were supported to make decisions about their care and support and staff obtained their consent before support was delivered. The registered manager knew their responsibility under the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards to protect people. Staff received support to develop their skills and ensure they were competent in the work. People were supported to access healthcare services to meet their needs. Good Is the service caring? The service was caring. People were treated with dignity and with kindness and respect. People were involved in planning their care and support and their wishes respected.

Staff understood people as individuals and communicated effectively with them about their support.	
Staff had the skills and commitment to provide end of life care.	
Is the service responsive?	Good •
The service was responsive.	
People's individual care needs were assessed and care plans written in conjunction with individuals.	
Staff were attentive and recognised changes in people's health and well-being.	
Complaints were well-managed.	
Is the service well-led?	Good •
The service was well-led but some areas of quality assurance needed further work to demonstrate the practice of the provider.	
The home was run by a committed manager who supported their staff team and knew the people living at the home well.	
People who lived at the service, their relatives and staff were positive about the running of the home and the quality of the	
care.	



St George's House

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, to look at the overall quality of the service, and to provide a rating for the service under the Care Act 2014.

This inspection took place on 27 and 28 January 2016 and was unannounced on the first day. On 2 February, the inspector met with the provider and the manager to give feedback.

The inspection team consisted of one inspector. Before the inspection, we reviewed the information we held about the service and statutory notifications we had received. Notifications are forms completed by the organisation about certain events which affect people in their care. Before the inspection, we asked the provider to complete a Provider Information Return (PIR). This is a form that asks the provider to give some key information about the service, what the service does well and improvements they plan to make. We reviewed the completed PIR and previous inspection reports.

We met with 14 of the people living at the home. We spoke with nine people to hear their views on their care, four visitors, four members of care staff and the provider. We reviewed three people's care files, two care staff recruitment files and staff training records. We also looked at records relating to the management of the service. Following our visit we sought feedback from health care professionals to obtain their views of the service provided to people. We received positive feedback from one team of health professionals and one individual health professional.

Is the service safe?

Our findings

We asked staff to tell us about the people they cared for who had the most complex needs to judge if the risks to their health were well managed .They told us there was no one living at the home with a pressure sore, but that some people were at risk of developing one because of their increased health needs. Staff had attended training in pressure care to help them recognise the risks to people's health and risk assessments were completed but one person's risk assessment had not been completed correctly, although action had been taken to ensure equipment was in place to reduce the risk of pressure sores developing.

Turning charts had been put in place to help reduce the risk of people developing pressure sores. People's care plans had been updated with guidance as to how often this should take place. However, staff did not consistently adhere to the recommended timings. For example, on one day one person had periods when they were not turned for 4.5 hours and 5 hours. Their care plan stated it should have been every 3 hours, which was confirmed by staff. Staff applied prescribed cream to help reduce the risk of pressure sores, but charts to record this action had gaps on some days so it was unclear if this care had happened. Health professionals said they were working with the care staff to support them with the care of people at risk of pressure damage.

We looked at how the risk of unplanned weight loss was managed and addressed by staff. In the provider's information return (PIR), three people were identified as at risk of unplanned weight loss. Since the PIR had been completed another person's health needs had changed and their weight was being monitored. However, whilst looking at a fifth person's weight records, we saw there had been substantial weight loss in the period of a month, which had not been recognised by staff and was not being effectively monitored. One person said, in their opinion, staff did not have enough time to sit and encourage people who were reluctant to eat.

Staff used risk assessment tools to recognise the risk of malnutrition but staff said they had not updated some of the information, which was part of the assessment. This potentially impacted on the accuracy of the tool to highlight increased risk. People were generally weighed on a monthly basis, although on occasions the timing was longer. Despite records showing weight loss for some people, staff had not increased how often people were weighed. The risk assessment tool indicated weekly weights should be put in place when risk increased. During our inspection, a health professional encouraged the staff to monitor the weight loss of a sixth person on a more regular basis.

Food and fluid charts were in place for three people but there were no goals as to how much fluid people should be encouraged to drink. Reviews did not make a judgement about whether people's fluid intake was appropriate. Therefore the management of risk of dehydration or weight loss was not well managed.

There was a breach of Regulation 12 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014.

When care staff recognised people were losing weight, records showed health professionals were consulted, and for some people this resulted in nutritional supplements being added to their drinks. This was documented in the person's care plan and in information stored in the kitchen; staff knew to ensure the supplement was added.

