

Unannounced Care Inspection Report 14 March 2017



Lowtherstown Court Day Care

Type of service: Day Care Service

Address: 55 Bridge Street, Irvinestown, Co. Fermanagh, BT94 1DT

Tel no: 028 6862 8985

Inspector: Angela Graham

www.rqia.org.uk

Assurance, Challenge and Improvement in Health and Social Care

1.0 Summary

An unannounced inspection of Lowtherstown Court Day Care took place on 14 March 2017 from 09.30 hours to 15.55 hours.

Is care safe?

On the day of the inspection Lowtherstown Court Day Care was found to be delivering safe care. There was positive feedback from all service users about the delivery of safe care in the day centre. Observations of care practices showed there was a culture of ensuring service users were safe and protected from harm. Staff were knowledgeable of their specific roles and responsibilities in relation to adult safeguarding.

The staff in Lowtherstown Court Day Care were observed caring for a range of service users' needs. On the day of the inspection the staffing levels were responsive to service user's needs, welfare and safety.

Staff, service users and relatives who completed and returned questionnaires to RQIA following the inspection indicated satisfaction and that the care provided was safe. No issues or concerns were raised or indicated.

Is care effective?

On the day of the inspection it was established that the care in Lowtherstown Court Day Care was effective. Observations of staff interactions with service users and discussions with a total of five service users evidenced this. There were arrangements in place to monitor, audit and review the effectiveness and quality of care delivered to service users.

The inspection of elements of three service users' care records, incident recording, discussion with five service users and staff concluded care was being delivered at the right time, in the right place, and with the best outcome. Staff demonstrated a high level of commitment to ensure service users received the right care at the right time. Staff spoken with understood their role, function and responsibilities. Staff also confirmed that if they had any concerns, they could raise these with the registered manager.

One area for quality improvement was identified during the inspection regarding this domain. This matter concerns the registered provider submitting a revised Statement of Purpose that includes all relevant information as specified in Schedule 1 of The Day Care Setting Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007.

Staff, service users and relatives who completed and returned questionnaires to RQIA following the inspection indicated satisfaction and that the care provided was effective. No issues or concerns were raised or indicated.

Is care compassionate?

On the day of the inspection Lowtherstown Court Day Care was found to be delivering compassionate care. The inspection of records, observations of practice and discussions with staff and service users confirmed that service users were being treated with compassion, dignity and respect. Furthermore they were encouraged by staff to be involved in decisions affecting their care and support.

Staff were observed responding to service users' needs and requests promptly and professionally. Discussion with service users and observation provided evidence that service users were listened to, valued and communicated with in an appropriate manner.

Staff, service users and relatives who completed and returned questionnaires to RQIA following the inspection indicated satisfaction and that the care provided was compassionate. No issues or concerns were raised or indicated.

Is the service well led?

On the day of the inspection there was evidence of effective leadership and management in Lowtherstown Court Day Care and a culture focused on the needs of service users.

The discussion with staff and service users regarding management arrangements confirmed they were informed regarding the arrangements and the staffs role and responsibilities. Staff confirmed that they were well supported in their roles and that good training is provided.

Staff, service users and relatives who completed and returned questionnaires to RQIA following the inspection indicated satisfaction and that the service was well led. No issues or concerns were raised or indicated.

This inspection was underpinned by The Day Care Setting Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007, the Day Care Settings Minimum Standards 2012.

1.1 Inspection outcome

	Requirements	Recommendations
Total number of requirements and recommendations made at this inspection	1	0

Details of the Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) within this report were discussed with Margaret Tanner, Registered Manager, 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.

1.2 Actions/enforcement taken following the most recent care inspection

Other than those actions detailed in the QIP there were no further actions required to be taken following the most recent inspection on 23/02/2016.

