



RQIA Provider Guidance 2016-17

Day Care Settings

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What we do

The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA) is the independent body that regulates and inspects the quality and availability of Northern Ireland's health and social care (HSC) services. We were established in 2005 under The Health and Personal Social Services (Quality, Improvement and Regulation) (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 to drive improvements for everyone using health and social care services.

Through our programme of work we provide assurance about the quality of care; challenge poor practice; promote improvement; safeguard the rights of service users; and inform the public through the publication of our reports. RQIA has three main areas of work:

- We register and inspect a wide range of independent and statutory health and social care services.
- We work to assure the quality of services provided by the HSC Board, HSC trusts and agencies - through our programme of reviews.
- We undertake a range of responsibilities for people with mental ill health and those with a learning disability.

We inspect and report on the following four domains:

- Is care safe?
- Is care effective?
- Is care compassionate?
- Is the service well led?

RQIA registers and inspects a wide range of health and social care services. These include: nursing, residential care, and children's homes; domiciliary care agencies; day care settings/centres; independent health care; nursing agencies; independent medical agencies; residential family centres; adult placement agencies; voluntary adoption agencies, school boarding departments and young adult supported accommodation (inspected only).

The four domains



How we will inspect

We will inspect every day care setting at least once every year. Our inspectors are most likely to carry out unannounced inspections, however from time to time we need to give some notice of our inspections.

During our inspections we will inspect and report on the following four domains:

- Is care safe?
- Is care effective?
- Is care compassionate?
- Is the service well led?

When we inspect a day care setting, we aim to:

- seek the views of the people who use the service, or their representatives
- talk to management and other staff on the day of the inspection
- examine a range of records including policies, care records, incidents and complaints
- provide feedback on the day of the inspection to the manager on the outcome of the inspection
- provide a report of our inspection findings and outline any areas for quality improvement where failings in compliance with regulations and/or standards are identified.

Our inspections are underpinned by:

- The Day Care Setting Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007
- The Day Care Settings Minimum Standards (2012)
- previous inspection outcomes and any information we have received about the service since the previous inspection

What we look for when we inspect

To help us to report on whether the care is safe, effective and compassionate and whether the service is well led, we will look for evidence against the following indicators:

Is care safe?

Avoiding and preventing harm to service users from the care, treatment and support that is intended to help them.

Indicator

There are, at all times, suitably qualified, competent and experienced persons working in the service in such numbers as are appropriate for the health and welfare of service users.

Examples of Evidence

- The duty rotas demonstrate that there are sufficient numbers of staff in various roles to meet the needs of the service users
- In the absence of the registered manager a suitable competent person is identified to assume responsibility for the day care setting
- The day care setting has a structured induction programme
- A system is in place for induction of staff for short notice/emergency arrangements
- A system is in place to ensure that staff receive supervision and appraisal and records are retained
- A system is in place to ensure all staff receive appropriate training to fulfil the duties of their role
- Pre-employment checks are undertaken
- There is a written policy and procedure for staff recruitment

Indicator

The service promotes and makes proper provision for the welfare, care and protection of service users.

Examples of Evidence

- Staff are knowledgeable about and have a good understanding of safeguarding
- Safeguarding training is provided during induction and updated as necessary
- Policies and procedures are in line with the regional guidance 'Adult Safeguarding Prevention and Protection in Partnership', July 2015
- All suspected, alleged or actual incidents of abuse are fully and promptly investigated in accordance with the procedures.
- Where shortcomings in systems are highlighted as a result of an investigation, additional identified safeguards are put in place
- Staff are aware of their obligations in relation to raising concerns about poor practice

Indicator

There are systems in place to ensure that unnecessary risks to the health, welfare or safety of service users are identified, managed and where possible eliminated.

Examples of Evidence

- Care is regularly evaluated and reviewed
- Referral arrangements, care plans and include relevant risk assessments for all areas
- Restrictive practice is appropriately assessed, minimised, recorded and reviewed with involvement of the multi professional team as required
- Records of restrictive practices are retained appropriately
- Accident/incidents are recorded and audited to establish if there any patterns or trends
- Notifiable events are appropriately reported to RQIA

Indicator

The premises and grounds are safe, well maintained and suitable for their stated purpose.

Examples of Evidence

- The day care setting is suitable for the purposes of day care as set out in the Statement of Purpose.
- The day centre is clean, suitably heated with sufficient lighting
- There are no obvious hazards internally or externally to the health and safety of service users, staff or visitors
- Health and Safety matters including fire safety guidance is adhered to at all times

Is care effective?

The right care, at the right time in the right place with the best outcome.

Indicator

The service responds appropriately to and meets the assessed needs of the people who use the service.

Examples of Evidence

- Record keeping is in accordance with legislation, standards and best practice guidance
- A policy and procedure is available which includes the creation, storage, recording, retention and disposal of records
- The day care setting's Statement of Purpose and Service User Guide makes appropriate references to the nature and range of service provision and where appropriate, includes restrictive interventions
- Risk assessments are completed, and are review on a regular basis
- The care plan is developed, takes account of the outcome of risk assessments, and is regularly evaluated and reviewed in consultation with service users/representatives
- Service users are provided with a copy of their care plan in a suitable format
- Referrals are made to specialist services as and when required
- There is a structured programme of varied activities and events related to the day care setting's statement of purpose and the service users' need for day care
- Transport arrangements where appropriate meet the needs and requirements of service users and support the objectives of day care provision

Indicator

There are arrangements in place to monitor, audit and review the effectiveness and quality of care delivered to service users at appropriate intervals.

