

Priorcare Homes Limited

Fernlea

Inspection report

114 Sandon Road
Meir
Stoke On Trent
Staffordshire
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Tel: 01782342822

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08 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

Fernlea is a care home for people who may have a learning disability or autism. The service was registered for up to 13 people; 13 people lived there at the time of our inspection.

We found the following examples of good practice.

People and staff were involved in being tested regularly for COVID-19 and the registered manager had checked staff had received the vaccination, unless exempt.

Some people had previously partaken in food hygiene training and the registered manager had plans to offer COVID-19 training to people who wanted it. Staff had also received training around infection prevention and control.

The registered manager carried out audits to check the home remained safe in relation to 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

Fernlea

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 8 February 2022 and was announced. We gave the service less than 24 hours' 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?

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. The provider had checked staff had all been fully vaccinated when not exempt. However, the provider had failed to check visiting professional's vaccination status. Following our feedback, the registered manager took immediate action to address this within their entry processes.
- We were somewhat assured that the provider was preventing visitors from catching and spreading infections. Checks were made on visitor COVID-19 tests to ensure they were negative, and temperatures were checked. The service ensured visitors performed hand hygiene on entry. However as mentioned above, vaccinations status was not always checked of visiting professionals.
- We were somewhat assured that the provider was promoting safety through the layout and hygiene practices of the premises. The home was clean and tidy; however, as some surfaces were worn, they would be difficult to keep hygienically clean. Records were not in place for regular touch point cleaning. However, immediate action was taken by the registered manager to address this.
- 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 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.
- People were supported to maintain contact with loved ones, which included visits from relatives into the home or outside of the home and contact via phone calls.

We have also signposted the provider to resources to develop their approach.