People usually received their medicines safely, on time and the correct amounts were given. However, protocols were not in place to guide staff when to use 'as required' medicines, which meant they could potentially be given inconsistently. Staff said they would implement changes to address these concerns. Staff completed a medication administration record (MAR) to document all medicines taken so all doses were accounted for. Correct codes were used and there were no gaps. A medication audit completed by staff had previously highlighted this needed to be improved and training had taken place. This had produced a positive impact on record keeping. Staff supported people with their medicines in a calm and unhurried manner; people told us they were happy with the way their medicines were opened labels were attached to show when this had happened and when the expiry date was due, which was good practice. Staff checked medicines together against the records when they administered medicines needing a witness and a double signature, which was safe practice. Staff informed health professionals when people struggled to swallow medication to ensure pain relief was provided in a format more suitable to their needs. Handwritten changes to people's medicine records were not routinely witnessed by a second staff member; the role of the second person should help prevent recording errors.

There were effective recruitment and selection processes in place. Staff recognised the importance of recruiting suitable new staff members, which was reflected in the recruitment process. Recruitment files provided a clear audit trail of the steps taken to ensure new staff members' suitability, which included references and appropriate checks. Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks were completed. The DBS helps employers make safer recruitment decisions and helps prevent unsuitable people from working with people who use care and support services.

We checked the rotas for a three week period; two care staff on duty on each shift, including night times. During the week, the manager assisted care staff by providing hands on support, for example with medication. Care staff were supported by a cook and housekeeping staff, who worked every day. Between 4.30pm and 6pm suppertime assistants help distribute drinks and meals. The manager worked Monday – Friday. There was also an on-call arrangement.

People told us they felt safe based on staffing levels and the response time of staff when they used their call bell. This included the support they received at night, which they said was timely. People who chose to stay in their rooms showed us their call bells were in reach and understood how to use them. One person said "I feel very safe here." A health professional commented that the atmosphere was usually very relaxed even around busier times of the day. This was confirmed by a team of health professionals who visited the home, who also commented call bells were answered promptly.

Some people who spent time in their rooms said staff did not always have time to sit and chat with them; this view was also expressed by a visitor to the home. Staff told us some people's health had deteriorated and these people required more support. Staffing levels had not been increased instead the manager said they provided more hands on care to assist staff.

The home looked and smelt clean. People living at the home and visitors confirmed this was always the case. Cleaning staff expressed a pride in completing their job to high standard. Staff knew the importance of good infection control practice and confirmed there were plentiful supplies of gloves and aprons. One

person commented on one of the housekeepers that "if (staff member) found a cobweb, she would have a fit because her standards were so high."

Care staff knew their responsibility to report abusive practice and were knowledgeable about the types of abuse. They knew to report concerns in a timely manner and were confident about who they could speak with within the service. Staff knew if necessary they could also contact the police or CQC but had not remembered the role of Care Direct; this is a central team that coordinates safeguarding concerns. The manager said she would provide staff with this information again; we saw the role of Care Direct had been discussed at a team meeting in September 2015. We discussed focussed safeguarding training for managers, which the manager decided to research to gain further skills as she was new to her role.

Our findings

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA) provides a legal framework for making particular decisions on behalf of people who may lack the mental capacity to do so for themselves. The Act requires that as far as possible people make their own decisions and are helped to do so when needed. When they lack mental capacity to take particular decisions, any made on their behalf must be in their best interests and as least restrictive as possible.

People can only be deprived of their liberty to receive care and treatment when this is in their best interests and legally authorised under the MCA. The application procedures for this in care homes and hospitals are called the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS).

We checked whether the service was working within the principles of the MCA, and whether any conditions on authorisations to deprive a person of their liberty were being met.

Applications had been made appropriately so people's legal rights had been protected. There was a checklist in place to alert staff to consider if people were able to make specific decisions. Where appropriate, best interest decisions had taken place for people assessed as not having the mental capacity to make decision linked to their safety. For example, decisions relating to the use of bed rails or pressure mats, which alerted staff when people who were unable to use a call bell, needed help. Information on people's care files showed records were kept when people had legal arrangements in place to assist them with decisions relating to finances or their health and welfare. Minutes from staff meetings showed the manager kept staff up to date with issues relating to protecting people's legal rights.

