

Inspection Report

Name of Service: Hamilton Court

Provider: EBBAY Limited

Date of Inspection: 29 May 2025

Information on legislation and standards underpinning inspections can be found on our website <https://www.rqia.org.uk/>

1.0 Service information

Organisation/Registered Provider:	EBBAY Limited
Responsible Individual:	Mr Patrick Anthony McAvoy
Registered Manager:	Mr Daniel Dougan
Service Profile – This home is a registered nursing home which provides nursing care for up to 40 patients living with dementia. The home is a single storey building with individual bedrooms, lounges, bath/shower rooms and toilets located throughout. There is an enclosed courtyard providing patients with access to outside space.	

2.0 Inspection summary

An unannounced inspection took place on 29 May 2025, between 10.05 am and 4.45 pm by a care inspector.

The inspection was undertaken to evidence how the home is performing in relation to the regulations and standards and to determine if the home is delivering safe, effective and compassionate care and if the service is well led.

The inspection established that safe and compassionate care was delivered to patients. Details and examples of the inspection findings can be found in the main body of the report.

It was evident that staff promoted the dignity and well-being of patients and that staff were knowledgeable and well trained to deliver safe and effective care.

Patients said that living in the home was a good experience. Patients unable to voice their opinions were observed to be relaxed and comfortable in their surroundings and in their interactions with staff.

As a result of this inspection, one area for improvement was identified. Full details can be found in the main body of this report and in the quality improvement plan (QIP) in Section 4.

3.0 The inspection

3.1 How we Inspect

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

To prepare for this inspection we reviewed information held by RQIA about this home. This included the previous areas for improvement issued, registration information, and any other written or verbal information received from patient's, relatives, staff or the commissioning trust.

Throughout the inspection process inspectors seek the views of those living, working and visiting the home; and review/examine a sample of records to evidence how the home is performing in relation to the regulations and standards. Inspectors will also observe care delivery and may conduct a formal structured observation during the inspection.

Through actively listening to a broad range of service users, RQIA aims to ensure that the lived experience is reflected in our inspection reports and quality improvement plans.

3.2 What people told us about the service

Patients told us they were happy with the care and services provided. Comments made included "I love it here, you can't beat the staff" and "everything is going well, it's a great place".

Discussion with patients confirmed that they were able to choose how they spent their day. For example, patients could have a lie in or stay up late to watch TV.

Patients told us that staff offered choices to patients throughout the day which included preferences for getting up and going to bed, what clothes they wanted to wear, food and drink options, and where and how they wished to spend their time.

Staff spoke in positive terms about the provision of care, their roles and duties, training and managerial support.

Families spoken with told us that they were very happy with the care provided with comments such as "I have no complaints, there is really good communication and the staff are brilliant".

No relative or staff questionnaires were received within the timescale specified.

3.3 Inspection findings

3.3.1 Staffing Arrangements

Safe staffing begins at the point of recruitment and continues through to staff induction, regular staff training and ensuring that the number and skill of staff on duty each day meets the needs of patients. There was evidence of robust systems in place to manage staffing.

Patients said that there was enough staff on duty to help them. Staff said there was good team work and that they felt well supported in their role and that they were satisfied with the staffing levels.

Observation of the delivery of care evidenced that patients' needs were met by the number and skills of the staff on duty. It was observed that staff responded to requests for assistance promptly in a caring and compassionate manner.

3.3.2 Quality of Life and Care Delivery

Staff met at the beginning of each shift to discuss any changes in the needs of the patients. Staff were knowledgeable of individual patients' needs, their daily routine wishes and preferences.

Staff were observed to be prompt in recognising patients' needs and any early signs of distress or illness, including those patients who had difficulty in making their wishes or feelings known. Staff were skilled in communicating with patients; they were respectful, understanding and sensitive to patients' needs.

It was observed that staff respected patients' privacy by their actions such as knocking on doors before entering, discussing patients' care in a confidential manner, and by offering personal care to patients discreetly. Staff were also observed offering patient choice in how and where they spent their day or how they wanted to engage socially with others.

At times some patients may require the use of equipment that could be considered restrictive or they may live in a unit that is secure to keep them safe. It was established that safe systems were in place to manage this aspect of care. Review of the restrictive practice audits evidenced that they required further detail in regards to the type of restraint in place. This was discussed with the manager and assurances were given that this would be addressed. This will be reviewed at the next inspection.

Patients may require special attention to their skin care. These patients were assisted by staff to change their position regularly and their care records accurately reflected their needs.

