

Unannounced Care Inspection Report 6 July 2017



Bluegate Lodge

Type of Service: Residential Care Home
Address: 1 Plantation Road, Garvagh, BT51 5ES
Tel No: 028 2955 7512
Inspector: Ruth Greer

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

Bluegate Lodge is a residential care home registered to provide care and accommodation for five persons who are elderly and/or living with dementia. The home is also registered to provide day care to two persons.

3.0 Service details

Organisation/Registered Provider: Bluegate Lodge Responsible Individual(s): Mairead Bernadette Brolly	Registered Manager: Mairead Bernadette Brolly
Person in charge at the time of inspection: Mairead Brolly	Date manager registered: 18 Sept 2009
Categories of care: Residential Care (RC) I - Old age not falling within any other category DE – Dementia	Number of registered places: 5

4.0 Inspection summary

An unannounced care inspection took place on 6 July 2017 from 10.00 to 13.00.

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 during and since the last care inspection and to determine if the home was delivering safe, effective and compassionate care and if the service was well led.

Evidence of good practice was found in relation to the high standard of individualised and person centred care.

Residents and one representative spoke positively of all areas of life in the home. No concerns were raised.

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	0	1

This inspection resulted in one area for improvement being identified. This was in relation to records of staff meetings and fire drills. Findings of the inspection were discussed with Mairead Brolly (registered manager) as part of the inspection process and can be found in the main body of the report.

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

Other than those actions detailed in the QIP no further actions were required to be taken following the most recent care inspection on 22 November 2016.

5.0 How we inspect

Prior to inspection the following records were analysed: 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 five residents, one day care client, three staff and one resident's visitor.

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
- Staff recruitment file(s)
- Three resident's care files
- The home's Statement of Purpose and Residents' Guide
- Complaints and compliments records
- Accident/incident/notifiable events register
- Annual Quality Review report
- Evaluation report from annual service user quality assurance survey
- Fire safety risk assessment
- Fire drill records
- Maintenance of fire-fighting equipment, alarm system, emergency lighting, fire doors, etc.
- Individual written agreement
- Programme of activities
- Policies and procedures manual

Areas for improvements identified at the last care inspection were reviewed and assessment of compliance recorded as met.

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 11 May 2017

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

The completed QIP was returned and approved by the pharmacist inspector.

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 22 November 2016

Areas for improvement from the last care inspection		
Action required to ensure compliance with The Residential Care Homes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005		Validation of compliance
Area for improvement 1 Ref: Regulation 21 (1) (b) Standard 19 Stated: First time	The registered provider must ensure that all newly recruited staff have been vetted by Access NI before they commence employment in the home.	Met
	Action taken as confirmed during the inspection: Inspector confirmed that no new staff commences employment in the home until all the required checks have been undertaken.	

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 registered manager confirmed 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, one resident’s representative and staff.

A review of the duty roster confirmed that it accurately reflected the staff working within the home.

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

Discussion with staff confirmed that mandatory training, supervision and appraisal of staff were regularly provided. A schedule for mandatory training, annual staff appraisals and staff supervision was maintained and was reviewed during the inspection.

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 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.

Review of the recruitment and selection policy and procedure, dated 11 October 2016 confirmed that it complied with current legislation and best practice. Discussion with the registered manager and review of staff personnel files confirmed that staff were recruited in line with Regulation 21 (1) (b), Schedule 2 of The Residential Care Homes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005.

Enhanced AccessNI disclosures were viewed by the registered manager for all staff prior to the commencement of employment.

Arrangements were in place to monitor the registration status of staff with their professional body. Staff who allow their registrations with their professional body to lapse are suspended until they become re-registered.

The adult safeguarding policy and procedure in place was consistent with the current regional guidance and included the name of the safeguarding champion. A notice on view in the home identified the safeguarding champion as the registered manager. The policy contained definitions of abuse, types of abuse and indicators, onward referral arrangements, contact information and documentation to be completed.

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 registered manager, 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 registered manager confirmed there were risk management procedures in place relating to the safety of individual residents. Discussion with the registered manager identified that the home did not accommodate any individuals whose assessed needs could not be met. Review of care records identified that individual care needs assessments and risk assessments were obtained prior to admission.

A review of policy and procedure on restrictive practice/behaviours which challenge, confirmed that this was in keeping with DHSSPS Guidance on Restraint and Seclusion in Health and Personal Social Services (2005) and the Human Rights Act (1998). It also reflected current best practice guidance including Deprivation of Liberties Safeguards (DoLS).

The registered manager confirmed there were restrictive practices employed within the home, notably keypad entry systems and a pressure alarm mat for one resident. Discussion with the registered manager regarding such restrictions confirmed these were appropriately assessed, documented, minimised and reviewed with the involvement of the multi-professional team, as required.

A review of the statement of purpose and residents guide identified that restrictions were adequately described.

The registered manager confirmed there were risk management policy and procedures in place. Discussion with the registered manager and review of the home's policy and procedures relating to safe and healthy working practices confirmed that these were appropriately maintained and reviewed regularly.