The service was effective and the manager ensured training and supervision was provided. Staff members said they had access to formal supervision sessions, which records confirmed. Minutes from a staff meeting showed the manager had recognised improvement was needed to increase the number of staff supervisions that took place. Records showed this was being addressed, with staff supervision supplemented by regular staff meetings. Staff said the manager was approachable and they could request additional support when they needed it.

People told us about the skills of the staff who cared for them. They commented on their friendliness and positive approach. For example, people told us how they felt confident about the skills of the staff. People living at the home had also commented on the skills of the staff in a quality assurance survey earlier in the year. The manager, provider and staff showed a strong commitment to providing good quality care in their discussions with us. Staff were provided with a range of training. Staff were kept informed in a variety of ways, including handovers, supervision and staff meetings.

New care staff had an induction period, which varied in length depending on the person's level of experience. The manager demonstrated their understanding of the national care certificate, which was introduced to the care sector in April 2015. Experienced staff worked alongside new staff on their induction. They explained how they provided feedback to help the manager make a judgment on the competency of

new staff. Records showed that new staff members' practice was observed when they joined the service to ensure they worked in a safe way, for example moving people safely. This approach was confirmed by staff who said they were encouraged to identify if new staff members needed additional support.

Staff told us about their training opportunities, which included training in safeguarding, moving and handling, food hygiene, and where appropriate medicine training. Additional training was provided relating to specific medical conditions, such as diabetes. Staff were able to describe how their training influenced the way they monitored changes in people's health. Discussions with care staff showed they recognised the individuality of each person and could describe the changing needs of two people whose care needs had recently increased and become more complex.

Staff felt well supported by health professionals. People living at the home and visitors also spoke positively of their contact with health professionals. People said staff were quick to call health professionals if they were unwell or if they had requested to see them. Visitors told us staff kept them up to date if there were changes in their relative's health, which gave them reassurance that they were being well looked after. One person's mental health needs had increased. Staff had sought advice from health care professionals to provide guidance to ensure they supported the person appropriately. The person's relative said the staff were "coping brilliantly" and praised the staff team's commitment to continue to care for their relative. The manager recognised the person's health needs were outside of the staff group's experience and discussion took place with them and the provider as to how they could gain further advice. Staff spoke about a specific incident with insight and compassion, which showed their commitment to the individual.

Health professionals provided positive feedback on the skills of the care staff and the manager. They said they were up to date with their knowledge about people's individual needs and made referrals in a timely manner.

People were positive about the quality of the food and the atmosphere at mealtimes. Several people said they liked the new layout of the dining room, which meant people sat around one large table rather than individual tables. This had been trialled at Christmas and people said they liked it because it was "more friendly." There was good rapport between people during their lunchtime meal; one person chose not to sit at the table but was part of the communal atmosphere as staff chatted to them and supported them in their preferred seating area. Other people said they preferred to eat in their rooms. Staff checked with people if they wanted 'seconds' and their preferred portion size. People were provided with a range of drinks. Information was kept in the kitchen relating to people's allergies and preferences.

Our findings

The service user guide stated the aim of the provider was to create 'a warm and caring atmosphere'. Visitors and people living at the home told us this was their first impression when they had initially visited the home. They said the friendly and homely atmosphere had reassured them and told us this positive first impression had been subsequently confirmed once they had moved in. A person said they had "good company" from other people living at the home and this was shown by the camaraderie displayed between some people.

Visitors were greeted in a friendly manner by staff, and visitors told us this was always the case. Staff also greeted people in a warm manner when they joined other people in communal areas. For example, some people chose to spend the majority if their time in their rooms but joined people for a lunchtime meal. Staff welcomed people and checked how they were feeling and where they wanted to sit.

Staff were caring; all the people we spoke with this confirmed this, although one person felt one staff member's attitude could be improved. One person commented some staff went "the extra mile" providing comfort while they provided care in contrast to others who were more task orientated. Another person said some staff made them feel more at ease than others. People told us the staff were "so nice", "very good and helpful" and "wonderful". One person said the staff showed "kindness and thoughtfulness." Health professionals commented on the positive relationships between care staff, the manager and people living at the home. They also highlighted the good rapport created by care staff and the manager with friends and families of people living at the home.

