



# Report of a Restrictive Practice Thematic Inspection of a Designated Centre for Older People.

## Issued by the Chief Inspector

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| Name of designated centre: | Skibbereen Community Hospital      |
| Name of provider:          | Health Service Executive           |
| Address of centre:         | Coolnagarrane, Skibbereen,<br>Cork |
| Type of inspection:        | Unannounced                        |
| Date of inspection:        | 15 August 2024                     |
| Centre ID:                 | OSV-0000598                        |
| Fieldwork ID:              | MON-0044598                        |

## What is a thematic inspection?

The purpose of a thematic inspection is to drive quality improvement. Service providers are expected to use any learning from thematic inspection reports to drive continuous quality improvement which will ultimately be of benefit to the people living in designated centres.

Thematic inspections assess compliance against the National Standards **for Residential Care Settings for Older People in Ireland**. See Appendix 1 for a list of the relevant standards for this thematic programme.

There may be occasions during the course of a thematic inspection where inspectors form the view that the service is not in compliance with the regulations pertaining to restrictive practices. In such circumstances, the thematic inspection against the National Standards will cease and the inspector will proceed to a risk-based inspection against the appropriate regulations.

## What is 'restrictive practice'?

Restrictive practices are defined in the *Health Act 2007 (Care and Welfare of Residents in Designated Centres for Older People) Regulations 2013* as **'the intentional restriction of a person's voluntary movement or behaviour'**.

Restrictive practices may be physical or environmental<sup>1</sup> in nature. They may also look to limit a person's choices or preferences (for example, access to cigarettes or certain foods), sometimes referred to as 'rights restraints'. A person can also experience restrictions through inaction. This means that the care and support a person requires to partake in normal daily activities are not being met within a reasonable timeframe. This thematic inspection is focussed on how service providers govern and manage the use of restrictive practices to ensure that people's rights are upheld, in so far as possible.

**Physical** restraint commonly involves any manual or physical method of restricting a person's movement. For example, physically holding the person back or holding them by the arm to prevent movement. **Environmental** restraint is the restriction of a person's access to their surroundings. This can include restricted access to external areas by means of a locked door or door that requires a code. It can also include limiting a person's access to certain activities or preventing them from exercising certain rights such as religious or civil liberties.

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<sup>1</sup> Chemical restraint does not form part of this thematic inspection programme.

## About this report

This report outlines the findings on the day of inspection. There are three main sections:

- What the inspector observed and residents said on the day of inspection
- Oversight and quality improvement arrangements
- Overall judgment

In forming their overall judgment, inspectors will gather evidence by observing care practices, talking to residents, interviewing staff and management, and reviewing documentation. In doing so, they will take account of the relevant National Standards as laid out in the Appendix to this report.

### **This unannounced inspection was carried out during the following times:**

| Date                    | Times of Inspection  | Inspector of Social Services |
|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Thursday 15 August 2024 | 09:30hrs to 16:30hrs | Robert Hennessy              |

## What the inspector observed and residents said on the day of inspection

The inspection of Skibbereen Community Hospital was unannounced and completed as part of the thematic inspection focusing on the use of restrictive practices. From observations made by the inspector, it was evident that there was respect for residents promoted in the centre and person-centred care approaches were also evident. Several residents spoke with the inspector on the day of inspection. Residents spoken with were very happy with the care and support they received.

Overall, the inspector found that residents had a good quality of life and were supported by staff to have their rights respected and to be included in decisions about their care. The impact of this on residents meant that they felt safe. The inspector found that residents were supported by staff to remain independent. The atmosphere in the centre was calm and unhurried, residents were encouraged to take part in a range of activities.

There were 32 residents residing in Skibbereen Community Hospital at the time of inspection, the centre is registered for a maximum of 40 residents. The centre is situated on a large site on the outskirts of the town. Bedroom accommodation in the centre was divided into named units, using names from the local areas around West Cork such as Glandore, Fastnet, Abbey, and Ilen. Bedroom accommodation consists of six four bedded rooms, one triple room and 13 single rooms. The inspector observed that most resident's bedrooms were personalised and they had pictures and memorabilia from home.

During the walk around of the centre staff were seen to engage with residents in a kind and respectful manner at this time. Staff spoken with were aware of why the restrictions for some residents were in place and had knowledge on how to support residents that had behaviours of concern. Staff spoken with were able to discuss in depth the knowledge they had received in the various training in relation to restrictive practices. It was evident to the inspector that the person in charge was also well known to the residents and had spent time getting to know them. Staff were seen taking time to chat with the residents and it was apparent that staff were familiar with residents interests.

