
Haddon Court Care Home Report

December 2015

Healthwatch Blackpool



Resident's voices - a Healthwatch Blackpool Review

1 Introduction

1.1 Details of visit

Details of visit:	
Service Address	08-14 Haddon Road, Blackpool. FY2 9AH
Service Provider	Haddon Court Ltd
Date and Time	16/12/2015 @ 13:00 HRS
Healthwatch Representatives	S Robinson, J Smith.
Contact details: Healthwatch Blackpool	333 Bispham Rd, Blackpool.

1.2 Acknowledgements

Healthwatch Blackpool would like to thank the service provider, service users, visitors and staff for their contribution and for facilitating us to carry out our consultation.

1.3 Disclaimer

Please note that this report relates to findings observed on the specific date set out above. Our report is not a representative portrayal of the experiences of all service users, only an account of what was observed and contributed at the time. |

The views expressed in this report are primarily from those who reside in the home. It is acknowledged that some of the participants in our studies may suffer from conditions such as dementia or other memory impairments which do not enable them to give fully balanced and reflective views. However we feel that it is essential that every voice is heard and recognise our duty to all who receive care in Blackpool. In order to allow for this to happen we request feedback from the care home for clarification of the issues that are raised.

2 What is Healthwatch Review?

Part of the local Healthwatch Blackpool programme is to carry out regular reviews and visits to health and social care services. Healthwatch representatives carry out these visits to find out how they are being run and make recommendations where there are areas for improvement. The Health and Social Care Act allows local Healthwatch authorized representatives to observe service delivery and talk to service users, their families and carers on premises such as hospitals, residential homes, GP practices, dental surgeries, optometrists and pharmacies. Our visits can happen if people tell us there is a problem with a service but, equally, they can occur when services have a good reputation - so we can learn about and share examples of what they do well from the perspective of people who experience the service first hand.

Healthwatch reviews are not intended to specifically identify safeguarding issues. However, if safeguarding concerns arise during a visit they are reported in accordance with Healthwatch safeguarding policies. If at any time an authorised representative observes anything that they feel uncomfortable about they need to inform their lead who will inform the service manager, ending the visit.

In addition, if any member of staff wishes to raise a safeguarding issue about their employer they will be directed to the CQC where they are protected by legislation if they raise a concern.

2.1 Purpose of Visit

To gather information about the experience of living in a care home in Blackpool directly from those who reside in them, including quality of life factors such as activities and choices. Also to look at homes from the perspective of "would I wish for my relative to live here?"

2.2 Why did we do this?

Many of our elderly people in residential care have no one to speak on their behalf. Working alongside the CQC (Care Quality Commission) and Blackpool Council, Healthwatch Blackpool contacted, by letter, 14 Residential Care Homes in Blackpool in December 2015. We asked if we could come into their homes and speak to the residents. We wanted to know if they were happy about the levels of care that they were receiving.

2.3 What were our aims?

Our aim was to allow the residents to have a voice and a say in the care that they were receiving. Were they living in comfort, did they have privacy, did they receive 1 to 3 home cooked meals daily, was their housekeeping and laundry services met and was there a plan in place to manage their medication needs etc. To do this we needed the help and the cooperation of not only the residents but also the care homes, their staff and the families/carers of the residents. By collating this information we were able to evaluate the quality of care within each care home we visited.

2.4 Methodology

It was decided beforehand that we did not want to perform an enforced Enter and View visit to any Residential Care Home in Blackpool. We felt that to be invited to attend the home would give us a more balanced view and encourage openness and co-operation with the care home. To do this we wrote to every care home we intended to visit, outlining our intentions and the purpose of the visit. We also provided every home with a full colour poster confirming the date and time of our visit and its aims. We asked that each care home place the poster in a prominent position where staff, residents and resident's families / carers could read it. A few days before each visit we telephoned the care homes to confirm that they were aware of our visit, the date and time of the visit and the intentions of the visit.

On the day of the visit all Healthwatch representatives wore identification badges. Before speaking to any resident we explained fully who we were and the purpose of our visit. Those residents that were happy to speak to us were asked a series of open ended questions about what they liked most and what they felt could be improved. We confirmed that their name would not be linked with anything that they told us and that they were free to end the conversation at any point. We made observations throughout the visit and made notes of what we saw around the home.

