

Friends of the Elderly

Little Bramingham Farm Residential Care Home

Inspection report

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21 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

Little Bramingham Farm Residential Care Home provides care and support for up to 25 people living with various care needs. Some of the people were living with dementia. The service consisted of two floors, providing single bedrooms all with ensuite facilities and communal areas. There were 18 people living at the service at the time of the inspection.

We found the following examples of good practice.

The registered manager had implemented systems for ensuring checks on visitors were conducted and outcomes recorded to minimise the risks of people contracting COVID-19. This included screening questions, lateral flow testing and confirmation of vaccination status (for visiting professionals) as well as full use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Each person had a named essential care giver. The essential care givers took part in weekly testing regimes and had been able to offer support to people throughout COVID-19 outbreaks in the service. Relatives told us this was really helpful and they were happy with all visiting arrangements. The staff supported people to use social media platforms and telephones outside of face to face visits to stay in touch. People and visitors had a choice of visiting in people's bedrooms or in a designated visitors log cabin. People also had overnight visits to their relative's homes.

People, relatives and staff all took part in testing using PCR tests as well as lateral flow tests. They wore all required PPE correctly and had stations outside bedrooms, at the front entrance and other communal areas for safe disposal of PPE. The staff had tried using clear masks for communicating with people who needed to see facial expressions.

Each person had individual risk assessments about COVID-19. People who were unable to consent to testing, vaccinations or any visiting restrictions had completed a mental capacity assessment and been supported in their decision making.

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

Little Bramingham Farm Residential Care 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 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 21 February 2022 and was announced. We gave the service three days' 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?

- 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.
- The provider encouraged visitors and supported people to maintain relationships in a variety of ways. The provider had safe systems in place for ensuring different types of visits could take place. Checks on visitors COVID-19 status were recorded.

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.