It was evident that the management and staff strived to create a person centred service for the residents. For example a great amount of work had been undertaken with one resident whose family did not live in the country with them. Family contact had been re-established after a number of years and they were now involved in the persons care. Communication methods had been put in place for the resident as English was not their first language.

The centre was well maintained and well decorated. There were communal seating areas throughout the centre which were well decorated and comfortable. There were painting of shop fronts and colourful murals throughout the centre. The corridors were wide with suitable hand rails for residents to use while navigating the centre. There was signage throughout the centre also to guide the residents throughout the centre.

The dining areas for residents were bright and well decorated. Large menus were available in the dining areas with the choice of meals of the day listed. Residents had good choice available at meal times and residents spoken with were very happy with same. Meal times for residents was uninterrupted and residents that required assistance were given this. Residents reported that they could have their meal times whenever they wanted throughout the day.

The outdoor areas were suitable for the residents to use, these areas were openly accessible to residents. The outdoor space was well maintained with modern garden furniture. The front door of the centre could now be accessed using the a code which residents with capacity could use. Some residents were given the swipe access to the front door if it was suitable following a risk assessment.

Information on advocacy and how to make a complaint was available to residents. The inspector reviewed the complaints log in the centre, there was evidence that previous complaints had been managed and closed out to the complainants' satisfaction.

Residents were seen to be engaged in activities throughout the day. There was a person identified to manage the activities for residents each day on the staffing roster. Outside organisations were seen attending the centre to undertake art work activities on the day of inspection, while the activity co-ordinator undertook activities with other residents. It was evident that the centre had a good relationship with the community, with residents going to many events in the local community such as coffee mornings and to the library.

Overall, the inspector found that the culture in Skibbereen Community Hospital promoted the well-being of the residents and a person centred approach was the goal of the staff working in the centre.

## Oversight and the Quality Improvement arrangements

The provider had a comprehensive governance structure in place to promote and enable a quality service. The person in charge and the other staff members spoken with on the day of inspection were committed to ensuring restrictive practices, such as bed rails, were kept to minimum and used for shortest amount of time. Staff in the centre strove to uphold the rights of the residents.

The centre had relevant policies in place to protect residents' rights. Staff spoken with on the day by the inspector were knowledgeable on how these policies were put into practice.

The person in charge had completed the self-assessment questionnaire prior to the inspection and assessed the standards relevant to restrictive practices. This had been submitted to the Chief Inspector prior to the inspection.

The inspector reviewed the care plans for residents who had restrictions in use and found that detailed care plans had been developed. The inspector also viewed care plans for residents, who experienced behaviours of concern. Personalised strategies and interventions were outlined for staff, and these were seen to coincide with the guidance provided in the centre's policy. These interventions were seen to promote care and responses which were least restrictive.

The physical environment was set out to maximise resident's independence with regards to flooring, lighting and handrails along corridors, which were wide. Residents had the correct assistive equipment such as walking aids and wheelchairs to enable them to be as independent as possible. The inspector was satisfied that residents were not unduly restricted in their movement around the centre.

Where restrictions were in place there was evidence that they were used for the shortest time and the time the restriction was put in place to when it was removed was monitored and recorded. Restrictive practices were frequently reviewed and evidence of restrictions being removed after reassessment was made available to the inspector.

Residents had access to a multi-disciplinary team (MDT) to help in their assessments including assessments of restrictive practices. The MDT included the physiotherapist, occupational therapist and general practitioner who were regularly available to residents along with extensive other services such as a speech and language therapist.

There were regular residents' meetings in the centre to discuss relevant issues for the residents. Residents' concerns were followed up and actions taken. The staff team met every morning, with records of these meetings kept in a weekly sheet to inform all staff of the current residents' needs.

Consent was sought from the residents for the use of restrictive practices and evidence of this was available in residents' care plans. Documentation was also in place to review the restrictive practices in place on a daily basis.

Staff were appropriately trained in safeguarding vulnerable adults, behaviours that challenge, restrictive practice, and ongoing training was scheduled to ensure all staff training remained current. There was adequate staff in the centre during the day and night as seen on the staffing roster.

The centre maintained a log of complaints where the complaints, resolution and complainants satisfaction were recorded. Clear documentation was available to show how complaints were dealt with and the processes gone through to resolve the complaint.

A restraint-free environment was championed in the centre to support a good quality of life that promoted the overall wellbeing and independence of residents.

## Overall Judgment

The following section describes the overall judgment made by the inspector in respect of how the service performed when assessed against the National Standards.

