

# Unannounced Care Inspection Report 4 July 2017



## Scrabo House

**Type of Service: Residential care home**  
**Address: 203 Scrabo Road, Newtownards, BT23 4SJ**  
**Tel No: 028 9182 6384**  
**Inspector: Ruth Greer**

[www.rgia.org.uk](http://www.rgia.org.uk)

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

Scrabo House is a residential care home registered to provide care and accommodation for 17 persons who are elderly and/or living with dementia.

### 3.0 Service details

<b>Registered organisation/registered person:</b> Scrabo House/Mr Alexander Buchanan	<b>Registered manager:</b> Elizabeth Buchanan
<b>Person in charge of the home at the time of inspection:</b> Elizabeth Buchanan	<b>Date manager registered:</b> 1 April 2005
<b>Categories of care:</b> I - Old age not falling within any other category DE – Dementia	<b>Number of registered places:</b> 17

### 4.0 Inspection summary

An unannounced care inspection took place on 4 July 2017 from 10.00 to 14.30.

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 an individual and person centred approach to care.

Residents spoke positively of all aspects of their care. No concerns were raised in conversations with the inspector or the lay assessor who accompanied her at this inspection.

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
<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 Elizabeth Buchanan, registered manager, and Alexander Buchanan, responsible person, 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 medicines management inspection

A medicine management inspection took place on 28 February 2017. No areas for improvement were noted as a result of that inspection.

No further actions were required to be taken following the most recent care inspection on 15 December 2016.

## 5.0 How we inspect

Prior to inspection the following records were analysed: the previous inspection report, notifiable events, and written and verbal communication received since the previous care inspection.

During the inspection the inspector met with eleven residents and four staff.

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.

A lay assessor (Trevor Lyttle) was present during the inspection and his comments are included within this report.

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
- Four resident's care files
- The home's Statement of Purpose and Residents' Guide
- Minutes of recent staff meetings
- Complaints and compliments records
- Infection control register/associated records
- Accident/incident/notifiable events register
- Minutes of recent residents' meetings
- 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

There were no areas for improvement identified at the last care inspection.

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 28 February 2017

The most recent inspection of the home was an unannounced medicines management inspection. There were no areas for improvement made as a result of this inspection.

### 6.2 Review of areas for improvement from the last care inspection dated 15 December 2016

There were no areas for improvements made as a result of the last care inspection.

## 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 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 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 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 satisfactory.

The registered manager confirmed that staff were recruited in line with Regulation 21 (1) (b), Schedule 2 of The Residential Care Homes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005.

Discussion with the registered manager confirmed that no staff have been recruited since the previous inspection, therefore staff personnel files were not reviewed on this occasion.

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

The registered manager was able to describe the arrangements in place to monitor the registration status of staff with their professional body. Staff whose registration has lapsed are suspended from duty until this is re-instated.

The adult safeguarding policy in place was consistent with the current regional guidance and included definitions of abuse, types of abuse and indicators, onward referral arrangements, contact information and documentation to be completed. The registered manager has been identified as safeguarding champion. This had been published on the home's notice board. The registered manager confirmed that she is planning to undertake training for this role.

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 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 that no restrictive practices were undertaken within the home apart from a keypad entry system. This is clearly stated on the statement of practice. On the day of the inspection no other restrictions were observed.

Inspection of care records confirmed there was a system of referral to the multi-professional team when required. Behaviour management plans were devised by specialist behaviour management teams from the trust and noted to be regularly updated and reviewed as necessary.

Review of the infection prevention and control (IPC) policy and procedure 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. One example was that the home now locks the external doors at 21 00. Minutes of residents' meetings showed that this was discussed and agreed by residents as a safety/security measure. Visitors after 21.00 now ring for admittance to the home.

Review of staff training records confirmed that staff completed fire safety training twice annually. Fire drills were completed in line with requirements, most recently on 2 February 2017 and planned again for the last week in July 2017. 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 were regularly maintained. Individual residents had a completed Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEPs) in place.

Comments received from residents and the lay assessor included:

- "This is a good place it's the best of care." (resident)
- "You get the best of food." (resident)
- "The rooms are all really lovely." (lay assessor)

### **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

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 four 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., nutrition, falls) 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 signed by the resident and/or their representative, where possible. 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 accidents and incidents (including falls, outbreaks) environment, catering were available for inspection and evidenced that any actions identified for improvement were incorporated into practice.

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, residents' meetings, most recently on 1 April 2017, staff meetings most recently on 10 April 2017 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.

Comments received from residents and the lay assessor included:

- I’m not sure whether I’ll return home or stay here but the only reason I’ve even got that choice is due to the care I’ve had here which got me back on my feet.” (resident)
- “Residents spoken with, had absolutely no complaints, I couldn’t find anyone with any issues.” (lay assessor)

**Areas of good practice**

There were examples of good practice found throughout the inspection in relation to 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 and staff confirmed that action was taken to manage any pain and discomfort in a timely and appropriate manner.

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, residents and staff confirmed 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. For example, letter boxes have now been provided for every bedroom. This promotes privacy and confidentiality. Next of

kin have access to the boxes for any resident who would be unable to access their mail independently.

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 through residents' meetings and annual reviews.

Residents are consulted with, at least annually, about the quality of care and environment. The home was in the process of receiving completed satisfaction questionnaires from residents and families. The findings from the consultation will be collated into a summary report which will be made available for residents and other interested parties to read. An action plan will be developed and implemented to address any issues identified.

Discussion with staff and residents, 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. One resident attends a computer class in the community. Several residents and the registered manager recently attended an exhibition of a history of wedding dresses. Six residents regularly attend church.

Comments received from residents and the lay assessor included:

- "Residents spoken with, reported the food is very good and excellent and the staff are kind and friendly." (lay assessor)
- "I have no complaints about this place." (resident)

### 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.

Scrabo House is a family run home. The son of the registered manager has completed QCF level 5 and is deputy manager. He has introduced new systems of audit, for example, an electronic alert system to remind management of the due date of staff supervision and appraisal dates.

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 and poster.

Review of the complaints records confirmed that arrangements were in place to effectively manage complaints from residents, their representatives or any other interested party. There had been no complaints since the last inspection. Arrangements were in place to share information about complaints and compliments with staff. Staff had received training on the handling of complaints on 15 May 2017.

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 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. For example Dementia Awareness on 4 April 2017 and Effective Communication on 17 March 2017.

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. Discussion with the registered provider identified that he had understanding of his role and responsibilities under the legislation. The registered manager and the registered provider are both fully involved with the day to day running of the home.

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 adult safeguarding issues. Any allegations/incidents would be managed appropriately and 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, management of incidents, quality improvement and maintaining good working relationships.

### **Areas for improvement**

No areas for improvement were identified during the inspection.

	<b>Regulations</b>	<b>Standards</b>
<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.

RQIA will phase out the issue of draft reports via paperlite in the near future. Registered providers should ensure that their services are opted in for the receipt of reports via Web Portal. If you require further information, please visit [www.rqia.org.uk/webportal](http://www.rqia.org.uk/webportal) or contact the web portal team in RQIA on 028 9051 7500.



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