Examples of Evidence

- Quality monitoring is undertaken routinely in accordance with the day care settings policy and actions identified for improvement are implemented into practice
- The day care setting maintains a record of any areas of dissatisfaction/concern/complaints or issues raised by service users or their representatives
- The day care setting seeks feedback from representatives on their views on the quality of care and support provided by the day care setting
- Service users are informed of advocacy services

Indicator

There are robust systems are in place to promote effective communication between service users, staff and other key stakeholders.

Examples of Evidence

- Service users and their representatives are aware of who to contact if they want advice or have any issues/concerns
- Staff meetings records
- Service user meetings records
- The day care setting maintains a record of any areas of dissatisfaction/concern/complaints or issues raised by service users or their representatives

Is care compassionate?

Service users are treated with dignity and respect and should be fully involved in decisions affecting their treatment, care and support.

Indicator

There is a culture/ethos that supports the values of dignity and respect, independence, rights, equality and diversity, choice and consent of service users.

Examples of Evidence

- Staff are aware of the day care setting's policy and procedure on confidentiality and staff can demonstrate how this is implemented
- Discussion with staff and observation of interactions demonstrate that service users are treated with dignity and respect and staff can demonstrate how consent is obtained
- The day care setting maintains a record of any comments made by service users
- The day care setting seeks feedback from service users' representatives (including HSC Trusts) on the quality of care and support provided by the day care setting
- The day care setting has an ongoing process in place to ascertain and respond to the views of service users and/or their representatives with regard to equality and diversity

Indicator

Service users are listened to, valued and communicated with in an appropriate manner.

Examples of Evidence

- There are arrangements in place for involving service users to make informed decisions
- There are arrangements for providing information in alternative formats
- There is in place a system to ascertain and take into account the service user's wishes and feelings

Indicator

There are systems in place to ensure that the views and opinions of service users, and or their representatives, are sought and taken into account in all matters affecting them.

Examples of Evidence

- The registered person shall establish and maintain a system for evaluating the quality of the day care services
- Annual service user quality assurance surveys about the standard and quality of care in the day service
- Results are collated to provide a summary evaluation report which is made available to service users and/or their representatives which includes an action plan
- RQIA staff/service user questionnaire responses evidence that compassionate care is delivered within the day centre

Is the service well led?

Effective leadership, management and governance which create a culture focused on the needs and the experiences of service users in order to deliver safe, effective and compassionate care.

Indicator

There are management and governance systems in place to meet the needs of service users.

Examples of Evidence

- Matters to be monitored by the registered person as detailed in Schedule 3 is undertaken regularly
- There are arrangements in place for policies and procedures to be reviewed at least every three years
- Policies are retained in a manner which is easily accessible by staff
- The day care setting's governance arrangements highlight and promote the identification of and management of risk
- The day care setting maintains and implements a complaints policy and procedure in accordance with the relevant legislation and DHSSPS guidance on complaints handling
- Records are kept of all complaints and these include details of all communications with complainants, the result of any investigation, the outcome and the action taken
- Staff know how to receive and deal with complaints
- Arrangements are in place to audit complaints to identify trends and enhance service provision
- The day care setting has an incident policy and procedure in place which includes reporting arrangements to RQIA and other relevant agencies

Indicator

There are management and governance systems in place that drive quality improvement.

Examples of Evidence

- Arrangements are in place for managing accidents/incidents/and other notifiable events
- Audits of incidents/accidents are undertaken and learning, outcomes are identified and disseminated throughout the staff team
- Arrangements are in place for staff supervision and appraisal and where relevant, performance management
- Arrangements are in place for the day care setting to be visited on a monthly basis as required under Regulation 28 of The Day Care Setting Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007
- A report is maintained on the conduct of the day care setting, and reports on the matters to be monitored by the registered person as detailed in Schedule 3. The report is available for service users, their representatives, staff and Trust representatives

Indicator

There is a clear organisational structure and all staff are aware of their roles, responsibility and accountability within the overall structure.

Examples of Evidence

- There is a defined organisational and management structure that identifies the lines of accountability, specific roles and details responsibilities of all staff
- Staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities and actions to be taken should they have a concern
- The registered person/s have an understanding of their roles and responsibilities under legislation
- Service users are aware of roles of staff within the day centre and who to speak with if they want advice or have issues/concerns

Indicator

The registered person/s operates the service in accordance with the regulatory framework.

Examples of Evidence

- Any absence of the registered manager of more than 28 days is notified to RQIA, and arrangements for managing the day care setting in the absence of the registered manager are approved by RQIA.
- The Statement of Purpose and Service User Guide are kept under review, revised when necessary and updated
- Registered person/s respond to regulatory matters (e.g. notifications, reports/QIPs, enforcement)
- RQIA certificate of registration is on display and reflective of service provision

Indicator

There are effective working relationships with internal and external stakeholders.

Examples of Evidence

- There are collaborative working arrangements with external stakeholders e.g. HSC Trusts
- There is a whistleblowing policy and procedure and staff are knowledgeable of the policy
- Arrangements are in place for staff to access their line manager
- There are arrangements in place to support staff (e.g. staff meetings, appraisal & supervision)
- Discussion with staff confirms that there are good working relationships and that management are responsive to suggestions/concerns
- There are arrangements for management to effectively address staff suggestions/concerns

Inspection reports

Our inspection reports will reflect the findings from the inspection. Where it is appropriate, a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) will detail those areas requiring improvement to ensure the service is compliant with the relevant regulations and standards. Where either no requirements or recommendations result from the inspection this will be reflected in the report.

It should be noted that inspection reports should not be regarded as a comprehensive review of all strengths and areas for improvement that exist in a service. The findings reported on are those which came to the attention of RQIA during the course of the inspection. The findings contained within inspection reports do not exempt the service provider from their responsibility for maintaining compliance with legislation, standards and best practice.

Once the inspection report is finalised and agreed as factually accurate, it will be made public on RQIA's website.



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