### **Compliant**

Residents enjoyed a good quality of life where the culture, ethos and delivery of care were focused on reducing or eliminating the use of restrictive practices.



### The National Standards

This inspection is based on the *National Standards for Residential Care Settings for Older People in Ireland (2016)*. Only those National Standards which are relevant to restrictive practices are included under the respective theme. Under each theme there will be a description of what a good service looks like and what this means for the resident.

The standards are comprised of two dimensions: Capacity and capability; and Quality and safety.

There are four themes under each of the two dimensions. The **Capacity and Capability** dimension includes the following four themes:

- **Leadership, Governance and Management** — the arrangements put in place by a residential service for accountability, decision-making, risk management as well as meeting its strategic, statutory and financial obligations.
- **Use of Resources** — using resources effectively and efficiently to deliver best achievable outcomes for people for the money and resources used.
- **Responsive Workforce** — planning, recruiting, managing and organising staff with the necessary numbers, skills and competencies to respond to the needs and preferences of people in residential services.
- **Use of Information** — actively using information as a resource for planning, delivering, monitoring, managing and improving care.

The **Quality and Safety** dimension includes the following four themes:

- **Person-centred Care and Support** — how residential services place people at the centre of what they do.
- **Effective Services** — how residential services deliver best outcomes and a good quality of life for people, using best available evidence and information.
- **Safe Services** — how residential services protect people and promote their welfare. Safe services also avoid, prevent and minimise harm and learn from things when they go wrong.
- **Health and Wellbeing** — how residential services identify and promote optimum health and wellbeing for people.

List of National Standards used for this thematic inspection:

## Capacity and capability

| <b>Theme: Leadership, Governance and Management</b> |  |
|---|--|
| 5.1   | The residential service performs its functions as outlined in relevant legislation, regulations, national policies and standards to protect each resident and promote their welfare. |
| 5.2   | The residential service has effective leadership, governance and management arrangements in place and clear lines of accountability.   |
| 5.3   | The residential service has a publicly available statement of purpose that accurately and clearly describes the services provided.   |
| 5.4   | The quality of care and experience of residents are monitored, reviewed and improved on an ongoing basis.  |

| <b>Theme: Use of Resources</b> |   |
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| 6.1                            | The use of resources is planned and managed to provide person-centred, effective and safe services and supports to residents. |

| <b>Theme: Responsive Workforce</b> |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 7.2                                | Staff have the required competencies to manage and deliver person-centred, effective and safe services to all residents.   |
| 7.3                                | Staff are supported and supervised to carry out their duties to protect and promote the care and welfare of all residents. |
| 7.4                                | Training is provided to staff to improve outcomes for all residents.   |

| <b>Theme: Use of Information</b> |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 8.1                              | Information is used to plan and deliver person-centred, safe and effective residential services and supports. |

## Quality and safety

| <b>Theme: Person-centred Care and Support</b> |   |
|---|---|
| 1.1   | The rights and diversity of each resident are respected and safeguarded.  |
| 1.2   | The privacy and dignity of each resident are respected.   |
| 1.3   | Each resident has a right to exercise choice and to have their needs and preferences taken into account in the planning, design and delivery of services. |
| 1.4   | Each resident develops and maintains personal relationships and links with the community in accordance with their wishes.                                 |
| 1.5   | Each resident has access to information, provided in a format appropriate to their communication needs and preferences.                                   |

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| 1.6 | Each resident, where appropriate, is facilitated to make informed decisions, has access to an advocate and their consent is obtained in accordance with legislation and current evidence-based guidelines. |
| 1.7 | Each resident's complaints and concerns are listened to and acted upon in a timely, supportive and effective manner.   |

### Theme: Effective Services

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| 2.1 | Each resident has a care plan, based on an ongoing comprehensive assessment of their needs which is implemented, evaluated and reviewed, reflects their changing needs and outlines the supports required to maximise their quality of life in accordance with their wishes. |
| 2.6 | The residential service is homely and accessible and provides adequate physical space to meet each resident's assessed needs.  |

### Theme: Safe Services

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| 3.1 | Each resident is safeguarded from abuse and neglect and their safety and welfare is promoted.   |
| 3.2 | The residential service has effective arrangements in place to manage risk and protect residents from the risk of harm.                                     |
| 3.5 | Arrangements to protect residents from harm promote bodily integrity, personal liberty and a restraint-free environment in accordance with national policy. |

### Theme: Health and Wellbeing

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| 4.3 | Each resident experiences care that supports their physical, behavioural and psychological wellbeing. |
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