

# Unannounced Care Inspection Report 20 March 2018



## Breffni Lodge

**Type of Service: Residential Care Home**  
**Address: 3 Wandsworth Road, Belfast, BT4 3LS**  
**Tel No: 028 9065 3335**  
**Inspector: Patricia Galbraith**

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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**

This is a residential care home with 22 beds that provides care for residents who's needs are met under the categories of care cited in section 3.0 of this report.

### 3.0 Service details

<b>Organisation/Registered Provider:</b> Breffni Lodge  <b>Responsible Individual:</b> Mark Uprichard	<b>Registered Manager:</b> Regina Brady
<b>Person in charge at the time of inspection:</b> Regina Brady	<b>Date manager registered:</b> 16 May 2013
<b>Categories of care:</b> Residential Care (RC) I - Old age not falling within any other category DE – Dementia	<b>Number of registered places:</b> 22

### 4.0 Inspection summary

An unannounced care inspection took place on 20 March 2018 from 11.00 to 17.00. 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 sought 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 staff recruitment, induction, training, supervision and appraisal, adult safeguarding, infection prevention and control, risk management and the home's environment.

#### 4.1 Inspection outcome

	Regulations	Standards
<b>Total number of areas for improvement</b>	0	0

This inspection resulted in no areas for improvement being identified. Findings of the inspection were discussed with Regina Brady, 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.

#### 4.2 Action/enforcement taken following the most recent care inspection

Other than those actions detailed in the QIP no further actions were required to be taken following the most recent inspection on 24 October 2017.

## 5.0 How we inspect

Prior to inspection we analysed the following records: 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 10 residents and four staff.

A total of 10 questionnaires were provided for distribution to residents, their representatives and staff for completion and return to RQIA. No questionnaires were returned within the requested timescale.

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
- Minutes of recent staff meetings
- Complaints and compliments records
- Audits of risk assessments, care plans, care reviews; accidents and incidents (including falls, outbreaks), complaints, environment, catering
- Infection control register/associated records
- Equipment maintenance/cleaning records
- Accident/incident/notifiable events register
- Minutes of recent residents' meetings/representatives' / other
- Evaluation report from annual service user quality assurance survey
- Monthly monitoring report
- Fire safety risk assessment
- Fire drill records
- Maintenance of fire-fighting equipment, alarm system, emergency lighting, fire doors, etc.
- Individual written agreement
- Input from independent advocacy services
- 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.

## 6.0 The inspection

### 6.1 Review of areas for improvement from the most recent inspection dated 11 December 17

The most recent inspection of the home was an unannounced care premises inspection.

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

### 6.2 Review of areas for improvement from the last care inspection dated 24 October 2017

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
<b>Area for improvement 1</b> <b>Ref:</b> Regulation 4 (a) <b>Stated:</b> First time	The registered person shall ensure that all recommendations reflected within the current Fire Risk Assessment are addressed and the action plan dated and signed.	<b>Met</b>
	<b>Action taken as confirmed during the inspection:</b> The current Fire Risk Assessment had been addressed and the action plan had been dated and signed.	
<b>Area for improvement 2</b> <b>Ref:</b> Regulation 29 (5) <b>Stated:</b> First time	The registered person shall ensure that monthly reports on visits undertaken are retained within the home and made available on request to RQIA; registered manager; the resident or their representative; and an officer of the HSC Trust.	<b>Met</b>
	<b>Action taken as confirmed during the inspection:</b> The monthly reports visits had been undertaken and a copy of the report had been retained within the home.	

<b>Action required to ensure compliance with the DHSSPS Residential Care Homes Minimum Standards, August 2011</b>		<b>Validation of compliance</b>
<b>Area for improvement 1</b>  <b>Ref:</b> Standard 27.1  <b>Stated:</b> First time	<p>The registered person shall ensure that action is taken to address environmental issues identified for improvement and that the home is always maintained to a good, safe standard of cleanliness; items appropriately stored and domestic rooms kept locked. Regular audits/spot checks are recommended.</p> <p>Matters to be addressed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designated outside adjacent smoking area viewed from the hallway very un-kept/ground and walls badly marked</li> <li>• Inappropriate storage of items within the boiler room</li> <li>• Two unlocked domestic/storage cleaning rooms – one with items stored on the floor</li> <li>• One kitchen cupboard door in poor state of repair</li> <li>• Small equipment storage cupboard un-kept with equipment stored inappropriately</li> <li>• Stair carpet badly stained in several areas</li> <li>• The presence of flowers within a vase of very unclean water on a first floor window sill and dead flowers within a flower pot in the hallway</li> </ul>	<b>Met</b>
	<p><b>Action taken as confirmed during the inspection:</b>            The smoking area had been tidied and was not unkempt.            There were no inappropriate items in the boiler room.            The domestic stores were locked and items were stored appropriately.            The equipment store was tidy.            The stair carpet had been cleaned.            There was no flowers on first floor on day of inspection.</p>	
<b>Area for improvement 2</b>  <b>Ref:</b> Standard 25.8  <b>Stated:</b> First time	<p>The registered person shall ensure that staff meetings take place on a regular basis and at least quarterly.</p>	<b>Met</b>
	<p><b>Action taken as confirmed during the inspection:</b>            Staff meeting had taken place.</p>	

## 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 advised 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 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.

