

# Inspection Report

3 February 2023



## The Oak Tree Centre

Type of service: Day Care Setting

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Assurance, Challenge and Improvement in Health and Social Care

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## 1.0 Service information

<b>Organisation/Registered Provider:</b> Western Health and Social Care Trust (WHSCT)  <b>Responsible Individual/s:</b> Mr Neil Guckian	<b>Registered Manager:</b> Ms Sandra Boyd  <b>Date registered:</b> 5 June 2020
<b>Person in charge at the time of inspection:</b> Manager	
<b>Brief description of the accommodation/how the service operates:</b>  The Oak Tree Centre is a day care setting with up to 23 places that provides care and day time activities Monday to Friday for adults with varying degrees of learning disability.	

## 2.0 Inspection summary

An unannounced inspection was undertaken on 3 February 2023 between 10.30 a.m. and 2.05 p.m. The inspection was conducted by a care inspector.

The inspection examined the agency's governance and management arrangements, reviewing areas such as staff recruitment, professional registrations, staff induction and training and adult safeguarding. The reporting and recording of accidents and incidents, complaints, whistleblowing, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS), service user involvement, restrictive practices, Dysphagia management and Covid-19 guidance was also reviewed.

Good practice was identified in relation to service user involvement, links with the local community and recording and monitoring of staff training. There were good governance and management arrangements in place.

No areas for improvement were identified.

The Oak Tree Centre uses the term 'clients' to describe the people to whom they provide care and support. For the purposes of the inspection report, the term 'service user' is used, in keeping with the relevant regulations.

### 3.0 How we inspect.

RQIA's inspections form part of our ongoing assessment of the quality of services. Our reports reflect how they were performing at the time of our inspection, highlighting both good practice and any areas for improvement. It is the responsibility of the service provider to ensure compliance with legislation, standards and best practice, and to address any deficits identified during our inspections.

In preparation for this inspection, a range of information about the service was reviewed. This included registration information, and any other written or verbal information received from service users, relatives, staff or the Commissioning Trust.

As a public-sector body RQIA has a duty to respect, protect and fulfil the rights that people have under the Human Rights Act 1998 when carrying out our functions. In our inspections of day care services, we are committed to ensuring that the rights of people who receive services are protected. This means we will be seeking assurances from providers that they take all reasonable steps to promote people's rights. Users of day care settings have the right to expect their dignity and privacy to be respected and to have their independence and autonomy promoted.

Having reviewed the model "We Matter" Adult Learning Disability Model for NI 2020, the Vision states, we want individuals with a learning disability to be respected and empowered to lead a full and healthy life in their community.

Information was provided to service users, relatives, staff and other stakeholders on how they could provide feedback on the quality of services. This included easy read questionnaires and an electronic survey.

### 4.0 What did people tell us about the service?

During the inspection we spoke with a number of service users and staff members.

The information provided indicated that there were no concerns in relation to the day care setting.

Comments received included:

#### **Service users' comments:**

- "I love the computers here."
- "I'm very happy here."
- "I'm given lots of choice."
- "I have lots of friends."
- "I didn't want to go out for lunch today – that was ok."

**Staff comments:**

- “I really enjoy being part of the team...I leave here floating on air...I had a very good induction.”
- “The service users really lift you up.”
- “I love this job...I’d speak to the manager if a service told me anything concerning.”
- “I feel very well supported.”

Returned questionnaires indicated that the respondents were very satisfied with the care and support provided. Written comments included:

- “xxxx loves going every day. She really enjoys it.”

A number of staff responded to the electronic survey. The respondents indicated that they were ‘very satisfied’ that care provided was safe, effective and compassionate and that the service was well led. Written comments included:

- “Oaktree has improved a lot since the change in management structure - having a proactive manager who supports me is a great bonus.”

## **5.0 The inspection**

### **5.1 What has this service done to meet any areas for improvement identified at or since last inspection?**

The last care inspection of the day care setting was undertaken on 27 May 2021 by a care inspector. No areas for improvement were identified.

## **5.2 Inspection findings**

### **5.2.1 Are there systems in place for identifying and addressing risks?**

The day care setting’s provision for the welfare, care and protection of service users was reviewed. The organisation’s policy and procedures reflected information contained within the Department of Health’s (DoH) regional policy ‘Adult Safeguarding Prevention and Protection in Partnership’ July 2015 and clearly outlined the procedure for staff in reporting concerns. The organisation had an identified Adult Safeguarding Champion (ASC).

Discussions with the manager established that they were knowledgeable in matters relating to adult safeguarding, the role of the ASC and the process for reporting and managing adult safeguarding concerns.

Staff were required to complete adult safeguarding training during induction and every two years thereafter. Staff who spoke with the inspector had a clear understanding of their responsibility in identifying and reporting any actual or suspected incidences of abuse and the

process for reporting concerns in normal business hours. A Resource File was available for staff to reference.

Service users said they had no concerns regarding their safety; they described how they could speak to staff if they had any concerns about safety or the care being provided. The day care setting had provided service users with information about keeping themselves safe and the details of the process for reporting any concerns.