2.0 Service details

Registered organisation/registered person: William Henry Murphy	Registered manager: Margaret Tanner
Person in charge of the service at the time of inspection: Margaret Tanner	Date manager registered: 19 May 2009

3.0 Methods/processes

- The registration details of the day centre
- Written and verbal communication received since the previous care inspection
- The previous care inspection report and quality improvement plan (QIP)

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

- Discussion with the registered manager
- Discussion with two care staff
- Discussion with a volunteer
- Discussion with five service users
- Examination of records
- File audits
- Evaluation and feedback

The registered manager was provided with five questionnaires to distribute to service users; five staff members and five relatives for their completion. The questionnaires asked for service user, staff and relatives views regarding the service, and requesting their return to RQIA. Four staff, four relatives and five service users' questionnaires were returned to RQIA. The content of the questionnaires is discussed in the main body of the report.

The following records were examined during the inspection:

- Complaints and compliments records
- Accident/untoward incident record
- Staff roster
- Staff supervision and appraisal records
- Elements of three service users' care records
- Sample of policies and procedures
- Sample of quality assurance audits
- Staff training information
- Minutes of three staff meetings
- Minutes of three service user meetings
- Three monthly monitoring reports

4.0 The inspection

4.1 Review of requirements and recommendations from the most recent inspection dated 23/02/2016

The most recent inspection of the day care setting was an unannounced care inspection. The completed QIP was returned and approved by the care inspector.

4.2 Review of requirements and recommendations from the last inspection dated 23/02/2016

Last care inspection statutory requirements		Validation of compliance
Recommendation 1 Ref: Standard 17.11 Stated: First time To be Completed by: 30 April 2016	An analysis of the annual satisfaction surveys should be undertaken with action plans developed, if necessary, to address areas of non-compliance. The outcome of surveys should be shared with service users, representatives and staff.	Met
	Action taken as confirmed during the inspection: The returned quality improvement plan and discussion with the registered manager confirmed this recommendation had been addressed. Evidence was provided in this regard.	

4.3 Is care safe?

The registered manager confirmed the planned daily staffing levels for the day care centre, and that these levels were subject to regular review to ensure the assessed needs of the service users were met. A review of the staffing roster for weeks commencing 2 February 2017 until 14 March 2017 evidenced that the planned staffing levels were adhered to.

Staff consulted confirmed that staffing levels met the assessed needs of the service users. Observation of the delivery of care evidenced that service users' needs were met by the numbers of staff on duty.

Discussion with the registered manager confirmed that staff were recruited in line with Regulation 21, Schedule 2 of The Day Care Setting Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007 and that records were retained at the organisation's personnel department.

The registered manager and staff confirmed that competency and capability assessments were undertaken for any person who is given the responsibility of being in charge of the centre for any period in the absence of the registered manager. Records of competency and capability assessments were retained and examined during the inspection.

Review of a sample of staff training records concluded staff had received mandatory and other training relevant to their roles and responsibilities since the previous care inspection.

Review of records pertaining to accidents, incidents and notifications forwarded to RQIA confirmed that these were appropriately managed.

The staff on duty on the day of inspection discussed the needs of the service users they were looking after. They gave a clear description of their needs and how those needs will be met. The staff stated their aim was for service users to enjoy their time in the day service by undertaking stimulating activities and for service users to feel comfortable and safe in the group environment. The staff confirmed that if they had any concerns regarding safe practice they would discuss this with their colleagues and/or the management team who they described as accessible and supportive. Staff confirmed service users are encouraged to give their views, opinions and preferences. In summary the discussion with staff confirmed they were proactively promoting safe care for service users in this setting.

The registered manager and staff spoken with clearly demonstrated knowledge of their specific roles and responsibilities in relation to adult safeguarding. The registered manager stated that there were no current or ongoing safeguarding concerns.

Discussion with staff confirmed that they had attended safeguarding vulnerable adults training in June 2016.