A visitor told us they were "very impressed" by the attitude of staff. They gave the example of how staff reacted to their relative in a professional and caring manner even when their relative's communication style could be disrespectful towards staff. Another visitor said the welcome by staff when their relative moved in was "fantastic." They described how their relative had moved in at a time of crisis, which they recognised was not ideal. However, staff had ensured their relative's room looked welcoming and were happy to help make the room look more personalised. During our inspection, one person had chosen to change rooms and staff were busy helping them personalise their new room and transfer their belongings. They reassured them the handyperson would visit to check where they wanted to hang their pictures.

Before people received any care and treatment they were asked for their consent and staff acted in accordance with their wishes. For example, one person told us they were due to attend a hospital appointment, they were nervous and told us what they needed to do before they attended the following day. They spoke to a staff member about the arrangements, the staff member immediately recognised they were anxious and reassured them. They checked when the person wanted to be woken up and what they needed to do before they left. They chatted about what the person was planning to wear and with gentle humour the care staff member remembered with the person a time when their outfit had not worked out as they had planned. The person laughed at the memory and there was good rapport between them. The staff member then sat with them and they chatted about another topic, which showed the person felt reassured and was able to move on from their initial worry.

People looked well cared for; staff had been reminded to 'pay a little more attention' to personal care in a team meeting in January and September 2015, including ensuring help with a regular bath was encouraged and provided at a time suitable to people's wishes. People told us they had support with personal care in the way they preferred. A hairdresser visited the home, which people appreciated.

People told us how staff supported them with personal care tasks in a manner which did not make them feel embarrassed or self-conscious. They told us they chose whether to have a bath, shower or a strip-wash. A number of people were anxious to maintain their independence and gave examples of how staff assisted them in a way which maintained this aim. For example, some people only wanted help with washing their feet or their back. They told us staff knocked before entering their room and staff gave examples how they respected people's belongings in their rooms when cleaning, which people confirmed. Staff were able to give us examples of how they maintained people's dignity when they supported people's personal care, which showed how they considered what it would be like to be the person receiving the care.

Staff told us they were committed to providing end of life care at the home, where possible, and staff records showed some staff had received specific training in this area of care. During our inspection, we saw staff checking on people with higher care needs and arranging with each other to work in pairs to provide the care stated in the person's care plan. A visitor told us they felt reassured by the attentiveness of staff and the flexibility in their approach to meet their relative's changing needs. Records showed discussions had taken place with people to capture their end of life wishes, including what type of care they wanted. People told us some staff, including the manager, were particularly skilled at supporting them with family bereavements, which they appreciated.

Is the service responsive?

Our findings

The statement of purpose for the home encouraged people to visit to help them make a decision about moving to the home. People living at the home and their relatives confirmed they had been encouraged to visit the home and look around before they moved in. They described how staff had also met them, for example, in hospital to have a conversation about the type of support they could offer and what type of help the person needed. Records showed an assessment had taken place before people moved to the home and then when they arrived, the outcome of which was used to create a care plan.

Care plans were in place for each person. Since the last CQC inspection, the manager had made the decision to improve the quality of information in them to make them more person-centred. We compared the two styles and saw they had made a number of significant improvements, including a focus on the individuality of the person. The manager said they had three more care plans to change into this new style. People had signed their care plans or where appropriate family members had signed on their behalf. The care plans were reviewed on a monthly basis, although there were occasions when key changes had not been identified, such as weight loss.

People told us staff knew how to care for them; they said this was because staff knew them well and understood their care needs. Staff checked with people about how they wanted to be supported. Staff took time when they spoke with people to ensure they understood them or could hear them. They did not rush people and checked with people to make sure they had understood their request. One person was having trouble with their hearing and staff reminded each other to ensure the person was involved and could understand the choices available to them, for example what they would like to eat from the menu.

People's care plans included information about people's life history; staff chatted to people about their past. For example, when music was played in communal areas staff asked what memories it invoked and initiated a conversation about whether people used to go dancing. There were planned activities held on week days in communal areas, which were advertised in the home's hallway. Staff also reminded people who were in their rooms that these were taking place. Some people told us they enjoyed these sessions, but also told us they were lucky because they had plenty of visitors. Some people went out regularly with their family, although there were also times when people were accompanied by staff to visit the local shops or park. Communal activities included themed meals, quizzes and craft sessions, and fund raising events such as a charity coffee morning and a Christmas fair. There were trips out to places such as Bickleigh Mill and a relative had paid for an entertainer to visit the home on several occasions. Staff had also performed a pantomime written by one of the people living at the home. Some people said they enjoyed participating in household tasks, such as folding napkins. One visitor felt a number of people would benefit from more stimulation throughout the day to include time for staff to sit and chat with them.