Discussion took place with the manager regarding notifying RQIA appropriately of any incidents. This is in keeping with the regulations. Incidents had been managed appropriately.

Staff were provided with training appropriate to the requirements of their role. The manager reported that none of the service users currently required the use of specialised equipment. They were aware of how to source such training should it be required in the future.

Care reviews had been undertaken in keeping with the day care setting's policies and procedures. There was also evidence of regular contact with service users and their representatives, in line with the commissioning trust's requirements.

All staff had been provided with training in relation to medicines management.

The Mental Capacity Act (MCA) provides a legal framework for making decisions on behalf of service users who may lack the mental capacity to do so for themselves. The MCA requires that, as far as possible, service users make their own decisions and are helped to do so when needed. When service users lack mental capacity to take particular decisions, any made on their behalf must be in their best interests and as least restrictive as possible.

Staff had completed appropriate Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) training appropriate to their job roles. The manager reported that none of the service users were subject to DoLS.

Records examined identified that a number of safety checks and audits had been undertaken including fire alarm tests. It was noted that the last full evacuation drill was undertaken on 12 October 2022. Fire risk assessments for the centre were available for the inspection and had been completed on 1 November 2022. One of the recommendations from the fire risk assessment was being carried on the day of the inspection.

### **5.2.2 What are the arrangements for promoting service user involvement?**

From reviewing service users' care records, it was good to note that service users had an input into devising their own plan of care. Service users were provided with easy read reports which supported them to fully participate in all aspects of their care. The service users' care plans contained details about their likes and dislikes and the level of support they may require. Care and support plans are kept under regular review and services users and /or their relatives participate, where appropriate, in the review of the care provided on an annual basis, or when changes occur.

It was also positive to note that the day care setting had service user meetings on a regular basis which enabled the service users to discuss what they wanted from attending the day centre and any activities they would like to become involved in. Some matters discussed included:

- Transport
- Boxercise class
- Plans for Christmas
- Lunch arrangements

The day care setting had completed an annual review in relation to their practice which incorporated service user and their representatives' feedback (Regulation 17). This was disseminated to all of the service users, in a format which best met their communication needs. It was noted that all respondents to a service user survey indicated they felt safe while at the day care setting

### **5.2.3 Is there a system in place for identifying service users Dysphagia needs in partnership with the Speech and Language Therapist (SALT)?**

New standards for modifying food and fluids were introduced in August 2018. This was called the International Dysphagia Diet Standardisation Initiative (IDDSI). Whilst none of the service users had swallowing difficulties, all staff were up to date with Dysphagia training.

### **5.2.4 What systems are in place for staff recruitment and are they robust?**

A review of the day care setting's staff recruitment records confirmed that all pre-employment checks, including criminal record checks (AccessNI), were completed and verified before staff members commenced employment and had direct engagement with service users. Checks were made to ensure that staff were appropriately registered with the Northern Ireland Social Care Council (NISCC) or the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) or any other relevant regulatory body. There was a system in place for professional registrations to be monitored by the manager. Staff spoken with confirmed that they were aware of their responsibilities to keep their registrations up to date.

There were no volunteers working in the day care setting.

### **5.2.5 What are the arrangements for staff induction and are they in accordance with NISCC Induction Standards for social care staff?**

There was evidence that all newly appointed staff had completed a structured orientation and induction, having regard to NISCC's Induction Standards for new workers in social care, to ensure they were competent to carry out the duties of their job in line with the day care setting's policies and procedures. There was a robust, structured, three day induction programme which also included shadowing of a more experienced staff member. Written records were retained by the day care setting of the person's capability and competency in relation to their job role.

A review of the records pertaining to Regulation 20 of The Day Care Settings Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007 and Standard 21 of The Day Care Settings Minimum Standards 2021 relating to staff also identified that they had been recruited, inducted and trained in line with the regulations.

The day care setting has maintained a record for each member of staff of all training, including induction and professional development activities undertaken.

#### **5.2.6 What are the arrangements to ensure robust managerial oversight and governance?**

There were monthly monitoring arrangements in place in compliance with Regulation 28 of The Day Care Setting Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007. A review of the reports of the day care setting's monthly quality monitoring established that there was engagement with service users, service users' relatives, staff and HSC Trust representatives. The reports included details of a review of service user care records; accident/incidents; safeguarding matters; staff recruitment and training, and staffing arrangements. A comment from a WHSCT staff member was noted

- "I feel the staff and management are excellent in supporting service users."

The Annual Quality Report was reviewed and was satisfactory.

No incidents had occurred that required investigation under the Serious Adverse Incidents (SAIs) or Significant Event Audits (SEAs) procedures.

The day care setting's registration certificate was up to date and displayed appropriately

There was a system in place to ensure that complaints were managed in accordance with the day care setting's policy and procedure.

### **6.0 Quality Improvement Plan/Areas for Improvement**

This inspection resulted in no areas for improvement being identified. Findings of the inspection were discussed with Ms. Sandra Boyd, Registered Manager as part of the inspection process and can be found in the main body of the report.





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