A review of the day centre's environment was undertaken and the day centre was found to be warm, fresh smelling and clean throughout. There was evidence that hand hygiene was promoted through notices, handwashing supplies and facilities. There were no obvious hazards to the health and safety of service users, visitors or staff. Fire exits and corridors were observed to be clear of clutter and obstruction.

Five service users completed questionnaires for this inspection. These service users confirmed that they felt safe in the setting. These service users also confirmed that they could talk to staff if they were unhappy or had any issues or concerns and they could tell someone if they were worried about someone being treated badly. The service users reported the setting is comfortable and they knew what to do if the fire alarm sounded.

Four relatives returned questionnaires to RQIA post inspection. They identified that they were very satisfied with the safe care in Lowtherstown Court Day Care. They stated that their relative is safe and protected from harm, they could talk to staff, the environment is suitable to meet their relative's needs and that they would report concerns to the manager.

Four staff members returned questionnaires to RQIA post inspection. The staff members confirmed that the care was safe, they had received training in safeguarding vulnerable adults, there are risk assessments and care plans in place for service users, they would report poor practice and they receive support to fulfil their roles and responsibilities.

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

Number of requirements	0	Number of recommendations	0
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4.4 Is care effective?

Discussion with the registered manager established that staff in the day care setting responded appropriately to and met the assessed needs of the service users.

Review of elements of three service users' care records reflected there are risk assessments and care plans in place. There was evidence that risk and other assessments informed the care planning process. There was also recorded evidence of multi-professional collaboration. Care recording for every five attendances was being maintained in the three care records inspected.

Service users and/or their representatives were encouraged and enabled to be involved in the assessment, care planning and review process.

Review of elements of three service users' care records confirmed annual reviews of the individual's day care placement had taken place in the previous year.

Discussion with the registered manager confirmed that there were three service users attending the day centre with a diagnosis of dementia. These service users had been diagnosed with dementia prior to commencing day care. The registered manager provided the inspector with an assurance that the service could meet and respond to these service users' needs. Lowtherstown Court Day Care's RQIA registration letter and Statement of Purpose does not include dementia care. The registered person must ensure the day care setting operates within their RQIA registration and their Statement of Purpose.

The Statement of Purpose should be reviewed and updated to include the range of needs that the day care setting is intended to meet and the number which can be accommodated in accordance with Regulation 4(1). A requirement has been made to address this issue.

It was observed during this inspection that records were stored safely and securely in line with data protection.

The registered manager confirmed that there were arrangements in place to monitor, audit and review the effectiveness and quality of care delivered to service users at appropriate intervals.

Records were made available for inspection concerning audits of the environment, staff training, supervision and appraisal and care records and evidenced that actions identified for improvement had been completed.

Evidence was provided to verify systems were in place to ensure effective communication with service users, their representatives and key stakeholders. These included pre-admission information, multi-professional reviews, service users and staff meetings.

Discussion with the registered manager and staff confirmed that management operated an open door policy in regard to communication within the day care setting. Staff stated that there was effective teamwork; each staff member knew their role, function and responsibilities. Staff also confirmed that if they had any concerns, they could raise these with the registered manager. All grades of staff consulted clearly demonstrated the ability to communicate effectively with their colleagues and other health care professionals.

Discussion with the registered manager and review of records evidenced that service user meetings were generally held monthly. The last meeting was held on 24 February 2017 and minutes were made available.

There was information available to staff, service users and representatives in relation to advocacy arrangements.

Observation of practices evidenced that staff were able to communicate effectively with service users.

Five service users' completed questionnaires. These service users confirmed that they were getting the right care at the right time and staff were communicating well with them. They also confirmed that their choices are listened to and they choose the activities they take part in. The service users reported that they had been involved in the annual review of their day centre placement.

Four relatives returned questionnaires to RQIA post inspection. The relatives confirmed that they were very satisfied with the effective care. They stated that their relative gets the right care, at the right time, in the right place. They also confirmed that they are satisfied with communication with staff, their awareness of their relative's needs, preferences and choices and that these are incorporated into the care they receive and that they are involved in their relative's annual review.