2.5 Summary of provider

Haddon Court accommodates up to 33 older people living with dementia and offers a home for life. The home is situated in close proximity to the promenade and transport routes. Accommodation is provided on three levels. All bedrooms provide single accommodation and some of these have an en-suite facility. There are three lounge areas and a large dining room. The home provides a passenger lift and a laundry service for people living at the home. The home caters for long term, short term and respite care as well as providing day care facilities.

Entrance to the home was through a secure locked door, staff greeted us on arrival and we were asked to sign the visitor's book. The care home had a homely feel to it, it was clean, fit for purpose, and there were no unpleasant odours. All meals are prepared onsite. On the day of our visit we spoke to the manager. There were plenty staff on duty and the interaction between the staff and the residents was positive. On the day of the visit we spoke at length to the available 9 residents and 1 family member.

2.6 Results of visit

General

All the residents that we spoke to said that they enjoyed living in the home and that they felt that they were safe and comfortable. They felt that at all times they were treated with dignity and had their privacy respected, especially when they were in their rooms, saying that staff always knocked and made reference that they were coming in before entering. Residents felt that if they had a problem or an issue they could approach staff with it and it would be acted upon. Room doors in the home had the occupant's photograph and name clearly visible allowing residents to identify their room. On the day we visited the residents were just finishing lunch. The dining room was busy and we observed staff attending to the various needs of the clients in order that they enjoy their meals. All the rooms and corridors on the ground level had wooden floors, allowing for the easy movement of wheelchairs. The home has two lounges where residents can sit in comfort on high-backed chairs. Both lounges have a large flat screened television. At the rear of the property there is a quieter room with access through patio doors to a decked area. Residents said that they enjoyed sitting outside in the sunshine when the weather allowed. There was also a small aviary outside that residents could attend to and feed the budgerigars. Throughout the home the décor was clean and neutral making the rooms look bright and airy.

Food and drink

All the food is prepared on the premises. All the residents that we spoke to said that the food was good and plentiful. All residents had the opportunity to have 3 meals per day, breakfast, lunch and tea. Tea, coffee and soft drinks were available

throughout the day and was provided by staff either in cups or in beakers dependent on the resident's needs. Food was served in the dining room which was clean and bright. We observed the staff being polite and respectful to the residents, talking to them by name and encouraging them to eat their meals. Those residents that were finished were sitting chatting to staff and the whole atmosphere was that of enjoyment.

Activities

The home employs a full-time activities coordinator. When we visited we observed a chair exercise session. Residents can take part or opt out of a range of activities that are on offer at Haddon Court. These include daytime/evening activities like dominoes, art & crafts, memories sessions, sing songs, entertainers, parties, and organised days out. Life story books were in development. As an activity this involves reviewing a residents past events and developing a biography, helping staff understand more about the individual and their past experiences. Residents also enjoyed feeding the budgies in the outside aviary. Staff were also encouraged to bring their pets (mainly dogs) although house trained donkeys had also been into the home for a few hours, so that the residents could interact and enjoy the company that animals can provide.

Staff

All the staff we saw were smart in appearance, they were friendly and approachable and were interacting with the residents. The overall view by the residents in response to our questions about staff were all positive. They said that they were caring with a good attitude towards them, they were friendly and approachable and were always keen to help. Many of the residents thought that the staff knew what they were doing, were always respectful and understood their needs at all times. Residents said that the home had a nice pleasant atmosphere saying "the staff are very good to us".

Involvement in key decisions around their care

At the time of writing this report resident meetings were not taking place but the manager said that this was something that they wanted to introduce. Meetings with resident's families do take place and the manager said that these had been viewed positively. All the residents had personal care plans and were allocated a key worker, however when we asked residents about this many were unable to tell us who their key worker was.

Concerns & Complaints

The home confirmed that they had a complaints procedure in place, although when we spoke to the residents about this no one mentioned ever having to use it.

2.7 Recommendations

This report highlights the practice that we observed and reflects the feeling that residents felt about the care and support that they were receiving. While it was not our intention during this visit to make recommendations, it was our intention to talk to residents and ask if there was anything that they felt would improve their quality of life within the care home. Residents felt that the following areas could be looked at for improvement:

Activities

1. We felt that the use of Life Story books for dementia sufferers was good practice

Involvement in Key decisions

1. Introduction of regular resident meetings with minutes

2.8 Service Provider response

Dear Healthwatch Blackpool,

Thank you for your report. There are no factual inaccuracies and we are happy for the report to be published and circulated.

Kind regards

Peter McGailey

Haddon Court

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