
Layton Lodge 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	1 Bispham Road, Layton, Blackpool. FY3 7HQ
Service Provider	Layton Lodge Residential Care Home for the Elderly
Date and Time	02/12/2015 @ 13:00 HRS
Healthwatch Representatives	J Smith, S Robinson
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

Layton Lodge provides accommodation for up to 18 people, who require assistance with personal care. It is situated on a main road position close to Layton shopping Centre and all its amenities. There is easy access by public transport. The accommodation consists of 16 single rooms and one twin bedded room, with the majority having en-suite facilities. Communal areas consist of two separate, comfortable lounges and a dining room. A passenger lift is available for easy access to both floors

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; it was clean, fit for purpose, and there were no unpleasant odours. The residents were free to move around the home as they pleased but they were always under the watchful eye of the staff. All meals were prepared onsite and the menu was varied and wholesome. On the day of our visit we met with the manager, who conducted the visit. The interaction between the staff and the residents was positive. On the day of the visit we spoke at length to 6 residents.

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.

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 varied. 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. Blended diets were available for those residents that required extra help and support to enjoy their meals. When we attended the home the residents had just finished their lunch. We observed the staff being polite and respectful.

Activities

Residents were free to move around the house as they pleased. The home has a garden at the rear of the property and residents told us that they enjoyed sitting outside when the weather permits. The front lounge has a large flat screen colour television and a selection of comfortable high backed chairs situated round the room. When we spoke to residents about the activities on offer many said that there was very little to do other than watch television.

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.

Involvement in key decisions around their care

Residents were unaware if a meeting took place with staff and management on a regular or any other basis. They were also unaware if they had a key worker and what that meant.

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

Residents reported that there was very little to do other than watch television.

Involvement in Key decisions

Regular staff / resident meetings with minutes

2.8 Service Provider response

Thank you for your report covering your visit to Layton Lodge Rest Home on 2nd December 2015.

Overall I thought your findings were very positive. Just a couple of points I would like to clarify:

Staff Meetings - these take place every month the minutes and action points are recorded. These have been in place for the past 15 years.

Resident Meetings - these also take place every month and minutes/action points recorded and filed in the Resident Information Pack that is on display in the office for easy access to all. If the attendance is low the Manager ensure she has a one to one meeting or small group meetings to ensure every resident has an opportunity to openly express their opinions.

Entertainment Programme - this is displayed in the office and is changed monthly and covers a wide variety of activities including outside entertainers, sing a longs, board games, bingo etc. Activities are determined by the abilities of residents and all are encouraged to participate.

Key Worker System - Layton Lodge operate a key worker system this is displayed on the notice board in the office. Going forward Hilda will ensure all staff inform the resident as appropriate.

Please be assured that we constantly review our processes to ensure that we are able where ever possible to meet resident's needs and your report will be fed in to this review.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Kind regards,

Elaine Haworth
Proprietor