Four staff members returned a questionnaire to RQIA post inspection. The staff members confirmed that service users are involved in their care plan, care plans inform the care provided, monitoring of quality is in place and that staff respond to service users in a timely manner.

Areas for improvement

One area for quality improvement was identified during the inspection regarding this domain. This matter concerns the registered provider submitting a revised Statement of Purpose that includes all relevant information as specified in Schedule 1 of The Day Care Setting Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007.

Number of requirements	1	Number of recommendations	0
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4.5 Is care compassionate?

The registered manager confirmed that staff in the day care setting promoted a culture and ethos that supported the values of dignity and respect, independence, rights, equality and diversity, choice and consent of the service users.

Discussion with staff regarding the activities they were delivering confirmed the activities were tailored to meet the needs of the service users, as well as promoting their strengths and providing choice. Observations of service users taking part in activities showed participation was good.

During the observation and discussions staff were observed checking service users were comfortable, that their needs and preferences were being met. If the staff identified someone needed additional support they sensitively and discretely got their attention and accompanied the service user to where they could get more individualised care and privacy.

Overall staff were observed supporting service users in a compassionate way, encouraging service users to be involved in their care and promoting their independence.

An observation of the lunch time meal confirmed that service users were given a choice in regards to where they preferred to dine, food and fluid choices and the level of help and support requested. Staff treated service users with dignity and respect affording adequate time for service users to make decisions and choices and staff offered reassurance and assistance appropriately. Staff interactions with service users were observed to be compassionate, caring and timely.

Staff were aware of each service user's individual needs and were observed to respond positively and warmly. During discussion staff presented as knowledgeable and informed regarding each service user's needs.

The staff described they consult with service users informally when they are in the day care setting regarding their needs, preferences and choices.

Service users are consulted on a formal basis via service users' meetings and the annual review of their day care placement.

Service users spoken with during the inspection commented positively in regard to the care they received. Examples of some of the comments made by service users are listed below:

- "This is a lovely day centre. I really enjoy coming here and taking part in all the activities."
- "The manager and staff are so very kind. We are like one big family."
- "I really enjoy all the things we do including the arts and crafts."
- "I could talk to the staff at any time if I had concerns. They are all so helpful."
- "We get a cup of tea and a homemade scone on arrival. The dinner is lovely and we get a choice every day."

Consultation with service users regarding compassionate care and service users' questionnaires identified that they were treated with respect and are involved in decisions affecting them, the staff are kind and caring, their privacy is respected; they have choices and are involved in decisions.

Four relatives returned questionnaires to RQIA post inspection. The relatives confirmed that they were satisfied their relative was treated with dignity and respect and involved in decisions affecting their care. Their relatives are treated well and they are consulted regarding decisions.

Four staff questionnaires confirmed that service users are treated with dignity and respect, encouraged to be independent and their views are sought and acted upon.

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

Number of requirements	0	Number of recommendations	0
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4.6 Is the service well led?

The registered manager confirmed that there were management and governance systems in place to meet the needs of service users.

A range of policies and procedures were in place to guide and inform staff. Policies were centrally indexed and retained in a manner which was easily accessible by staff. Staff confirmed that they had access to the day centre's policies and procedures.

Discussion with staff confirmed that they knew how to respond to a range of situations such as responding to issues of dissatisfaction or a vulnerable adult concern. The staff confirmed that there is good communication across the team and clear working together practices.

They described the management team as supportive and they knew they could speak to them for guidance or advice. All grades of staff were clear who they report to and what to do if they had a concern about a staff member or service user. Discussions with staff also confirmed that management were responsive to any suggestions or concerns raised.

