

Tree Vale Limited

# Tree Vale Limited Acorn House

## Inspection report

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Prenton  
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Tel: 01516530414

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07 January 2021

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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

Tree Vale Limited Acorn House is a residential care home that can accommodate a maximum of 33 people. The home is registered to provide accommodation for people who require support with their personal care. Most of the people at the home lived with dementia. At the time of our inspection, 31 people lived in the home.

Prior to our visit, Wirral NHS Infection Control team had inspected the service. They were happy with standard of infection control and had no concerns.

During our visit, we found the following examples of good practice.

At the time of our visit, the home was closed to visitors due to an outbreak of Coronavirus in the home. People had been supported to maintain contact with their loved ones via video and telephone calls during the outbreak. Prior to the outbreak, excellent provisions were in place to ensure visitors to the service were safe to enter the home to see their loved ones. For example, visitors were required to have a negative test on site and provided with a full set of PPE to wear prior to entry.

There were systems in place to maintain good infection control standards and regular checks were undertaken. Staff had sufficient supplies of personal protective equipment to protect them from risk and clinical waste was disposed of in accordance with government guidelines to prevent cross infection.

At the time of our visit, the home was closed to new admissions due to the outbreak. However, prior to this, all new people admitted to the home were required to have negative Covid 19 test prior to admission and a period of isolation where practicable. No new people had been admitted to the home in the last six months.

Staff members were tested weekly for Covid 19 and people living in the home monthly, in accordance with government guidelines.

Just after Christmas, a significant number of people living in the home and staff tested positive for Covid 19. During our visit, we reviewed the infection control measures in place to manage Covid 19 and the care people received. We had no concerns. The support and risks associated with this were managed well. People who had not tested positive for Covid 19 were isolating in their own bedrooms and staff were taking appropriate precautions to maintain their safety.

Staff who had tested positive were isolating at home. The provider had sourced a small number of agency staff to work in the home to ensure the service was safely staffed. They had secured assurances from the agency that the staff did not work in other homes whilst working in Tree Vale Limited Acorn House. This was important to mitigate the risk of spreading infection to and from other care homes.

The provider had alerted the local authority, the NHS infection control team, Public Health England and CQC of the outbreak. They had sought and followed any advice and support given.

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 met good infection prevention and control guidelines.

**Inspected but not rated**

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## **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 coronavirus, we are conducting reviews to ensure that the Infection Prevention and Control practice was safe and the service was compliant with IPC measures. This was a targeted inspection looking at the IPC practices the provider has in place.

Prior to our inspection, Wirral NHS Infection Control Team had visited the service and had no concerns.

This inspection took place on 07 January 2021 and was unannounced.

# Is the service safe?

## Our findings

We were assured that the provider was preventing visitors from catching and spreading infections.

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 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.