

Health Information and Quality Authority

An tÚdarás Um Fhaisnéis agus Cáilíocht Sláinte

Report of an inspection of a Designated Centre for Disabilities (Mixed).

Issued by the Chief Inspector

The Children's Sunshine Home
(operating as LauraLynn
Children's Hospice)
The Children's Sunshine Home
Dublin 18
Unannounced
24 January 2022
OSV-0003282
MON-0035567

About the designated centre

The following information has been submitted by the registered provider and describes the service they provide.

The Children's Sunshine Home is a voluntary health care organisation which provides respite and residential care to children and adults with complex health needs. The service operates on a 24 hour 7 day a week basis, ensuring residents are supported by nursing staff at all times. The centre provides residential services to seven adults and three children, respite care for up to three children (at any one time) and one crisis care placement. The centre is staffed with nurses, health-care assistants and a recreational and activities Coordinator. The centre comprises of two units, one for children and one for adults. There is a restaurant and activity rooms on site. There are three playgrounds available on the grounds, two of which have been adapted and are accessible to adults and children with physical disabilities.

The following information outlines some additional data on this centre.

Number of residents on the	9
date of inspection:	

How we inspect

This inspection was carried out to assess compliance with the Health Act 2007 (as amended), the Health Act 2007 (Care and Support of Residents in Designated Centres for Persons (Children and Adults) with Disabilities) Regulations 2013, and the Health Act 2007 (Registration of Designated Centres for Persons (Children and Adults) with Disabilities) Regulations 2013 (as amended). To prepare for this inspection the inspector of social services (**hereafter referred to as inspectors**) reviewed all information about this centre. This included any previous inspection findings, registration information, information submitted by the provider or person in charge and other unsolicited information since the last inspection.

As part of our inspection, where possible, we:

- speak with residents and the people who visit them to find out their experience of the service,
- talk with staff and management to find out how they plan, deliver and monitor the care and support services that are provided to people who live in the centre,
- observe practice and daily life to see if it reflects what people tell us,
- review documents to see if appropriate records are kept and that they reflect practice and what people tell us.

In order to summarise our inspection findings and to describe how well a service is doing, we group and report on the regulations under two dimensions of:

1. Capacity and capability of the service:

This section describes the leadership and management of the centre and how effective it is in ensuring that a good quality and safe service is being provided. It outlines how people who work in the centre are recruited and trained and whether there are appropriate systems and processes in place to underpin the safe delivery and oversight of the service.

2. Quality and safety of the service:

This section describes the care and support people receive and if it was of a good quality and ensured people were safe. It includes information about the care and supports available for people and the environment in which they live.

A full list of all regulations and the dimension they are reported under can be seen in Appendix 1.

This inspection was carried out during the following times:

Date	Times of Inspection	Inspector	Role
Monday 24 January 2022	09:30hrs to 17:10hrs	Louise Renwick	Lead
Monday 24 January 2022	09:30hrs to 17:10hrs	Amy McGrath	Support

What residents told us and what inspectors observed

This inspection was unannounced and the purpose of the inspection day was to monitor compliance with Regulation 27 Infection control and the National Standards for infection prevention and control in community services (HIQA, 2018).

Inspectors met residents who lived, or attend respite in the designated centre and spoke with staff members and members of the management team. Inspectors also spoke to the facilities manager who has oversight responsibility for household staff members working in the designated centre.

The designated centre consists of two separate homes located on a small campus setting in Leopardstown. One home provides full-time residential care for adults, and one home provides respite and crisis care for children. At the time of inspection, there were six adults living in the designated centre, two children on respite and a child on long-term placement in the respite home.

The home for adults consisted of six bedrooms, a communal living/dining/kitchen room, two bathrooms and a sensory room. The respite home consisted of four bedrooms, an accessible bathroom, a communal living/dining/kitchen area with a sensory corner. Both homes had a nurse's station for storage of records, equipment and medicine. While separate homes, both units were accessible through a main corridors which had rooms of other functions off them, for example, admin and staff offices, a staff library and laundry facilities and household storage. There was a large activities room available also for both homes to use, which had equipment and technology for residents to enjoy.

Most residents did not communicate verbally, as as such were unable to provide feedback about the service or their understanding of aspects related to infection prevention and control. Therefore, inspectors spent some time observing care and support in each home to ascertain how staff supported residents.

There was a hand-washing sink in each of the resident bedrooms, along with soap, hand sanitizer and paper towels. Each bedroom had waste arrangements for general and incontinence wear waste. Each bedroom had its own laundry basket, however in the respite centre these were seen to be of cloth material which would hamper the staff's ability to clean them appropriately between residents.

