

Inspection report

Culsh House Care Home Care Home Service

New Deer
TURRIFF AB53 6TR

Inspected by: Gail Harrison
(Care Commission Officer)

Type of inspection: Unannounced

Inspection completed on: 6 July 2006

Service Number

CS2003010375

Service name

Culsh House Care Home

Service addressNew Deer
TURRIFF AB53 6TR**Provider Number**

SP2003002319

Provider Name

Culsh House Care Home

Inspected ByGail Harrison
Care Commission Officer**Inspection Type**

Unannounced

Inspection Completed

6 July 2006

Period since last inspection

6 Months

Local Office AddressJohnstone House
Rose Street
Aberdeen
AB10 1UD

Introduction

Culsh House is a traditional built home, situated on the outskirts of the rural village of New Deer. The service is registered to provide residential and nursing care to a maximum of 25 older people.

The service has been registered with the Care Commission since April 2002.

Basis of Report

An unannounced visit was undertaken on 6 July 2006 by one Care Commission Officer. Due to some concerns in relation to fire prevention, health and safety noted on this visit, a further unannounced inspection of the premises was undertaken on 13 July 2006. The inspection team consisted of a Care Commission Officer, Team Manager and a representative from the local fire department who had previously visited the service.

The inspection focused on the section of The Regulation of Care (Requirements as to Care Services) (Scotland) Regulation 2002, Statutory Instrument 114. Fitness of the premises and the environment were the main focus of the two visits undertaken.

Time was spent in individual discussion with:

- The Provider
- Two Registered Nurses

Feedback was given to the Provider at the end of the inspection.

Action taken on requirements in last Inspection Report

The requirements made following the last inspection of the service were not examined during this visit. However the Manager submitted a detailed action plan following the report and the action taken will be examined and discussed during the next inspection.

Comments on Self-Evaluation

This was completed prior to the inspection.

View of Service Users

Service users were not spoken with individually during this inspection.

View of Carers

There were no relatives spoken with during this inspection.

Regulations / Principles

Regulation :

Strengths

Areas for Development

National Care Standards

National Care Standard Number 4: Care Homes for Older People - Your Environment

Strengths

All bedrooms were single accommodation with en-suite toilet and wash hand basin.

The top floor of the home currently provides for staff accommodation. A requirement was made following the previous inspection in relation to this accommodation and appropriate risk assessments had been completed and returned to the Care Commission within the stated timescale.

Areas for Development

All communal areas within the home were examined on both days of inspection as well as the garden and external building.

On the first visit the laundry room was noted to be very untidy with dirty clothing lying on the floor. The member of staff in charge discussed this situation with the laundry assistant at the time. The laundry room was noted to be clean and tidy on the second day of the inspection.

A note on the door leading from the laundry room to the boiler room stated that "cardboard boxes should be flattened and placed in the wheelie bin and not in this room". On the first visit the Care Commission Officer evidenced that as well as flattened cardboard boxes, a padlocked fridge freezer, work tools, bags of clinical waste, mattresses, toilet rolls and a wide range of other materials were stored in this room. The Care Commission Officer contacted the local fire officer who agreed to meet with the Care Commission Officers on the second day of inspection and give their professional opinion.

On the second day of the inspection, this room had not been tidied up and still stored a large amount of combustible items. The fire officer advised that the door leading from the laundry room to this boiler room was in fact a half hour fire door. However it was the opinion of the fire officer that this room was in need of being tidied up and the amount of storage being kept here should be reduced. The fire officer agreed to re-visit the service at a later date to ensure the advice given to the Provider at the end of the inspection was adhered to.

An exit door from the boiler room led to an area of waste ground at the side of the building.

This outside area had a fridge freezer, cabinet freezer containing old paint tins, broken bin, stair gate, 2 old sinks and some old pipes lying around. A few service users' bedrooms overlooked this very untidy area.

An open courtyard was noted to require some tidying up and a chest fridge or freezer was stored outside the kitchen door leading to the courtyard. The Care Commission Officers evidenced that this fridge/freezer was not connected to the mains and had water lying at the base. Wooden crates had been placed in the fridge/freezer then individual bags of potatoes, onions, turnips and carrots were stored here. When this was discussed with the Provider, they insisted that these items were for their own use and never given to the service users. The Provider was advised at this point that it would be unacceptable for these items to be utilised for service users.

It was noted on both days of the inspection that a number of roof tiles were required to be attended to in particular the area above the main entrance. The Care Commission Officers informed the Provider that as well as ensuring the roof tiles were in place and safe, the guttering may also need attention in certain areas due to grass or moss noted to be growing in some areas of the guttering.

There is a very large and picturesque garden area and sun house. However it would be difficult for service users who are either mobile or use wheelchairs to access this area due to the lack of handrails along the steps and the steep slope. This will be discussed with the Manager in detail at the next inspection.

During examination of the internal building a number of areas within the home were noted to be in need of attention. A number of bathrooms examined although appeared to be clean and well maintained, were noted to have a very musty, damp smell. Staff spoken with advised this had been an ongoing problem but were unsure of the cause. A small sluice room on the first floor accommodation required a degree of upgrading particularly due to the poor state of the work surfaces which could be a source of infection.

The dining room appeared small for the amount of service users who utilise this room and on the first day of inspection two service users were noted to be sitting in wheelchairs at separate tables having their breakfast and facing a wall. At this point they were the only service users in the dining room having breakfast. The Care Commission Officer will discuss the layout and spacial requirements with the Manager during the next inspection.

Some areas within the home require to be re-decorated and the Manager is required to furnish the Care Commission with a programme of re-decoration and up-grading.

A requirement has been made in relation to the fitness of the premises both internally and externally. (see requirement 1).

Enforcement

There has been no enforcement action taken by the Care Commission in relation to this service.

Other Information

There were no other issues discussed during this inspection.

Requirements

1. The Provider must ensure that the premises are fit for purpose and kept in a good state of repair both internally and externally. In order to achieve this the Manager must:

- (a) Ensure materials stored in the boiler room are kept to a minimum, stored in an appropriate, tidy manner and regularly checked.
- (b) Ensure that materials and equipment no longer required (such as fridge freezers, paint pots, sinks etc) are appropriately disposed of and must not be left lying around the building for health, safety and environmental reasons.
- (c) Ensure the roof tiles are secure and safe.
- (d) Ensure the guttering is maintained and there are no obstructions which could cause blockage.
- (e) Ensure that the work surface in the sluice room on the first floor is replaced for infection control purposes.
- (f) Ensure the drainage system, (particularly in the bathrooms) is in working order and there are no blockages or backflow.
- (g) Provide the Care Commission with a programme of re-decoration and up-grading of the home.

This is in order to comply with SSI/2002 114 Regulation 4 (1) (a) - a requirement for proper provision for the health and welfare; SSI/2002 114 Regulation 10 (1) - Fitness of premises. The following National Care Standard has been taken into account in making this requirement: Care Homes for Older People, Standard 4 – Your environment.
Timescale for implementation: Within four weeks of publication of this report.

Recommendations

There were no recommendations made during this inspection.

Gail Harrison

Care Commission Officer