

# Inspection Report

7 October 2022



## MENCAP

Type of service: Domiciliary Care Agency  
Address: Omagh Community House, 2 Drumragh Avenue,  
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[www.rqia.org.uk](http://www.rqia.org.uk)

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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> MENCAP LIMITED	<b>Registered Manager:</b> Ms Sinead Marie Murphy
<b>Responsible Individual:</b> Mr Barry Joseph McMenamin	<b>Date registered:</b> 18 December 2012
<b>Person in charge at the time of inspection:</b> Mrs Sinead Marie Murphy	
<b>Brief description of the accommodation/how the service operates:</b> MENCAP (Omagh) is a domiciliary care supported living type service that provides care and support to 29 service users with a learning disability. The service is provided in Omagh; Londonderry and Limavady. Service users are supported by 129 staff.	

## 2.0 Inspection summary

An announced inspection took place on 7 October 2022 between 10.20 a.m. and 3.45 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.

Evidence of good practice was found in relation to recruitment practices and staff registrations with NISCC. Good practice was also identified in relation to service user involvement. There were good governance and management arrangements in place.

## 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 any previous areas for improvement identified, 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 domiciliary care agencies, we are committed to ensuring that the rights of people who receive services are protected. This means we will seek assurances from providers that they take all reasonable steps to promote people's rights. Users of domiciliary care services have the right to expect their dignity and privacy to be respected and to have their independence and autonomy promoted. They should also experience the individual choices and freedoms associated with any person living in their own home.

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'.

RQIA shares this vision and want to review the support individuals are offered to make choices and decisions in their life that enable them to develop and to live a safe, active and valued life. RQIA will review how service users who have a learning disability are respected and empowered to lead a full and healthy life in the community and are supported to make choices and decisions that enables them to develop and live safe, active and valued lives.

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 for staff.

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

During the inspection we provided a number of easy read questionnaires for those supported to comment on the following areas of service quality and their lived experiences:



- Do you feel your care is safe?
- Is the care and support you get effective?
- Do you feel staff treat you with compassion?
- How do you feel your care is managed?

Returned questionnaires show that those supported thought care and support was good or excellent. We have noted some of the comments received:

- "I like living in my house. I am very happy."
- "Very happy with care."

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 agency.

Comments received included:

**Service users' comments:**

- "Staff are kind to me."
- "I got my room painted and I chose the colour, staff helped."
- "I like where I live."
- "I was playing golf this morning."
- "I like living in the house."
- "Staff are good to me and take me out to get cake and coffee."

**Staff comments:**

- "I got a very good induction. I done my training first and shadowed staff for a week or more."
- "Independence is promoted; service users are offered choice at all times and actively involved in decisions affecting them."
- "I have done DoLS training, medicines, safeguarding, dysphagia awareness and lots more."
- "There is good communication and changes are reported to staff."
- "Care and support is based on an individual basis and the multi-disciplinary team are involved as appropriate."
- "I am well supported by the manager."

There were no responses to the electronic survey.

## 5.0 The inspection

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

The last inspection of the agency was undertaken on 7 February 2022 by a care inspector; no areas for improvement were identified.

## 5.2 Inspection findings

### 5.2.1 What are the systems in place for identifying and addressing risks?

The agency's provision for the welfare, care and protection of service users was reviewed. The organisation's adult safeguarding policy and procedures were reflective of the Department of Health's (DoH) regional policy and clearly outlined the procedure for staff in reporting concerns. The organisation had an identified Adult Safeguarding Champion (ASC). The agency's annual Adult Safeguarding Position report was reviewed and found to be satisfactory.

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 and out of hours. Staff could describe their role in relation to reporting poor practice and their understanding of the agency's policy and procedure with regard to whistleblowing.

The agency retained records of any referrals made to the Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust in relation to adult safeguarding. A review of records confirmed that these had been managed appropriately.

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 agency had provided service users with information about keeping themselves safe and the details of the process for reporting any concerns.

RQIA had been notified appropriately of any incidents that had been reported to the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) in keeping with the regulations. Incidents had been managed appropriately.

The manager reported that moving and handling risk assessments and care plans were up to date. Where a service user required the use of more than one piece of specialised equipment, direction on the use of each was included in the care plan.

