

Inspection Report

Name of Service: Corkey House

Provider: Presbyterian Council of Social Witness

Date of Inspection: 7 May 2026

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:	Presbyterian Council of Social Witness
Responsible Person:	Mrs Caroline Yeomans - acting
Registered Manager:	Mrs Lorraine Coggles
Service Profile: Corkey House is a residential care home registered to provide health and social care for up to 35 residents. The home is divided into three units, Glenview, Cavehill and Cairn. The home provides care for up to ten residents living with dementia and two residents with a mental health diagnosis.	

2.0 Inspection summary

An unannounced inspection took place on 7 May 2026, from 10.10am to 2.30pm. The inspection was completed by a pharmacist inspector and focused on medicines management within the home.

The inspection was undertaken to evidence how medicines are managed in relation to the regulations and standards and to determine if the home is delivering safe, effective and compassionate care and is well led in relation to medicines management. The inspection also reviewed the area for improvement identified at the last medicines management inspection. The areas for improvement identified at the last care inspection were carried forward for review at the next inspection.

Review of medicines management found that satisfactory arrangements were in place for the safe management of medicines. Medicines were stored securely. Medicine records and medicine related care plans were mostly well maintained. There were effective auditing processes in place to ensure that staff were trained and competent to manage medicines and residents were administered their medicines as prescribed.

The area for improvement in relation to the cold storage of medicines identified at the last medicines management inspection was assessed as met and no new areas for improvement were identified. Areas for improvement identified at the last care inspection were carried forward for review at the next inspection. Details can be found in the quality improvement plan (QIP) (Section 4.0).

RQIA would like to thank the staff for their assistance throughout the inspection.

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 service provider to ensure compliance with legislation, standards and best practice, and to address any deficits identified during our inspections.

To prepare for this inspection, information held by RQIA about this home was reviewed. This included areas for improvement identified at previous inspections, registration information, and any other written or verbal information received from residents, 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.

3.2 What people told us about the service and their quality of life

Staff expressed satisfaction with how the home was managed. They also said that they had the appropriate training to look after residents and meet their needs. They said that the team communicated well and the management team were readily available to discuss any issues and concerns should they arise.

Staff advised that they were familiar with how each resident liked to take their medicines. They stated medication rounds were tailored to respect each individual's preferences, needs and timing requirements.

No completed questionnaires or responses to the staff survey were received following the inspection.

3.3 Inspection findings

3.3.1 What arrangements are in place to ensure that medicines are appropriately prescribed, monitored and reviewed?

Residents in residential care homes should be registered with a general practitioner (GP) to ensure that they receive appropriate medical care when they need it. At times residents' needs may change and therefore their medicines should be regularly monitored and reviewed. This is usually done by a GP, a pharmacist or during a hospital admission.

Residents in the home were registered with a GP and medicines were dispensed by the community pharmacist.

Personal medication records were in place for each resident. These are records used to list all of the prescribed medicines, with details of how and when they should be administered. It is important that these records accurately reflect the most recent prescription to ensure that medicines are administered as prescribed and because they may be used by other healthcare professionals, for example, at medication reviews or hospital appointments.

The personal medication records reviewed were accurate and up to date. In line with best practice, a second member of staff had checked and signed the personal medication records when they were written and updated to confirm that they were accurate. A small number of minor discrepancies were highlighted to staff for immediate corrective action and on-going vigilance.

Copies of residents' prescriptions/hospital discharge letters were retained so that any entry on the personal medication record could be checked against the prescription.

All residents should have care plans which detail their specific care needs and how the care is to be delivered. In relation to medicines these may include care plans for the management of distressed reactions, pain, modified diets etc.

The management of distressed reactions was reviewed. Care plans contained sufficient detail to direct the required care. Medicine records were well maintained. The audits completed indicated that medicines were administered as prescribed.

The management of pain was discussed. Staff advised that they were familiar with how each resident expressed their pain and that pain relief was administered when required. One resident needed a pain care plan put in place, this was discussed with the manager for corrective action. The frequency of care plan reviews was discussed with the manager to support ongoing monitoring.

3.3.2 What arrangements are in place to ensure that medicines are supplied on time, stored safely and disposed of appropriately?

Medicine stock levels must be checked on a regular basis and new stock must be ordered on time. This ensures that the resident's medicines are available for administration as prescribed. It is important that they are stored safely and securely so that there is no unauthorised access and disposed of promptly to ensure that a discontinued medicine is not administered in error.

Records reviewed showed that medicines were available for administration when residents required them at the time of inspection. Staff advised that they had a good relationship with the community pharmacist and that medicines were supplied in a timely manner. During the inspection it was noted that one inhaled medication and one "when required" lubricating eye drop had been out of stock for a small number of administrations in the previous 28 days. This was discussed with the manager for ongoing monitoring and review.

The medicine storage area was observed to be securely locked to prevent any unauthorised access. It was tidy and organised so that medicines belonging to each resident could be easily located. The temperature of the medicine storage area was monitored and recorded to ensure that medicines were stored appropriately. Satisfactory arrangements were in place for medicines requiring cold storage, the storage of controlled drugs and the safe disposal of medicines.

3.3.3 What arrangements are in place to ensure that medicines are appropriately administered within the home?

It is important to have a clear record of which medicines have been administered to residents to ensure that they are receiving the correct prescribed treatment.

A sample of the medicines administration records was reviewed. Most of the records were found to have been accurately completed. A small number of missed signatures were brought to the attention of the manager for ongoing monitoring. Records were filed once completed and were readily retrievable for audit/review.

