

Charing Oast Limited

# The Oast

## Inspection report

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15 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

The Oast is registered to provide accommodation and personal care for up to 28 people. At the time of the inspection, the service was occupied by 26 people who were living with a range of health and support needs. These included; diabetes, and dementia.

We found the following examples of good practice.

Visitors were asked about their Lateral Flow Test (LFT) result to ensure they were negative before staff facilitated the visit and temperatures were taken. Visitors were also advised to sanitise their hands on arrival and wear face masks. Visiting policy and procedure was in place and updated according to government guidance.

Arrangements were in place for visitors to meet in a safe area within and outside the service which minimised the risk of infection spread. The registered manager had opened up the home for visiting based on latest government guidance.

Plans were in place to isolate people with COVID-19 to minimise transmission if required. The service had good supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) such as masks and hand sanitisers that were readily available at stations throughout the service.

Staff had received training on how to keep people safe during the COVID-19 pandemic and staff were regularly tested for COVID-19 through both the LFT and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests. The building was clean and free from clutter and there were enhanced cleaning practices.

## 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.

**Inspected but not rated**

# The Oast

## **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 15 February 2022 and was unannounced.

# Is the service safe?

## Our findings

### Staffing

- The registered manager and provider 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.

### Visiting in care homes

- We observed on our walk through the home that there were no pedal controlled waste bins in four locations namely, bathroom downstairs, clinical, medication and laundry rooms. The registered manager told us these would be replaced immediately. The use of pedal controlled waste bins would have enabled staff to adhere to infection prevention and control measures more robustly.

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.

We have signposted the registered manager to the latest government guidelines on Covid-19 to develop their approach.