One person said they were concerned there were not always enough staff to meet people's individual social needs and provide regular stimulation, such as spending time with people who were cared for in their rooms. We met another person who liked to play chess but arrangements were not in place for this to happen regularly and their individual interests had not been addressed by the communal activities. Their

family had made alternative arrangements to meet their individual social needs. We discussed with the manager and the provider how improvement was needed to ensure everyone's social needs were met.

People told us they were confident staff would resolve any complaints; most people said they would talk with the manager who they saw regularly while others felt any member of staff was approachable and would be responsive to their concerns. People told us they had not needed to make a complaint. Several people commented it was hard to remember staff members' names and said staff did not wear names badges and there was no information about the names of staff on display, which potentially could make it difficult to complain about individuals.

People were provided with a copy of the complaints procedure, which set out the process which would be followed in response to a complaint, including timescales. During the inspection, we highlighted how the complaints information would benefit from additional contact details relating to the ombudsman and the local council to ensure people were informed about the role of other agencies. We saw copies of how complaints had been investigated, which included outcomes. One complaint related to dogs visiting the home, which in one person's view had impacted on the availability of the back garden for people living at the home. The provider told us how they had tried to resolve this situation; they told us people always had access to the seating area in the front garden and access to the back garden most of the time. They said they would consider including information regarding visiting dogs and the availability of the back garden in the service user guide.

Our findings

People living at the home had the opportunity to influence the service through regular resident meetings. These were generally well attended and took place on a monthly basis. Minutes were taken and a record was available for people to read. This was confirmed by people who chose to stay in their room but had the minutes shared with them by the manager so they were kept involved in the running of the home. Minutes showed improvements had occurred as a result of comments at the meetings, such as the pace of the lunchtime meal. People told us the manager and staff were approachable.

The manager also used the meetings as an opportunity for people to be kept up to date on staffing changes and the progress of the restoration work on the building. From her discussions with us, the manager clearly knew people as individuals and recognised the importance of knowing people's social history and the role of people that were important to them. People had the opportunity to comment on the running of the home through surveys which covered different aspects of their care. An annual survey was sent out to gather people's opinions. The last one was in January 2015, and contained mainly positive responses, including from visiting professionals; another one is planned for 2016. Discussion took place about how areas for improvement could be shown as being addressed. This would then enable the provider and the manager to demonstrate their commitment to addressing, where possible, people's feedback.

We looked at how staff communicated with each other about people's care needs. Staff confirmed there was a handover between shifts. However, information relating to one person's mental well-being had not been shared by a staff member and people's weight loss had also not been highlighted as a potential concern. The manager said this would be addressed with individual staff and would be considered to ensure care plan reviews were meaningful.

Minutes were kept of staff meetings and the content showed a commitment to providing a caring and personalised service. There were systems in place to enable staff to feedback on the skills of their colleagues to ensure all staff were supported with the right level of training. The manager said they observed staff practice as they worked alongside care staff.

The provider visited the home regularly, which was confirmed by staff. They completed monthly audits, which detailed activities and key events, such as a hospital admission or a new person moving to the home. We discussed how their audits could include a review of records to support the manager in their new post.

The provider planned to review the monthly audits to ensure they reflected all of the aspects of the service they reviewed. For example, they visited the home at different times to check on the quality of the care but this was not recorded and therefore did not demonstrate how the provider judged the service to be running well. The provider said they spoke with people and staff during these visits but this was not routinely reflected in their audits and some people seemed uncertain who they were.

There was a commitment to providing quality care in a safe and well-maintained environment. Maintenance records were up to date, which included checks on moving and handling equipment. Work had taken place

to maintain the building and rooms were decorated and recarpeted when they became vacant. This was confirmed by a person who had moved to a new room.

Action we have told the provider to take

The table below shows where regulations were not being met and we have asked the provider to send us a report that says what action they are going to take. We did not take formal enforcement action at this stage. We will check that this action is taken by the provider.

Regulated activity	Regulation
Accommodation for persons who require nursing or personal care	Regulation 12 HSCA RA Regulations 2014 Safe care and treatment
	The registered person did not ensure health risks to people relating to weight loss and pressure care were well managed and regularly reviewed.(2)(a)