Care reviews had been undertaken in keeping with the agency'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 manager advised that the policy relating to medicines management identified that it included direction for staff in relation to administering liquid medicines. If an oral syringe was used to administer medicine to a service user, this was clearly noted in the daily care records.

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 who spoke with the inspector demonstrated their understanding that service users who lack capacity to make decisions about aspects of their care and treatment have rights as outlined in the MCA.

Staff had completed DoLS training appropriate to their job roles. There were arrangements in place to ensure that service users who required high levels of supervision or monitoring and restriction had had their capacity considered and, where appropriate, assessed. Where a service user was experiencing a deprivation of liberty, the care records contained details of assessments completed and agreed outcomes developed in conjunction with the HSC Trust representative.

There was a system in place for notifying RQIA if the agency was managing individual service users' monies in accordance with the guidance.

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

From reviewing service users' care records and through discussions with service users and staff it was positive to note that service users had an input into devising their own plan of 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 service users and /or their relatives participate, where appropriate, in the review of the care provided on an annual basis, or when changes occur.

Discussions with staff evidenced that they were knowledgeable regarding service users' individual needs. Staff also demonstrated awareness of the need for person-centred interventions which facilitate engagement with service users and promote effective communication and social engagement.

It was important that individuals with learning disabilities are supported to maintain their relationships with family, friends and partners during the Covid-19 pandemic. Service users were provided with information to explain Covid-19 and how they could keep themselves safe and protected from the virus. It was positive to note information was available in Easy Read format.

### **5.2.3 What are the systems in place for identifying service users' Dysphagia needs in partnership with the Speech and Language Therapist (SALT)?**

Discussions with staff and review of service users' care records reflected the multi-disciplinary input and the collaborative working undertaken to ensure service users' health and social care needs were met within the agency. There was evidence that staff made referrals to the multi-disciplinary team and these interventions were proactive, timely and appropriate. Staff also implemented the specific recommendations of the SALT to ensure the care received in the setting was safe and effective.

It was noted that a number of service users had been assessed by SALT in relation to dysphagia needs and specific recommendations made with regard to their individual needs in respect of food and fluids. Staff spoken with demonstrated a good knowledge of service users' wishes, preferences and assessed needs and how to modify food and fluids. It was positive to note all staff had undertaken dysphagia awareness training.

A review of training records confirmed that had completed training in dysphagia awareness and in relation to how to respond to choking incidents.

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

A review of the agency's staff recruitment records confirmed that all pre-employment checks, including criminal record checks (Access NI), 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 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 agency.

### **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 agency's policies and procedures. There was evidence of a structured, three day induction programme which also included shadowing of a more experienced staff member.

A review of the records relating to staff that were provided from recruitment agencies also identified that they had been recruited, inducted and trained in line with the regulations.

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

A review of the records confirmed that all staff provided are appropriately registered with NISCC. Information regarding registration details and renewal dates are monitored by the manager in conjunction with the organisation's human resources department. Staff spoken with confirmed that they were aware of their responsibilities to ensuring that their registration with NISCC was up to date.

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

There were monitoring arrangements in place in compliance with Regulations and Standards. A review of the reports of the agency's quality monitoring established that there was engagement with service users, service users' relatives, staff and HSC Trust representatives.

Quality monitoring reports were of a good standard and details included review of service user care records; accident/incidents; safeguarding matters; complaints; compliments: staff recruitment and training and staffing arrangements.

One incident had occurred that required investigation under Serious Adverse Incidents (SAIs). The investigation is ongoing.

The agency's registration certificate was up to date and displayed appropriately. Current certificates of public and employers' liability insurance were available within the agency.

There was a system in place to ensure that complaints were managed in accordance with the agency's policy and procedure. No complaints had been received since the last inspection.

Discussion with staff confirmed that they knew how to receive and deal with complaints and ensure that the manager was made aware of any complaints.

## **6.0 Quality Improvement Plan (QIP)/Areas for Improvement**

Based on the inspection findings and discussions held with staff and service users, RQIA was satisfied that this service was providing safe and effective care in a caring and compassionate manner; and that the service was well led.

The inspector would like to thank the manager, service users and staff for their support and co-operation throughout the inspection process.

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





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