



The Regulation and
Quality Improvement
Authority

Praxis Care Group
RQIA ID: 10832
13 Lower Cairncastle Road
Larne
BT40 1PG

Inspector: Jim McBride
Inspection ID: IN23566

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**Announced Care Inspection
of
Praxis Care Group

9 November 2015**

The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority
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1. Summary of Inspection

An announced care inspection took place on 9 November 2015 from 09.30 to 12.30. Overall on the day of the inspection the agency was found to be delivering safe, effective and compassionate care. No areas for improvement were identified during this inspection. This inspection was underpinned by the Domiciliary Care Agencies Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007 and the Domiciliary Care Agencies Minimum Standards, 2011.

1.1 Actions/Enforcement Taken Following the Last Inspection

Other than those actions detailed in the previous QIP there were no further actions required to be taken following the last inspection.

1.2 Actions/Enforcement Resulting from this Inspection

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

1.3 Inspection Outcome

	Requirements	Recommendations
Total number of requirements and recommendations made at this inspection	0	0

This inspection resulted in no requirements or recommendations being made. Findings of the inspection can be found in the main body of the report. Overall on the day of inspection the staffing arrangements and service user involvement was found to be safe, effective and compassionate. The outcome of this inspection found no areas of concern. A quality improvement plan (QIP) was not included in this report.

2. Service Details

Registered Organisation/Registered Person: Irene Sloan	Registered Manager: Frances Marie Philpott
Person in charge of the agency at the time of Inspection: Frances Marie Philpott	Date Manager Registered: 16 June 2015
Number of service users in receipt of a service on the day of Inspection: 12	

3. Inspection Focus

The inspection sought to assess progress with the issues raised during and since the previous inspection and to determine if the following themes have been met:

Theme 1: Staffing Arrangements - suitable staff are supplied to meet the assessed needs of service users

Theme 2: Service User Involvement - service users are involved in the care they receive

4. Methods/Process

Specific methods/processes used in this inspection include the following:

Prior to inspection the following records were analysed:

- Previous inspection report and quality improvement plan (QIP)
- Incident records
- Records of contact with the agency since the last inspection.

During the inspection the inspector met the registered manager and one staff member. The inspector visited the registered office and did not meet any service users as they are dispersed in their own homes within the community.

The following records were examined during the inspection:

- Four care and support plans
- HSC Trust assessments of needs and risk assessments
- Care review records
- Recording/evaluation of care used by the agency
- Monthly monitoring reports for May, June, July, August, September and October 2015
- Staff meeting minutes for February, March, May, June, July, and September 2015
- Staff training records:
 - Vulnerable adults*
 - Complaints*
 - Human rights*
 - Person centred planning*
 - Supervision for supervisors*
- Records relating to staff supervision
- Complaints records
- Recruitment policy. The policy was updated by Praxis Care on the 6 November 2014
- Records relating to recruitment process
- Induction procedure
- Staff rota information.

At the request of the inspector the manager was asked to distribute questionnaires to staff for return to RQIA. Three Questionnaires was returned to RQIA.

These questionnaires indicated that the staff were either satisfied or very satisfied with the following:

- Service users' views are listened to
- The agency's induction process prepared you for your role
- The agency operates in a person centred manner
- Service users receive care and support from staff who are familiar with their needs
- You will be taken seriously if you were to raise a concern?

Staffs written comments:

"The staff on the ground provide an excellent service."

"The staff have to be commended for their dedication and their commitment."

At the request of the inspector the manager was asked to distribute a number of questionnaires to the service users to be completed asking them about various aspects of their care. Eight questionnaires were returned. These indicated that service users were either satisfied or very satisfied with the following.

- The support you receive
- Staff responds to your needs
- Staff help you feel safe and secure here.

Service user's written comments:

"The staff go out of their way to help."

"I like the neighbourhood and the support."

5. The Inspection

Praxis Care Group at 13 Lower Cairncastle Road, Larne, is part of Praxis Care and operates as a registered domiciliary care agency. Under the direction of the Manager, Mrs F Philpott three staff provide support to twelve service users, as detailed below:

Dispersed Intensively Supported Housing (DISH) provides housing support to tenants in properties in Larne. These properties are jointly managed by the NIHE or Housing Associations. The agency works in partnership with the NIHE's Supporting People Programme.

Staff are based at the registered office address and provide care and support in service user's homes. The scheme is designed to enable people who need varying levels of support to live within a community setting.

All service users have an individual support plan, which can include support with mental health needs, medication, and shopping, cooking, cleaning, budgeting and other daily tasks. Tenants are offered various social activities within and outside of the scheme.

A Home Response Service provide support in the individual's own home, to nine service users in the Larne and Carrickfergus areas.

The level of support provided is agreed with each service user, statutory Key Worker and Praxis staff.

All referrals are made by the Northern HSC Trust Community Mental Health Team.

5.1 Review of Requirements and Recommendations from Previous Inspection

The previous inspection of the agency was an announced care inspection dated 2 October 2014. The completed QIP was returned and approved by the care inspector.

5.2 Review of Requirements and Recommendations from the Last Care Inspection

Previous Inspection Recommendations		Validation of Compliance
Recommendation 1 Ref: Standard 8.15	The registered manager should ensure that the form entitled "Financial Expenditure Contract" is reviewed to ensure that it does not contain misleading information in respect of the agency's role in the financial affairs of the service user concerned.	Met
	Action taken as confirmed during the inspection: This recommendation was no longer applicable to the service.	

