

Unannounced Care Inspection Report 22 March 2018



Bruce House

Type of Service: Residential Care Home
Address: 6a Duncairn Avenue, Belfast, BT14 6BP
Tel No: 028 9504 0570
Inspector: Patricia Galbraith

www.rqia.org.uk

Assurance, Challenge and Improvement in Health and Social Care

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

1.0 What we look for



2.0 Profile of service

This is a residential care home with 30 beds that provides care for residents living with dementia.

3.0 Service details

Organisation/Registered Provider: Belfast HSC Trust Responsible Individual(s): Mr Martin Dillon	Registered Manager: Julie Grimes, registration pending
Person in charge at the time of inspection: Eileen Moran Senior Carer Julie Grimes was present for feedback only	Date manager registered: Registration pending
Categories of care: Residential Care (RC) A - Past or present alcohol dependence DE – Dementia	Number of registered places: 30

4.0 Inspection summary

An unannounced care inspection took place on 22 March 2018 from 10.20 to 14.40.

This inspection was underpinned by The Residential Care Homes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 and the DHSSPS Residential Care Homes Minimum Standards, August 2011.

The inspection assessed progress with any areas for improvement identified since the last care inspection and sought to determine if the home was delivering safe, effective and compassionate care and if the service was well led.

There were examples of good practice found throughout the inspection in relation to supervision and appraisal, adult safeguarding, infection prevention and control, risk management and the home's environment.

Areas requiring improvement were identified in relation to duty rota, fire training and residents admitted who do not meet the categories of care for which the home is registered to provide.

The findings of this report will provide the home with the necessary information to assist them to fulfil their responsibilities, enhance practice and resident experience.

4.1 Inspection outcome

	Regulations	Standards
Total number of areas for improvement	2	1

Details of the Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) were discussed with Julie Grimes, Manager and Eileen Moran, Senior Carer, as part of the inspection process. The timescales for completion commence from the date of inspection.

Enforcement action did not result from the findings of this inspection.

4.2 Action/enforcement taken following the most recent care inspection

No further actions were required to be taken following the most recent inspection on 23 May 2018.

5.0 How we inspect

Prior to inspection we analysed the following records: the previous inspection report, the returned QIP, notifiable events, and written and verbal communication received since the previous care inspection.

During the inspection the inspector met with twelve residents and five staff.

A total of 10 questionnaires were provided for distribution to residents, their representatives and staff for completion and return to RQIA. Four questionnaires were returned within the requested timescale. A poster was left with the senior carer to give to staff and it explained how staff could complete an electronic questionnaire.

A lay assessor was present during the inspection and their comments are included within this report.

The following records were examined during the inspection:

- Staff duty rota
- Induction programme for new staff
- Staff supervision and annual appraisal schedules
- Sample of competency and capability assessments
- Staff training schedule/records
- Three resident's care files
- Minutes of recent staff meetings
- Complaints and compliments records
- Audits of risk assessments, care plans, care reviews; accidents and incidents (including falls, outbreaks), complaints, environment, catering
- Infection control register/associated records
- Equipment maintenance/cleaning records
- Accident/incident/notifiable events register
- Minutes of recent residents' meetings/representatives' / other
- Evaluation report from annual service user quality assurance survey
- Monthly monitoring report
- Fire safety risk assessment
- Fire drill records
- Maintenance of fire-fighting equipment, alarm system, emergency lighting, fire doors, etc

- Individual written agreement
- Input from independent advocacy services
- Programme of activities
- Policies and procedures manual

The findings of the inspection were provided to the person in charge at the conclusion of the inspection.

6.0 The inspection

6.1 Review of areas for improvement from the most recent inspection dated 28 February 2018

The most recent inspection of the home was an unannounced medicines management inspection.

This QIP will be validated by the pharmacist inspector at the next medicines management inspection.

6.2 Review of areas for improvement from the last care inspection dated 23 May 2017

There were no areas for improvements made as a result of the last care inspection.

6.3 Inspection findings

6.4 Is care safe?

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

The senior carer advised the staffing levels for the home and that these were subject to regular review to ensure the assessed needs of the residents were met. No concerns were raised regarding staffing levels during discussion with residents, residents' representatives and staff.

A review of the duty roster identified it did not accurately reflected the staff working within the home.

