

Abbeyfield Society (The) Downing House

Inspection report

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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

Downing House is a residential care home providing care and support for people aged 55 and over and people who live with dementia. The care home accommodates up to 25 people in one purpose-built building. At the time of the inspection 24 people were receiving care and support.

- The provider ensured that Covid-19 policies and procedures were frequently reviewed and updated in light of government changes.
- All staff received specialist training so that they understood how to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus and were supervised and monitored to ensure guidelines were followed.
- The cleaning schedule for the home was reviewed and domestic staff hours increased. Monitoring of cleaning was robust, and improvements made if required.
- Procedures for people entering the home, including new admissions or those returning from hospital, kept people safe. The procedures included completing a lateral flow Covid-19 test, having a temperature check, hand cleansing the donning of personal protective equipment (PPE) and a period of isolation. The isolation depended on the reason for entering the home, for example, until the test result was apparent for a visitor or 10 days for a new admission.
- Action was taken to keep friends and families in touch and regular video and phone calls were facilitated. The service demonstrated compassion and had risk assessed and enabled very limited visiting for a small number of people who had been particularly poorly.
- Staff and people were regularly tested in line with government current COVID-19 testing program and people had received Covid-19 vaccinations in line with the Government mass-vaccination programme.

We found the following example of good practice.

The provider had developed, and employed at Downing House, a new post of Covid-19 Administrator, whose main responsibility was to take the lead in organising, completing and recording COVID-19 tests and test results. This was working effectively at Downing House.

Further information is in the detailed findings below.

The five questions we ask about services and what we found

We always ask the following five questions of services.

Is the service safe?

We were assured that this service followed safe and effective Infection, prevention and control (IPC) guidelines. IPC practices were also well managed.

Inspected but not rated

Downing 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 coronavirus 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 3 March 2021 and was announced.

This targeted inspection was to ensure that the service was compliant with infection control and prevention measures.

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 as much as was practical.
- We were assured that the provider was making sure infection outbreaks can be effectively prevented or managed.