

The Firs Residential Care Home Limited

# The Firs Residential Care Home

## Inspection report

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01 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 Firs Residential Care Home is a care home registered for up to 12 people including people living with dementia. At the time of the inspection there were 11 people living there.

We found the following examples of good practice.

The Firs Residential Care Home had robust arrangements for visitors which reflected government guidelines. Clear signage was displayed on the front door and Personal protective equipment (PPE) was available for visitors. Visitors were required to show negative Lateral Flow Test (LFT) result and were screened for symptoms of COVID-19 prior to entry to the service. Vaccination status for visiting professionals was recorded and stored securely.

There was a comprehensive infection prevention and control (IPC) policy in place and monthly audits were conducted that highlighted issues effectively. The service had implemented actions plan accordingly to rectify and mitigate risk to people living within the home, this ensured care was delivered safely.

The home looked clean, hygienic and maintained to a high standard. Domestic staff carried out regular cleaning with additional cleaning and disinfection of high touch points such as door handles or handrails.

The provider had processes in place that ensured the safe admission of new people to the home. The provider also assessed the impact of isolation on people's wellbeing. This included increased time spent by staff with people in their bedrooms to offer support and reassurance. All new admissions had to meet required vaccination status and negative LFT result before entry was granted to the home.

## 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 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 01 February 2022 and was announced. We gave the service 24-hours 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.

### Visiting in care homes

- The registered manager ensured people were able to see their visitors in such a way that did not increase the risk of the spread of infection throughout the home. Action had been taken by the registered manager to reduce the risk of people experiencing social isolation and loneliness. During a recent outbreak of COVID-19 the provider had utilised window visits to ensure continued socialisation and followed current guidelines in relation to admittance of essential care givers.

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 service was meeting the requirement to ensure non-exempt staff and visiting professionals were vaccinated against COVID-19.