There were a number of hand-sanitizer points located throughout each home and also around the neighbouring buildings. All hand soap and hand sanitizer dispensers were found to be clean, fully stocked and there were systems in place to ensure they were regularly replenished. In the respite home the hand-washing sink located in the kitchen area did not have a paper towel dispenser beside it. For this reason, staff did not use this sink and instead walked to the next available hand-washing sink in the communal room. The person in charge informed inspectors that this had been raised through the maintenance system for attention.

The provider employed a number of household staff, who reported to the facilities manager to carry our routine and enhanced cleaning of the designated centre. Household staff had appropriate training in safe cleaning practices, such as cleaning flows and the use of different chemicals for different situations. Colour-coded systems were in place to ensure mops, cloths and other items were segregated and used to only clean specific surface areas. There was appropriate equipment available for household staff to use to carry out their duties, for example, cleaning trolleys, signage and cleaning products. During the day of inspection, it was observed that household staff carried out their work in line with good practice, for example using the correct colour-coded equipment. The cleaning trolleys and equipment for cleaning were seen to be kept clutter-free and were clean and staff only transported the required equipment for the specific task.

From speaking with staff regarding the cleaning arrangements for after household staff finished their shift in the evenings, staff demonstrated a clear understanding of the products and equipment to be used for different scenarios. For example, outlining how they would clean and disinfect sensory equipment used by residents and which particular cleaning chemical would be used for different tasks involved.

Equipment used by residents such as wheelchairs, beds, hoists and shower trolleys were visibly clean and staff could outline the cleaning procedures for each equipment.

From reviewing documents and talking with staff in relation to laundry facilities there were arrangements for cleaning soiled cloths or linen along with a policy in place to guide safe practice. Alginate bags were available for soiled linen and placed into a designated coloured bag on the laundry trolley. However, there were some factors that had not been considered which would improve the laundry flow. For example, once the laundry trolley went to the laundry room in another part of the building, there was no appropriate basket to hold soiled laundry safely until its return.

The design and lay-out of the premises did not always support staff in fully promoting infection prevention practices. The laundry room was clean, well laid-out and designed to promote safe use and there were suitable facilities for washing and drying laundry. The provider had recently purchased new machines to replace ones in need of repair. There was a hand-washing sink next to the laundry facilities along with a chemical spill kit. While the laundry facilities and room were of a very good standard, it was located quite a distance from the childrens' respite home and required staff to bring laundry through a corridor of office environments to get to it. The provider had identified this as an issue themselves, and showed inspectors proposed floor plans that would include the creation of a new laundry room within the designated centre and reduce the distance.

Each bathroom in the designated centre had a hand-washing sink and supplies for hand-washing. Bathrooms were clean, had suitable ventilation and equipment for residents' use was clean. Staff could explain how different items were cleaned and disinfected and the frequency of this. Some items within the bathroom areas were in need of replacement, as due to frequent cleaning and water parts of wooden furnishing had become exposed, which would make it more difficult to properly clean. Similarly, as there was no shelf unit in one of the bathrooms, clean clothing for residents to use after bathing was placed on the lid of the dirty laundry trolley. While staff outlined that this trolley was always disinfected post use, the installation of a shelf or cabinet would reduce this risk further.

Overall, it was demonstrated through observation and discussions with staff that there were strong governance and oversight systems in place to lead and guide effective infection prevention and control practices in the designated centre. Staff working in both homes had very good knowledge and demonstrated practices that promoted infection prevention and control and policies and procedures were followed in practice. While the premises were clean and well maintained, there were some minor barriers to further reducing risk, which the provider had identified themselves and were working on plans to improve.

The following sections of the report will present the findings of the inspection with regard to the capacity and capability of the provider and the quality and safety of the service in respect of infection prevention and control.

Capacity and capability

The provider demonstrated through their written policies, procedures, management structure and systems that they had the capacity and capability to deliver safe infection prevention and control arrangements and protect residents from the risk of healthcare-associated infections. Some minor improvements were required in relation to the premises and facilities in the designated centre.

There were clear and robust governance structure and arrangements in place in the designated centre to identify accountability and responsibility for leading infection prevention and control practices and implementing the national standards, for example recent policy documents in relation to infection control had been reviewed and updated following the guidance documents issued by the Chief Inspector in relation to Infection prevention and control. The provider had incorporated an assessment and judgment framework in relation to Regulation 27 as part of their auditing and oversight and to further enhance the auditing and review systems already in place. Such as periodic infection prevention and control audits.

The provider had ensured that staff read and understood guiding policies and procedures in relation to infection prevention and control. For example, the policy on cleaning and decontaminating of medical equipment and the policy on cleaning nebuliser masks. The provider and person in charge had ensured staff read and signed policy documents but also that they understood and carried out the guidance in their work, through informal supervision. There was governance arrangements and escalation structures in place to ensure the provider was aware of any infection prevention and control issues within the designated centre. The provider's board had a sub-committee on quality and risk, and these monthly meetings had set agendas which included infection prevention and control and different staff and management audit, reviews and information was brought to the sub-committee through these channels to ensure there was effective oversight.