Discussion with the registered manager and staff confirmed that systems were in place to monitor staff performance and ensure that staff received support and guidance. A schedule for annual staff appraisals and staff supervision was maintained and was available for inspection. A review of the schedule confirmed that supervisions were completed for staff generally on a six weekly basis and staff appraisals were completed annually. Discussion with staff confirmed that they had received supervision and appraisal accordingly.

Discussion with the registered manager confirmed that staff meetings were held generally monthly, and records verified this. The last meeting was held on 28 February 2017 and minutes were available. The previous staff meeting had been undertaken on 13 January 2017. The registered manager confirmed that the minutes of staff meetings were made available for staff to consult.

The registered manager confirmed that no complaints were received since the previous care inspection on 23 February 2016. Compliments records were also recorded and maintained by staff.

The inspector discussed the monitoring arrangements under Regulation 28 of The Day Care Setting Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007. A monitoring visit had been undertaken on 23 February 2017. Three monitoring reports were reviewed from December 2016 to February 2017. The monitoring officer reported on the conduct of the day care setting and any improvements required were put into an action plan.

The certificate of registration issued by RQIA was displayed in a prominent position in the day care setting.

There were systems in place to ensure that notifiable events were investigated and reported to RQIA or other relevant bodies appropriately.

Based on the findings of this care inspection RQIA concluded the day care service was well led. There was evidence of good leadership, robust and effective management and governance systems in Lowtherstown Court Day Care which were focused on the needs of service users.

Five service users' questionnaires confirmed that the service was managed well. The service users also confirmed that staff had responded well to them and they are asked what they would like to do in the setting. The service users stated that they knew the manager and could talk to the manager if they had any concerns.

The relatives' questionnaires confirmed that they were very satisfied that the service was managed well and the staff and the manager are approachable, professional and caring. They were informed about the complaints process and they have a copy of the service user's guide.

Four staff questionnaires confirmed that the service is managed well, the service is monitored, and communication between the staff and management is effective.

Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

Number of requirements	0	Number of recommendations	0
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5.0 Quality improvement plan

Any issues identified during this inspection are detailed in the QIP. Details of the QIP were discussed with Margaret Tanner, Registered Manager, as part of the inspection process. The timescales commence from the date of inspection.

The registered provider/manager should note that failure to comply with regulations may lead to further enforcement action including possible prosecution for offences. It is the responsibility of the registered provider to ensure that all requirements and recommendations contained 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 day care service. 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.

5.1 Statutory requirements

This section outlines the actions which must be taken so that the registered provider meets legislative requirements based on The Day Care Setting Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007.

5.2 Recommendations

This section outlines the recommended actions based on research, recognised sources and Day Care Settings Minimum Standards 2012. They promote current good practice and if adopted by the registered provider/manager may enhance service, quality and delivery.

5.3 Actions to be taken by the registered provider

The QIP should be completed and detail the actions taken to meet the legislative requirements and recommendations stated. The registered provider should confirm that these actions have been completed and return the completed QIP to day.care@rqia.org.uk for assessment by the inspector.

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 registered provider from their responsibility for maintaining compliance with the regulations and standards. It is expected that the requirements and recommendations outlined in this report will provide the registered provider with the necessary information to assist them to fulfil their responsibilities and enhance practice within the service.

Quality Improvement Plan

Statutory requirements

Requirement 1

Ref: Regulation 4 (1)

Stated: First time

To be completed by:
31 May 2017

The registered provider must submit a revised Statement of Purpose that includes all relevant information as specified in Schedule 1 of The Day Care Setting Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007.

Response by registered provider detailing the actions taken:

The Statement of Purpose has been updated as requested to include the relevant information in Schedule 1 which is to include members who suffer from Dementia. A further follow up will follow if required.



The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority

9th Floor

Riverside Tower

5 Lanyon Place

BELFAST

BT1 3BT

Tel 028 9051 7500

Fax 028 9051 7501

Email info@rqia.org.uk

Web www.rqia.org.uk

 @RQIANews