Review of completed induction records and discussion with the senior carer and staff evidenced that an induction programme was in place for all staff, relevant to their specific roles and responsibilities.

In discussion with staff they advised that mandatory training, supervision and appraisal of staff was regularly provided. A schedule for mandatory training, annual staff appraisals and staff supervision was maintained and was reviewed during the inspection.

The senior carer and staff stated competency and capability assessments were undertaken for any person who is given the responsibility of being in charge of the home for any period in the absence of the manager; records of competency and capability assessments were retained. Samples of completed staff competency and capability assessments were reviewed and found to be satisfactory.

In discussion with the senior carer it was stated that no staff have been recruited since the previous inspection, therefore staff personnel files were not reviewed on this occasion.

Arrangements were in place to monitor the registration status of staff with their professional body where applicable.

In discussion with staff they stated they were aware of the regional guidance (Adult Safeguarding Prevention and Protection in Partnership, July 2015) along with the new procedures and a copy was available for staff within the home. Staff were knowledgeable and had a good understanding of adult safeguarding principles. They were also aware of their obligations in relation to raising concerns about poor practice and whistleblowing. A review of staff training records confirmed that mandatory adult safeguarding training was provided for all staff.

Discussion with the senior carer, review of accident and incidents notifications, care records and complaints records confirmed that all suspected, alleged or actual incidents of abuse were fully and promptly referred to the relevant persons and agencies for investigation in accordance with procedures and legislation; written records were retained.

The senior carer advised there were risk management procedures in place relating to the safety of individual residents. In reviewing one residents care records it was identified that one resident had been admitted who did not fall within the categories of care for which the home is registered. This was identified as an area of improvement.

The senior carer confirmed there were restrictive practices employed within the home, notably locked doors, keypad entry systems and lap belts etc. Discussion with the senior carer regarding such restrictions confirmed these were appropriately assessed, documented, minimised and reviewed with the involvement of the multi-professional team, as required.

Inspection of care records confirmed there was a system of referral to the multi-professional team when required. Behaviour management plans were devised by specialist behaviour management teams from the trust and noted to be regularly updated and reviewed as necessary.

The senior carer and examination of accident and incident records confirmed that when individual restraint was employed, the appropriate persons/bodies were informed.

The senior carer advised there were risk management policy and procedures in place. In discussion with the senior carer in relation to safe and healthy working practices they advised that these were appropriately maintained and reviewed regularly e.g. COSHH, fire safety etc.

The senior carer advised equipment and medical devices in use in the home were well maintained and regularly serviced.

Review of the infection prevention and control (IPC) policy and procedure confirmed that this was in line with regional guidelines. Staff training records showed all staff had received training in IPC in line with their roles and responsibilities. Discussion with staff established that they were knowledgeable and had understanding of IPC policies and procedures. Inspection of the premises confirmed that there were wash hand basins, adequate supplies of liquid soap, alcohol hand gels and disposable towels wherever care was delivered. Observation of staff practice identified that staff adhered to IPC procedures.

Good standards of hand hygiene were observed to be promoted within the home among residents, staff and visitors. Notices promoting good hand hygiene were displayed throughout the home in both written and pictorial formats.

The senior carer reported that there had been no outbreaks of infection within the last year. Any outbreak would be managed in accordance with the trust's policy and procedures, reported to the Public Health Agency, the trust and RQIA with appropriate records retained.

A general inspection of the home was undertaken and the residents' bedrooms were found to be personalised with photographs, memorabilia and personal items. The home was fresh smelling, clean and appropriately heated.

Inspection of the internal and external environment identified that the home and grounds were kept tidy, safe, suitable for and accessible to residents, staff and visitors. There were no obvious hazards to the health and safety of residents, visitors or staff. In discussion with the senior care they advised that risk assessments and action plans were in place to reduce risk where possible.

The home had an up to date fire risk assessment in place dated 13 February 2018 and all recommendations were noted to be addressed.

Review of staff training records showed not all staff had completed fire safety training twice annually. This was identified as an area for improvement. Fire drills were completed every 6 months. Records were retained of staff who participated and any learning outcomes. Fire safety records identified that fire-fighting equipment, fire alarm systems, emergency lighting and means of escape were checked weekly and monthly and were regularly maintained. Individual residents had a completed Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEPs) in place.