The provider had plans to recruit a clinical nurse specialist role with a focus on infection prevention and control, and when in post, this person would hold responsibility. Until then, the provider had nominated a designated person(s) to manage key areas of infection prevention and control within the service, to keep up with changing information or revised guidelines and to ensure that staff were appropriately educated and trained.

There were clear arrangements in place for management of infection prevention and control risks in the designated centre, and there were clear escalation and information pathways to ensure the provider was made aware if any identified risks could not be effectively managed by the staff team.

The provider and management team had implemented regular informal half-hour talks with staff in relation to key areas of regulation, inclusive of regulation 27 and infection prevention and control. This was in addition to a process of formal and informal supervision of staff, regular staff team meetings and staff training. Staff spoke of these talks positively and how it encouraged them to keep up to date with regulatory requirements and emerging information or guidance in relation to meeting regulations and standards in their designated centre.

Staff meetings, which were held regularly discussed feedback from recent audits in relation to infection prevention and control, to ensure staff were aware of any areas of good practice or areas of further improvement.

The provider had ensured there were an adequate and consistent number of staff employed to work in the designated centre in order to meet the requirements of good infection prevention and control practices. Staffing needs were identified and arranged through planned and actual staff rosters which demonstrated an effective number of staff on duty during the day and night-time to support residents and ensure safe practice to prevent infection. The staff team was made up of staff nurses, healthcare assistants and activity staff and there was clear role responsibilities set out by the provider.

The provider had out-of-hours and on-call arrangements in place, and staff were aware of who to contact after-hours in the event of a risk in relation to infection prevention and control. This was laid out in written plans and rosters for staff to easily know who to contact on a given day. Since the COVID-19 Pandemic, the provider had put arrangements in place to ensure a member of the senior nursing team and a member of the executive management team were on-site daily to support of guide staff in the event of an infection risk.

The provider had ensured the staff team had the competencies, training and support

to promote safe and effective infection prevention and control practices in the designated centre. Staff had access to online and face-to-face training in relation to infection prevention and control. For example, hand hygiene. There was good oversight of the training needs of the staff team through an online system, which ensured if staff were due refresher training this was arranged in a timely manner.

There were practices and procedures in place by the provider to ensure any staff returning from extended leave or working from home, or for new staff entering the centre had return to work induction and training to refresh their knowledge.

Household staff who worked in the designated centre had a minimum training requirement in cleaning and hygiene before working in the designated centre, and had access to ongoing training in relation to key areas, as overseen by the facilities manager.

Overall the provider ensured there were effective governance and management structures and systems in place, along with adequate resources, trained staff and clear lines of communication to promote best practice in relation to infection prevention and control, in order to protect residents from the risk of acquiring healthcare-associated infections.

Quality and safety

The provider demonstrated through their practices and care arrangements that they were implementing effective infection prevention and control arrangements in line with the required National Standards for infection prevention and control in community settings, with some minor improvements noted in relation to the premises.

Residents and their families were provided with information and were encouraged to be involved in decisions about their care in order to prevent, control and manage infection. Residents' wishes and consent were sought in relation to any specific testing for infection, or vaccination to prevent infection using language familiar to residents and in line with their communication needs. There was good communication with family representatives to keep them informed of any changing guidance or controls in relation to infection prevention and control, for example to inform them of visiting arrangements or if there were isolation requirements that would impact on residents' visitors or care arrangements.

Through observations, it was evident that residents were encouraged to use precautions to protect themselves from infection risks, however this was done in a respectful way. For example, residents who required hand on hand support when moving around the designated centre were encouraged to wash hands or use hand sanitizer following their support. Some residents were comfortable wearing face coverings while sitting closely with staff for certain tasks, and had chosen their own brightly coloured ones to wear.

It was observed that infection prevention and control was part of the routine delivery of care to protect people from preventable healthcare-associated infections in the designated centre. There was routine cleaning and enhanced cleaning of usable spaces and the environment. Staff had access to required personal protective equipment (PPE) which was single-use or had guidelines for multiply use products. The information and equipment available in the centre supported staff to adhere to standard precautions at all times, for example, evidence of good cough etiquette, hand hygiene and correct use of face masks. There were arrangements and equipment in place for the management of spillages and staff were aware of the guiding policy and its practical application for the decontamination of medical equipment, for example.

For a resident who had displayed a symptom of infection in the day prior to inspection, isolation guidelines and practices were swiftly implemented to prevent potential spread in the centre, this was facilitated through supporting a resident in an individual bedroom areas, with clear signage, appropriate PPE and procedures which were fit for purpose. Staff understood the requirement to move from standard precautions, to transmission-based precautions based on the potential route of infectious agents based on the indicators of infection for residents.