Review of the infection prevention and control (IPC) policy and procedure dated 2 May 2017 confirmed that this was in line with regional guidelines. Staff training records confirmed that 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 registered manager reported that there had been no outbreaks of infection within the last year. Any outbreak would be managed in accordance with home 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, exceptionally 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. Discussion with the registered manager confirmed 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 28 June 2017 and no recommendations were made as a result.

Review of staff training records confirmed that staff completed fire safety training twice annually. Fire drills were completed six monthly. Advice was given regarding the need for the developments of fire drill records. Records should contain the names of all 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 were regularly maintained. Individual residents had a completed Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEPs) in place.

Comments received from staff and one representative included:

- “It’s a pleasure to work here and care for these people.” (staff)
- “You have no idea how blessed we are to have our (resident) here.”(representative)
- “Mairead (manager) just continually goes above and beyond all expectations.” (representative)

Areas of good practice

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

Areas for improvement

One area of improvement was noted in regard to the development and maintenance of fire records.

	Regulations	Standards
Total number of areas for improvement	0	1

6.5 Is care effective?

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

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

A review of three care records confirmed that these were maintained in line with the legislation and standards. They included an 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 were reviewed and updated on a regular basis or as changes occurred. Records showed that one resident had been recently assessed as requiring nursing care. Care records showed that the home was working closely with the trust and the family to ensure a smooth transfer to a nursing home of choice.

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 signed by the resident and/or their representative. Discussion with staff confirmed that a person centred approach underpinned practice. This is a small family run residential home and families can, and do, come into the home without knocking for admission as they would do if their relative lived in the community.

An individual agreement setting out the terms of residency was in place and appropriately signed. The agreements had been reviewed and updated in May 2017. Records were stored safely and securely in line with data protection.

The registered manager confirmed 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 meetings and staff shift handovers. This is a small residential care home with low numbers of staff employed. The registered manager stated that staff meet frequently on an informal basis and for training. In discussion it was advised that a record is maintained of staff meetings. The registered manager and staff confirmed that management operated an open door policy in regard to communication within the home.

Residents and one representative spoken with and observation of practice evidenced that staff were able to communicate effectively with residents and their representatives.

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 registered manager confirmed that arrangements were in place, in line with the legislation, to support and advocate for residents.

Comments received from a representative included:

- “As a family we will never be able to thank Mairead and the staff enough.”

Areas of good practice

There were examples of good practice found throughout the inspection in relation to care records and communication between residents, staff and families.

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 registered manager confirmed that 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, residents and one representative confirmed that residents' spiritual and cultural needs, including preferences for end of life care, were met within the home. At this inspection one resident was receiving end of life care. Care records showed

that staff were supported by medical and community nursing personnel. Discussion with residents, one representative 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, there was a care plan in place for one resident which identified a risk of agitation due to his dementia. The care plan gave potential reasons/triggers and advice to staff on possible physical causes and of what steps they should take to manage the situation.

Discussion with residents, their representatives 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.

The registered manager and staff confirmed that residents were listened to, valued and communicated with in an appropriate manner. Residents and one representative confirmed that their views and opinions were taken into account in all matters affecting them.

Discussion with staff and 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.

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.

Discussion with staff, residents and one representative, observation of practice and review of care records confirmed that residents were enabled and supported to engage and participate in meaningful activities. For example, residents enjoy painting, knitting, quizzes and ball games. There were posters in the home for a musical evening in July and a visit from a mobile farm organised in August. Families were invited to both events.

Comments received from residents included:

- "I'm happy here, you most definitely are well looked after in here."
- "The food is lovely."

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 registered manager 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. A random selection of policies examined found these to have been reviewed in recent months.

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.

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.

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. The deputy manager had undertaken a substantial audit of the home measured against RQIA guidance on inspection. Evidence had been gathered and cross referenced to each criterion. This is good practice.

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 registered manager confirmed that information in regard to current best practice guidelines was made available to staff. Staff were provided with mandatory training and additional training opportunities relevant to any specific needs of the residents.

There was a clear organisational structure and all staff were aware of their roles, responsibility and accountability. This was outlined in the home's Statement of Purpose and Residents

Guide. Mairead Brolly is registered provider and registered manager. Discussion with Mrs Brolly identified that she had understanding of her role and responsibilities under the legislation.

The registered manager confirmed 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 and employers' liability insurance certificate were 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 registered manager and staff confirmed that there had been no safeguarding issues. Confirmation was given that any adult safeguarding issues would be managed appropriately and that reflective learning would take place. The registered manager 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 registered manager confirmed that staff could also access line management to raise concerns they will offer support to staff.

Discussion with staff confirmed that there were good working relationships within the home and that management were responsive to suggestions and/or concerns raised.

The registered manager confirmed that 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.

Areas of good practice

There were examples of good practice found throughout the inspection in relation to governance arrangements, 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 Mairead Brolly (registered manager) 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 DHSSPS Residential Care Homes Minimum Standards, August 2011	
<p>Area for improvement 1</p> <p>Ref: Standard 23.6</p> <p>Stated: First time</p> <p>To be completed by: 31 July 2017</p>	<p>The registered person shall ensure that the record of all fire training meets the minimum standard.</p> <p>Ref: 6.4</p> <p>Response by registered person detailing the actions taken: This has been noted and A record will be kept in the home of all training undertaken by staff. This record will include the names and signatures of those attending the training event.</p>

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



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