Controlled drugs are medicines that are subject to strict legal controls and legislation. They commonly include strong painkillers. The receipt, administration and disposal of controlled drugs should be recorded in the controlled drug record book. There were satisfactory arrangements in place for the management of controlled drugs.

Management and staff audited the management and administration of medicines on a regular basis within the home. There was evidence that the findings of the audits had been discussed with staff and addressed. The date of opening was recorded on the majority of medicines to facilitate audit and disposal at expiry. Medicines that did not have a date of opening were discussed with the manager for ongoing monitoring.

3.3.4 What arrangements are in place to ensure that medicines are safely managed during transfer of care?

People who use medicines may follow a pathway of care that can involve both health and social care services. It is important that medicines are not considered in isolation, but as an integral part of the pathway, and at each step. Problems with the supply of medicines and how information is transferred put people at increased risk of harm when they change from one healthcare setting to another.

A review of records indicated that satisfactory arrangements were in place to manage medicines at the time of admission or for residents returning from hospital. Written confirmation of prescribed medicines was obtained at or prior to admission and details shared with the GP and community pharmacy. Medicine records had been accurately completed and there was evidence that medicines were administered as prescribed.

3.3.5 What arrangements are in place to ensure that staff can identify, report and learn from adverse incidents?

Occasionally medicines incidents occur within homes. It is important that there are systems in place which quickly identify that an incident has occurred so that action can be taken to prevent a recurrence and that staff can learn from the incident. A robust audit system will help staff to identify medicine related incidents.

Management and staff were familiar with the type of incidents that should be reported.

The medicine related incidents which had been reported to RQIA since the last inspection were discussed. There was evidence that the incidents had been reported to the prescriber for guidance, investigated and the learning shared with staff in order to prevent a recurrence.

The audits completed at the inspection indicated that the majority of medicines were being administered as prescribed. However, audit discrepancies were observed in the administration of a small number of medicines. The audits were discussed in detail with the manager for on-going monitoring.

3.3.6 What measures are in place to ensure that staff in the home are qualified, competent and sufficiently experienced and supported to manage medicines safely?

To ensure that residents are well looked after and receive their medicines appropriately, staff who administer medicines to residents must be appropriately trained. The registered person has a responsibility to check that staff are competent in managing medicines and that they are supported. Policies and procedures should be up to date and readily available for staff reference.

There were records in place to show that staff responsible for medicines management had been trained and deemed competent. Medicines management policies and procedures were in place.

It was agreed that the findings of this inspection would be discussed with staff to facilitate ongoing improvement.

4.0 Quality Improvement Plan/Areas for Improvement

	Regulations	Standards
Total number of Areas for Improvement	1*	7*

* the total number of areas for improvement includes eight, which were carried forward for review at the next inspection.

This inspection resulted in no new areas for improvement being identified. Findings of the inspection were discussed with Mrs Lorraine Coggles, Registered Manager and a member of the senior management team as part of the inspection process and can be found in the main body of the report.

Quality Improvement Plan	
Action required to ensure compliance with The Residential Care Homes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005	
Area for Improvement 1 Ref: Regulation 14 (2) (a) Stated: First time To be completed by: 12 January 2026	The registered person shall ensure as far as reasonably practicable that all parts of the residential home to which residents have access are free from hazards to their safety.
	Action required to ensure compliance with this regulation was not reviewed as part of this inspection and this is carried forward to the next inspection. Ref: 2.0
Action required to ensure compliance with the Residential Care Homes Minimum Standards (Dec 2022)	
Area for improvement 1 Ref: Standard 23.1 Stated: First time To be completed by: 28 February 2026	The registered person shall ensure that the manager's hours and the capacity in which these were worked should be clearly identified on the staff off duty.
	Action required to ensure compliance with this standard was not reviewed as part of this inspection and this is carried forward to the next inspection. Ref: 2.0
Area for improvement 2 Ref: Standard 5 Stated: First time To be completed by: 28 February 2026	The registered person shall ensure that individual risk assessments are kept under regular review for residents.
	Action required to ensure compliance with this standard was not reviewed as part of this inspection and this is carried forward to the next inspection. Ref: 2.0
Area for improvement 3 Ref: Standard 6 Stated: First time To be completed by: 28 February 2026	The registered person shall ensure that individual care plans are kept under regular review for residents.
	Action required to ensure compliance with this standard was not reviewed as part of this inspection and this is carried forward to the next inspection. Ref: 2.0

Area for improvement 4 Ref: Standard 23.1 Stated: First time To be completed by: 28 February 2026	The registered person shall ensure that all staff receive a structured induction. Records must be maintained to evidence full completion and managerial oversight of the induction process. This area for improvement refers to both permanent and agency staff. Action required to ensure compliance with this standard was not reviewed as part of this inspection and this is carried forward to the next inspection. Ref: 2.0
Area for improvement 5 Ref: Standard 25.1 Stated: First Time To be completed by: 28 February 2026	The registered person shall ensure that the identified planned staffing levels are provided. Action required to ensure compliance with this standard was not reviewed as part of this inspection and this is carried forward to the next inspection. Ref: 2.0
Area for improvement 6 Ref: Standard 24.2 Stated: First time To be completed by: 28 February 2026	The registered person shall ensure that all staff have recorded individual, formal supervision no less than every six months. Action required to ensure compliance with this standard was not reviewed as part of this inspection and this is carried forward to the next inspection. Ref: 2.0
Area for improvement 7 Ref: Standard 25.8 Stated: First time To be completed by: 28 February 2026	The registered person shall ensure that care staff meetings take place on a regular basis and at least every three months. Action required to ensure compliance with this standard was not reviewed as part of this inspection and this is carried forward to the next inspection. Ref: 2.0



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