Four completed questionnaires were returned to RQIA from residents. Respondents described their level of satisfaction with this aspect of care as very satisfied.

Areas of good practice

There were examples of good practice found throughout the inspection in relation to supervision and appraisal, adult safeguarding, infection prevention and control, risk management and the home's environment.

Areas for improvement

Three areas for improvement were identified during the inspection in relation to the duty rota as it did not accurately reflect hours worked by all staff, a resident had been admitted outside the categories of care for which the home is registered and all staff did not have fire training twice annually.

	Regulations	Standards
Total number of areas for improvement	2	1

6.5 Is care effective?

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

Discussion with the senior carer established that staff in the home responded appropriately to and met the assessed needs of the residents.

A review of three care records showed two of these were maintained in line with the legislation and standards. As identified in section 6.4 one resident had been admitted outside of the categories for which the home is registered. The two care records had up to date assessment of needs, life history, risk assessments, care plans and daily/regular statement of health and well-being of the resident. Care needs assessment and risk assessments (e.g. manual handling, bedrails, nutrition, falls, where appropriate) were reviewed and updated on a regular basis or as changes occurred.

The care records also reflected the multi-professional input into the residents' health and social care needs and were found to be updated regularly to reflect the changing needs of the individual residents. Residents and/or their representatives were encouraged and enabled to be involved in the assessment, care planning and review process, where appropriate. Care records reviewed were observed to be signed by the resident and/or their representative. Discussion with staff confirmed that a person centred approach underpinned practice.

An individual agreement setting out the terms of residency was in place and appropriately signed. Records were stored safely and securely in line with data protection.

The senior carer advised that there were arrangements in place to monitor, audit and review the effectiveness and quality of care delivered to residents at appropriate intervals. Audits of risk assessments, care plans, care review, accidents and incidents (including falls, outbreaks), complaints, environment, catering were available for inspection and evidenced that any actions identified for improvement were incorporated into practice.

The senior carer advised that systems were in place to ensure effective communication with residents, their representatives and other key stakeholders. These included pre-admission information, multi-professional team reviews, residents' meetings, staff meetings and staff shift handovers. The senior carer and staff advised that management operated an open door policy in regard to communication within the home.

Residents spoken with and observation of practice evidenced that staff were able to communicate effectively with residents. Staff confirmed that they had received training in communication/customer care. Minutes of resident and/or their representative meetings were reviewed during the inspection.

A review of care records, along with accident and incident reports, confirmed that referral to other healthcare professionals was timely and responsive to the needs of the residents. The senior carer advised that arrangements were in place, in line with the legislation, to support and advocate for residents.

Four completed questionnaires were returned to RQIA from residents. Respondents described their level of satisfaction with this aspect of care as very satisfied.

Areas of good practice

There were examples of good practice found throughout the inspection in relation to care records, audits and reviews, communication between residents, staff and other key stakeholders.

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

	Regulations	Standards
Total number of areas for improvement	0	0

6.6 Is care compassionate?

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

The senior carer advised staff in the home promoted a culture and ethos that supported the values of dignity and respect, independence, rights, equality and diversity, choice and consent of residents.

A range of policies and procedures were in place which supported the delivery of compassionate care. Discussion with staff and residents advised that residents' spiritual and cultural needs, including preferences for end of life care, were met within the home. Discussion with residents and staff confirmed that action was taken to manage any pain and discomfort in a timely and appropriate manner. This was further evidenced by the review of care records for example, a care plan was in place for management of pain.

Residents were provided with information, in a format that they could understand, which enabled them to make informed decisions regarding their life, care and treatment.

The senior carer and residents advised that consent was sought in relation to care and treatment. Discussion with residents and staff along with observation of care practice and social interactions demonstrated that residents were treated with dignity and respect. Staff confirmed their awareness of promoting residents' rights, independence and dignity and were able to demonstrate how residents' confidentiality was protected. For example staff knocked on resident's bedroom door before entering.

The senior carer and staff advised that residents were listened to, valued and communicated with in an appropriate manner. Residents stated that their views and opinions were taken into account in all matters affecting them.

Discussion with staff, residents and observation of practice confirmed that residents' needs were recognised and responded to in a prompt and courteous manner by staff.