In discussion with staff they advised that mandatory training, supervision and appraisal of staff was 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 advised 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 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. Personnel records reviewed confirmed that AccessNI information was managed in line with best practice.

Arrangements were in place to monitor the registration status of staff with their professional body.

The adult safeguarding policy and procedure in place was consistent with the current regional guidance and included the name of the safeguarding champion, definitions of abuse, types of abuse and indicators, onward referral arrangements, contact information and documentation to be completed. The registered manager confirmed that there were plans in place to implement the new adult safeguarding procedures.

Discussion with staff confirmed that they were aware of the regional guidance (Adult Safeguarding Prevention and Protection in Partnership, July 2015) along with the new procedures and a copy was available for staff within the home. 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 advised 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.

The registered manager confirmed there were restrictive practices employed within the home, notably locked doors, keypad entry systems, and lap belts, etc. 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 e.g. COSHH, fire safety etc.

The registered manager advised that equipment and medical devices in use in the home were well maintained and regularly serviced.

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 the 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, 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 21 March 17 and all recommendations were noted to be appropriately addressed.

Review of staff training records confirmed that staff completed fire safety training twice annually. Fire drills were completed every 6 months. Records were retained of 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 monthly and were regularly maintained. Individual residents had a completed Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEPs) in place.

There were examples of good practice found throughout the inspection in relation to staff recruitment, induction, training, supervision and appraisal, adult safeguarding, infection prevention and control, risk management and the home's environment.

### Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

	Regulations	Standards
<b>Total number of areas for improvement</b>	0	0

### 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 (e.g. manual handling, bedrails, nutrition, falls, where appropriate) were reviewed and updated on a regular basis or as changes occurred.

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 observed to be signed by the resident and/or their representative. Discussion with staff confirmed that a person centred approach underpinned practice.

An individual agreement setting out the terms of residency was in place and appropriately signed. 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 residents at appropriate intervals. Audits of risk assessments, care plans, accidents and incidents (including falls, outbreaks), complaints, environment, catering were available for inspection and evidenced that any actions identified for improvement were incorporated into practice. Further evidence of audit was contained within the monthly monitoring visits reports.

The registered manager stated 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, residents' meetings, staff meetings and staff shift handovers. The registered manager and staff confirmed that management operated an open door policy in regard to communication within the home.

Residents spoken with and observation of practice evidenced that staff were able to communicate effectively with residents. Minutes of resident and/or their representative meetings were reviewed during the inspection.

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.

### Areas of good practice

There were examples of good practice found throughout the inspection in relation to care records, audits and reviews, communication between residents, staff and other key stakeholders.

### Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

	Regulations	Standards
<b>Total number of areas for improvement</b>	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 and residents confirmed that residents' spiritual and cultural needs, including preferences for end of life care, were met within the home. Discussion with residents, their representatives 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 and for example a care plan had been put in place for management of pain.

Residents were provided with information, in a format that they could understand, which enabled them to make informed decisions regarding their life, care and treatment.

The registered manager and residents advised that consent was sought in relation to care and treatment. Discussion with residents 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 advised that residents were listened to, valued and communicated with in an appropriate manner. Residents advised that their views and opinions were taken into account in all matters affecting them.

Discussion with staff, 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. For example residents' meetings.

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. An action plan was developed and implemented to address any issues identified.

Discussion with staff, residents and observation of practice and review of care records confirmed that residents were enabled and supported to engage and participate in meaningful activities. Arrangements were in place for residents to maintain links with their friends, families and wider community.

Comments received from residents were as follows:

- "I love being here"
- "Staff are great"
- "Food is great and I love my room"
- "Staff are very good"

### **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
<b>Total number of areas for improvement</b>	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.

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, Poster/leaflet etc. Discussion with staff confirmed that they were knowledgeable about how to receive and deal with complaints.

Review of the complaints records confirmed that there had been no complaints since the last inspection. 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.

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.

A monthly monitoring visit was undertaken as required under Regulation 29 of The Residential Care Homes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005; a report was produced and made available for residents, their representatives, staff, trust representatives and RQIA to read.

There was evidence of managerial staff being provided with additional training in governance and leadership. Learning from incidents and feedback was integrated into practice and fed into a cycle of continuous quality improvement.

There was a clear organisational structure and all staff were aware of their roles, responsibility and accountability. The registered manager advised that the registered provider was kept informed regarding the day to day running of the home. The registered provider visits the home regularly and is contactable by e-mail and telephone.

The registered manager advised 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 any adult safeguarding issues were managed appropriately and that reflective learning had taken place. The registered manager advised 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 and 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 stated 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.

Comments received from residents and staff were as follows:

- "The manger always takes time to talk to us" (resident)
- "The staff are great nothing is a bother" (resident)
- "Manager is approachable" (staff)
- "Manager is supportive our training is all up to date" (staff)

### Areas of good practice

There were examples of good practice found throughout the inspection in relation to governance arrangements, management of complaints and incidents, quality improvement and maintaining good working relationships.

### Areas for improvement

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

	Regulations	Standards
<b>Total number of areas for improvement</b>	0	0

### 7.0 Quality improvement plan

There were no areas for improvement identified during this inspection, and a QIP is not required or included, as part of this inspection report.



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