Examination of care records and discussion with staff confirmed that the risk of falling and falls were well managed and referrals were made to other healthcare professionals as needed.

Good nutrition and a positive dining experience are important to the health and social wellbeing of patients. Patients may need a range of support with meals; this may include simple encouragement through to full assistance from staff and their diet modified.

The dining experience was an opportunity for patients to socialise, the atmosphere was calm, relaxed and unhurried. It was observed that patients were enjoying their meal and their dining experience. An effective system was in place to ensure each patient received the correct meal choice for their assessed needs. Staff demonstrated their knowledge of patients' likes and dislikes regarding food and drinks, how to modify fluids and how to care for patients during mealtimes. It was clear that staff had made an effort to ensure patients were comfortable, had a pleasant experience and had a meal that they enjoyed.

The importance of engaging with patients was well understood by the manager and staff. Staff understood that meaningful activity was not isolated to the planned social events or games.

Arrangements were in place to meet patients' social, religious and spiritual needs within the home. The activity schedule was on display. It was positive to see that the activities provided were varied, interesting and suited to both groups of patients and individuals. Activities planned for the week included bowls, arts and crafts, baking club and hairdressing. Patients were well informed of the activities planned and of their opportunity to be involved. Patients looked forward to attending the planned events.

Staff were observed sitting with patients and engaging in discussion. Patients who preferred to remain private were supported to do so and had opportunities to listen to music or watch television or engage in their own preferred activities.

3.3.3 Management of Care Records

Patients' needs were assessed by a nurse at the time of their admission to the home. Following this initial assessment care plans were developed to direct staff on how to meet patients' needs and included any advice or recommendations made by other healthcare professionals.

Patients care records were held confidentially.

Care records were person centred, regularly reviewed and updated to ensure they continued to meet the patients' needs. Patients, where possible, were involved in planning their own care and the details of care plans were shared with patients' relatives, if this was appropriate.

3.3.4 Quality and Management of Patients' Environment

The home was clean, tidy and well maintained. For example, patients' bedrooms were personalised with items important to the patient. Bedrooms and communal areas were well decorated, suitably furnished, warm and comfortable. A number of radiator covers in patients' bedrooms required repainting, this was discussed at feedback and assurances were given that this would be addressed. This will be reviewed at the next inspection.

Observation of the environment identified concerns that had the potential to impact on patient safety; food, fluids and toiletries were accessible in a number of patient bedrooms. This was identified as an area for improvement.

Review of records and observations confirmed that systems and processes were in place to manage infection prevention and control which included policies and procedures and regular monitoring of the environment and staff practice to ensure compliance.

3.3.5 Quality of Management Systems

There has been no change in the management of the home since the last inspection. Mr Daniel Dougan has been the manager in this home since 8 June 2018.

Relatives and staff commented positively about the management team and described them as supportive, approachable and able to provide guidance.

The manager had recently completed the “My Home Life” leadership support project, run by the University of Ulster, which aims to improve the quality of life for people, living, dying, visiting and working in care homes. They said they felt that it had been a very positive experience.

Review of a sample of records evidenced that a robust system for reviewing the quality of care, other services and staff practices was in place. There was evidence that the manager responded to any concerns, raised with them or by their processes, and took measures to improve practice, the environment and the quality of services provided by the home.

Patients and their relatives spoken with said that they knew how to report any concerns and said they were confident that the manager would address their concerns.

Compliments received about the home were kept and shared with the staff team.

4.0 Quality Improvement Plan/Areas for Improvement

Areas for improvement have been identified where action is required to ensure compliance with Regulations and Standards.

	Regulations	Standards
Total number of Areas for Improvement	1	0

Areas for improvement and details of the Quality Improvement Plan were discussed with Mr Daniel Dougan, Manager as part of the inspection process. The timescales for completion commence from the date of inspection.

Quality Improvement Plan	
Action required to ensure compliance with The Nursing Homes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005	
Area for improvement 1 Ref: Regulation 14 (2) (a) Stated: First time To be completed by: 29 May 2025	<p>The registered person shall ensure as far as reasonably practical that all parts of the home to which patients have access are free from hazards to their safety.</p> <p>Ref: 3.3.4</p> <p>Response by registered person detailing the actions taken: We are committed to ensuring, as far as reasonably practicable, that all areas accessible to patients are free from safety hazards. Regular risk assessments, staff training, and prompt hazard management are in place to maintain a safe environment and comply with regulatory standards.</p>

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