

Northgate Healthcare Limited

The Firs Residential Home

Inspection report

Wodehouse Lane
Gospel End
Sedgley
West Midlands
DY3 4AE

Tel: 01902677911

Date of inspection visit:
17 February 2021

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05 March 2021

Ratings

Overall rating for this service

Inspected but not rated

Is the service safe?

Inspected but not rated

Summary of findings

Overall summary

The Firs Residential Home provides accommodation and personal care to a maximum of 57 older people. Some people lived with dementia. At the time of our inspection 54 people lived at the home.

We found the following examples of good practice.

- A visiting pod was used for relatives to visit their family members. Visiting was operated on a pre-booked basis only. Relatives could access the pod from the outside so there was little risk of them spreading infection into the home.
- The service provides care to people with varying levels of dementia. The staff described the difficulty in getting people to social distance as some understanding was low. Zoning in relation to communal areas (lounges and dining areas) was practiced to help prevent infection transmission.
- Guidance had been followed to ensure safe admissions took place. This included the need for the person moving into the home to have a negative COVID-19 test result and a self-isolation period of 10 days.
- Stocks of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) were plentiful. Staff wore face coverings, disposable aprons and gloves when delivering people's personal care. In communal areas they also wore PPE.
- Adequate stocks of COVID-19 test kits were available. Staff were tested three times a week and people every 28 days. Records were maintained of test results. Where a positive test was identified a period of self-isolation for staff and people was adhered to.
- All bedrooms were single occupancy. The majority of bedrooms were provided with en-suite facilities. These bedrooms and facilities enabled social distancing and meant self-isolation could be achieved if required.
- Large floor areas of the premises had laminate type flooring which was easier to clean. Staff frequently maintained touch point (for example, grab rails and door handles) cleaning throughout the day to prevent the transmission of infection.
- Staff had received Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) training and the provider's IPC policy was current and regularly reviewed.

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

The Firs Residential 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 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 17 February 2021 and was announced.

Is the service safe?

Our findings

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.