There were systems in place to ensure that the views and opinions of residents, and or their representatives, were sought and taken into account in all matters affecting them. For example residents’ meetings etc.

Residents are consulted with, at least annually, about the quality of care and environment. The findings from the consultation were collated into a summary report which was made available for residents and other interested parties to read ‘An action plan was developed and implemented to address any issues identified’.

Discussion with staff, residents, and observation of practice and review of care records confirmed that residents were enabled and supported to engage and participate in meaningful activities. For example a local school had attended the home and residents advised they enjoy the interactions. Arrangements were in place for residents to maintain links with their friends, families and wider community.

Four completed questionnaires were returned to RQIA from residents. Respondents described their level of satisfaction with this aspect of care as very satisfied.

Comments received from residents were as follows:

- “I love this place”
- “I love this place and the food is excellent”
- “The staff are so good”
- “Staff are so nice”

Areas of good practice

There were examples of good practice found throughout the inspection in relation to the culture and ethos of the home, listening to and valuing residents and taking account of the views of residents.

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

	Regulations	Standards
Total number of areas for improvement	0	0

6.7 Is the service well led?

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

The senior carer outlined the management arrangements and governance systems in place within the home. These were found to be in line with good practice. The needs of residents were met in accordance with the home’s statement of purpose and the categories of care for which the home was registered with RQIA.

A range of policies and procedures was in place to guide and inform staff. Policies were centrally indexed and retained in a manner which was easily accessible by staff. Policies and procedures were systematically reviewed every three years or more frequently as changes occurred.

There was a complaints policy and procedure in place which was in accordance with the legislation and Department of Health (DOH) guidance on complaints handling. Residents and/or their representatives were made aware of how to make a complaint by way of the Residents Guide, Poster/leaflet etc. Discussion with staff confirmed that they had received training on complaints management and were knowledgeable about how to receive and deal with complaints.

Review of the complaints records confirmed that arrangements were in place to effectively manage complaints from residents, their representatives or any other interested party. Records of complaints included details of any investigation undertaken, all communication with complainants, the outcome of the complaint and the complainant's level of satisfaction. Arrangements were in place to share information about complaints and compliments with staff. An audit of complaints was used to identify trends and to enhance service provision.

There was an accident/incident/notifiable events policy and procedure in place which included reporting arrangements to RQIA. A review of accidents/incidents/notifiable events confirmed that these were effectively documented and reported to RQIA and other relevant organisations in accordance with the legislation and procedures. A regular audit of accidents and incidents was undertaken and was reviewed as part of the inspection process. Learning from accidents and incidents was disseminated to all relevant parties and action plans developed to improve practice.

There were quality assurance systems in place to drive continuous quality improvement which included regular audits and satisfaction surveys.

There was a system to ensure medical device alerts, safety bulletins, serious adverse incident alerts and staffing alerts were appropriately reviewed and actioned.

Discussion with the senior carer advised that information in regard to current best practice guidelines was made available to staff. A number of staff had taken part in the Butterfly Project Dementia Matters. Staff were provided with mandatory training and additional training opportunities relevant to any specific needs of the residents.

A monthly monitoring visit was undertaken as required under Regulation 29 of The Residential Care Homes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005; a report was produced and made available for residents, their representatives, staff, trust representatives and RQIA to read.

There was evidence of managerial staff being provided with additional training in governance and leadership. Learning from complaints, incidents and feedback was integrated into practice and fed into a cycle of continuous quality improvement.

There was a clear organisational structure and all staff were aware of their roles, responsibility and accountability. The senior carer advised that the registered provider was kept informed regarding the day to day running of the home.

The senior carer advised that the management and control of operations within the home was in accordance with the regulatory framework. Inspection of the premises confirmed that the RQIA certificate of registration was displayed.

Review of governance arrangements within the home and the evidence provided within the returned QIP confirmed that the registered provider/s respond to regulatory matters in a timely manner.

Review of records and discussion with the senior carer and staff stated any adult safeguarding issues were managed appropriately and that reflective learning had taken place. The senior confirmed that there were effective working relationships with internal and external stakeholders.

The home had a whistleblowing policy and procedure in place and discussion with staff established that they were knowledgeable regarding this. The senior carer advised that staff could also access line management to raise concerns they will offer support to staff.