5.3 Theme 1: Staffing Arrangements - suitable staff are supplied to meet the assessed needs of service users

Is Care Safe?

The agency has a recruitment policy and a mechanism in place to ensure that appropriate pre-employment checks are completed and satisfactory. An alphabetical index of all domiciliary care workers supplied or available to work for the agency was maintained.

The agency has a structured induction programme lasting at least three days; this was confirmed by the manager and staff member interviewed and in staff questionnaires. Staff are provided with a handbook, and have access to policies, procedures, and guidance.

The agency has a procedure for verifying the identity of all staff prior to their supply, and the registered manager assured the inspector that no staff are supplied unless this procedure is followed.

The agency has a policy and procedure in place outlining staff supervision and appraisal which details the frequency of both. This was verified by staff during the inspection. Records maintained of supervision and appraisal demonstrated that the frequency was in accordance with the agency's policy and procedure.

Is Care Effective?

Discussions with the manager indicated that an appropriate number of skilled and experienced persons are available at all times.

The manager described the agency's processes to assess the suitability of staff. The inspector viewed a range of documentation that demonstrated how staff are provided with a clear outline of their roles and responsibilities.

One staff member who took part in the inspection described the induction as effective in preparing new staff for their role.

Discussion with the manager and examination of training records evidenced that the agency has a process in place to identify and respond to training needs. The agency provides a range of training outside of mandatory training.

Is Care Compassionate?

The agency maintains a record of comments made by service users/representatives in relation to staffing arrangements. The manager described how the agency discusses staffing arrangements with service users. This was verified by the inspector in the minutes of a service users meeting held on the 15 October 2015. The manager stated that staffing arrangements affecting individual service users is discussed with them one to one as required.

Discussions with the staff indicated that service users are prepared in advance of significant staff changes where possible. The staff were aware of the possible impact of staff changes on service users and discussed with the inspector the importance of induction and introduction of new staff.

One staff member described how the induction process involves meeting service users and learning about their care needs with another member of staff. The agency's induction process is implemented in a manner which takes into account the consent, privacy and dignity of service users.

Staff Comments:

"Induction is good and helps with the job."

"Training is good and is designed to help staff."

"Staff communicate well with each other."

Areas for Improvement

N/A

Number of Requirements:	0	Number of Recommendations:	0
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5.4 Theme 2: Service User Involvement - service users are involved in the care they receive

Is Care Safe?

Assessments of need and risk assessments seen by the inspector reflected the views of service users and/or representatives. The inspector saw records of a process involving the service user and/or their representative, the referring HSC Trust and the agency, to ascertain the needs of the service users and their views. This process results in individualised care and support plans seen by the inspector.

There was evidence of positive risk taking in collaboration with the service user and/or their representative. This could be seen throughout a variety of records including risk assessments and care plans.

Is Care Effective?

Records of reviews evidenced that care is regularly evaluated and reviewed. The agency has a policy of reviewing care and support plans every month or as required, as well as keyworker discussions with service users.

Care and support plans seen by the inspector were written in a person centred manner and included the service users' views. The staff described how care and support plans are written along with the service user and presented evidence of this.

Feedback from monthly monitoring reports presented examples of how the agency delivers the service in response to the views of service users and/or their representatives. The agency has processes in place to ascertain and respond to the views of service users and their representatives.

Service users have been provided with information relating to human rights in a suitable format.

It was noted by the inspector that individual care and support plans place importance on the human rights of individuals. Care and support plans are written and reviewed under the following subdivisions:

- *Improved Health*
- *Improved quality of life*
- *Making a positive contribution*
- *Choice and control*
- *Freedom from discrimination and harassment*
- *Emotional wellbeing*
- *Personal dignity*

Is Care Compassionate?

Feedback from the manager evidenced that service users receive care in an individualised manner. Care plans and agency records are written in a person centred manner.

Service users and/or their representatives are aware of their right to be consulted and have their views taken into account in relation to service delivery.

Promotion of values such as dignity, choice and respect were evident through discussion with staff members and two service users. Human rights were explicitly outlined in care plans and were evident throughout other agency documentation such as review records.

The agency collaborates with the HSC Trust regarding best interest practices for service users where there are capacity and consent issues.

Areas for Improvement

N/A

Number of Requirements:	0	Number of Recommendations:	0
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5.3 Additional Areas Examined

Reports of monthly quality monitoring completed on behalf of the registered person were reviewed. The reports ascertain and respond to the views of service users, relatives, professionals and staff. The agency's reports of monthly monitoring are comprehensive and provide assurance of a robust system of quality monitoring and service improvement.

Complaints/Compliments

Records of complaints from 1 January 2014-31 March 2015 were examined. There were no complaints within the time period specified.

It should be noted that this inspection report should not be regarded as a comprehensive review of all strengths and weaknesses that exist in the service. The findings set out are only those which came to the attention of RQIA during the course of this inspection. The findings contained within this report do not absolve the registered person/manager from their responsibility for maintaining compliance with minimum standards and regulations.

No requirements or recommendations resulted from this inspection.

I agree with the content of the report.

Registered Manager	Frances Marie Philpott	Date Completed	23/11/15
Registered Person	Andy Mayhew on behalf of Irene Sloan	Date Approved	3/12/15
RQIA Inspector Assessing Response	Jim Mc Bride	Date Approved	7/12/15

Please provide any additional comments or observations you may wish to make below:

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