In discussion with staff they advised there were good working relationships within the home and that management were responsive to suggestions and/or concerns raised.

The senior carer advised there were arrangements in place for managing identified lack of competency and poor performance for all staff. There were also open and transparent methods of working and effective working relationships with internal and external stakeholders.

Four completed questionnaires were returned to RQIA from residents. Respondents described their level of satisfaction with this aspect of the service as very satisfied.

Comments received from residents were as follows:

- “Staff are a great team, they all work well together“
- ”Staff are so good”
- “Staff work so well as a team”

Areas of good practice

There were examples of good practice found throughout the inspection in relation to governance arrangements, management of complaints and incidents, quality improvement and maintaining good working relationships.

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

	Regulations	Standards
Total number of areas for improvement	0	0

7.0 Quality improvement plan

Areas for improvement identified during this inspection are detailed in the QIP. Details of the QIP were discussed with Julie Grimms, Manager and Eileen Moran Senior Carer as part of the inspection process. The timescales commence from the date of inspection.

The registered provider/manager should note that if the action outlined in the QIP is not taken to comply with regulations and standards this may lead to further enforcement action including possible prosecution for offences. It is the responsibility of the registered provider to ensure that all areas for improvement identified within the QIP are addressed within the specified timescales.

Matters to be addressed as a result of this inspection are set in the context of the current registration of the residential care home. The registration is not transferable so that in the event of any future application to alter, extend or to sell the premises RQIA would apply standards current at the time of that application.

7.1 Areas for improvement

Areas for improvement have been identified where action is required to ensure compliance with The Residential Care Homes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 and the DHSSPS Residential Care Homes Minimum Standards, August 2011.

7.2 Actions to be taken by the service

The QIP should be completed and detail the actions taken to address the areas for improvement identified. The registered provider should confirm that these actions have been completed and return the completed QIP via Web Portal for assessment by the inspector.

Quality Improvement Plan

Action required to ensure compliance with The Residential Care Homes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005

<p>Area for improvement 1</p> <p>Ref: Regulation 19.- (2) Schedule 4.7</p> <p>Stated: First time</p> <p>To be completed by: 22 April 18</p>	<p>The registered person shall ensure that the duty rota accurately reflects hours worked by all staff.</p> <p>Ref. 6.4</p>
	<p>Response by registered person detailing the actions taken:</p> <p>The duty rota has been updated to ensure it is an accurate account of hours worked by staff team. Manager will ensure it reflects permanent bank and agency staff. The duty rota is being reviewed on a daily basis as required to ensure adequate staffing levels. Manager has spoken with senior team to ensure they understand the importance of updating rota to reflect any necessary changes.</p>

<p>Area for improvement 2</p> <p>Ref: Regulation 15.-1 (e)</p> <p>Stated: First time</p> <p>To be completed by: 22 April 218</p>	<p>The registered person shall ensure residents will only be admitted to the home who fall within the categories of care for which the home is registered.</p> <p>Ref: 6.4</p>
	<p>Response by registered person detailing the actions taken:</p> <p>Prior to admission the registered manager will discuss with key worker in community needs of potential residents to ensure that they are appropriate and fall within the category of registration. The manager will also complete a pre-admission assessment to ensure the potential residents needs can be met within Bruce House. In the event of a resident being transferred from another care environment where possible a formal review will take place prior to the transfer and detail the reason for any change in the category of care. If review is not possible prior to admission manager will record in detail on the pre-admission assessment reason for the change in category of care.</p>

Action required to ensure compliance with the DHSSPS Residential Care Homes Minimum Standards, August 2011

<p>Area for improvement 1</p> <p>Ref: Standard 29.4</p> <p>Stated: First time</p> <p>To be completed by: 30 May 2018</p>	<p>The registered person shall ensure all staff have fire training twice annually.</p> <p>Ref 6.4</p>
	<p>Response by registered person detailing the actions taken:</p> <p>This has been addressed since the inspection. Fire training took place in the home 28.03.2018. . The manager shall ensure that all staff attend fire training twice yearly and will communicate to staff team their responsibility in ensuring that all training is kept upto date. The manager will ensure that robust audit systems are in place to ensure future compliance</p>

Please ensure this document is completed in full and returned via Web Portal



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