There was evidence of good record keeping in relation to residents' health and any associated risk of infection, colonisation or infection status as they were admitted, transferred or receiving care within the designated centre. For example, hospital passport documents.

Residents were afforded with a homely, clean and safe environment to live, or attend respite care within, that was minimising the risk of transmitting a healthcareassociated infection. However, some minor improvements to the premises were required to further minimise the risk. The lay-out and some of the facilities within the designated centre were impacting on practices within the centre.

For example, while there was a clinical nurse room in one home, it was located outside of the main living space, for this reason a smaller nurse's office was located in the main area of the home. The small space available as a nurse's office in one home of the centre was limited in space and storage, and resulted in clutter and items being stored on top of sharps bin containers.

In the respite home arrangements were not in place to store sharps waste off floor level, to prevent spillage and to ease cleaning. While these containers were not routinely in the designated centre, arrangements for this were required should children availing of respite require this waste container.

There was a fully equipped and well laid-out laundry room facility, located on one side of the designated centre, close to the adult home. This areas was well-designed and clean and had appropriate signage and hand-washing facilities available. There were facilities to sluice wash laundry if this was required, and clear policies and procedures for the management of laundry, including soiled linen. While facilities were appropriate, the provider themselves had identified the location of the laundry room was a far distance from the children's respite home, and required staff to bring the laundry trolley through a long corridor passing numerous staff offices and rooms of other functions. The provider had drawn up floor plans to demonstrate their plans to create a second laundry room located within the children's respite home. While staff were aware of how to safely managed soiled laundry, the arrangements for managing and storing soiled laundry in the absence of the laundry trolley had not been considered fully.

Some of the wooden fixtures within bathrooms areas was in need of replacement or repair, as due to increased cleaning and water usage wood had become exposed which would inhibit the ability to clean it effectively.

In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the provider had made the decision to no longer use shared bedrooms in the Children's' respite home. In the adults home there were two rooms that were identified as shared resident bedrooms. However, at the time of inspection all residents had their own individual bedroom available to them. The provider had also added a temporary isolation bedroom close to the home during the COVID-19 Pandemic. At the time of the inspection this room being used as permanent bedroom for resident who demonstrated they preferred this to their shared room. The provider was working on plans to facilitate this request on a more permanent basis within the designated centre. The availability of individual bedrooms for residents was ensuring effective isolation facilities, if required for an infection outbreak and to lower the risk of transmission of infections as well as offering residents' further privacy.

Equipment in the designated centre was decontaminated and well maintained to minimise the risk of transmitting a healthcare-associated infection. Shared equipment such as shower trolleys and accessible baths had specific cleaning regimes in place for the to be cleaned and disinfected between use.

There was appropriate guidance on the use of and disposal of "single-use" equipment. For equipment that could be used more than once, it was assigned for single-resident use and was decontaminated before being used by a different resident. For example, movable beds that were used by different respite residents, however one was assigned to a resident for the duration of their stay, had clean linen and was properly cleaned and disinfected before use by the next person.

Responsibilities in relation to cleaning and decontaminating was set out clearly in the designated centre. For example, household staff held responsibility for certain specific tasks such as deep-cleaning a respite bedroom after use, and staff had responsibilities for the frequent cleaning of equipment and facilities in use by residents on a regular basis.

In the previous eight years, there had been two notified outbreaks of healthcareassociated infections in the designated centre. It was evident that instances of potential and actual infection risks were quickly identified through the provider's reporting structures, and control measures put in place to reduce risk of transmission. Any incident had been appropriately recorded, reported and reviewed post incident to gain learning and adapt risk control measures. As seen on inspection, any indicator of potential infection for residents was quickly reported by staff and escalated and managed appropriately. A nominated person was available in the designated centre to liaise and seek advice from Public Health, where appropriate and there was evidence of clear communication with residents and their families during times of infection to keep people aware of the situation and current advise, but also to continue to support connections with residents family and friends.

The provider had policies and procedures in place for the contingencies in the event of a suspected or confirmed outbreak in the designated centre, which were developed through a risk management framework. These risks and control measures were consistently reviewed and discussed, at meeting held three times a week with identified staff, which was increased to daily meetings during active outbreaks.

The provider had effective contingency measures in place to follow if an outbreak occurred, the provider had plans in place to control an outbreak and limit the spread of infection, while continuing to provide care and support for residents living in the designated centre in line with their documented plans and in a person-centred manner.

Regulation 27: Protection against infection

Overall, the provider, person in charge and staff team demonstrated good practice in relation to infection prevention and control, and were found to be substantially compliant with regulation 27 infection control, and the National Standards.

There were strong governance structures and management arrangements to ensure infection prevention and control was consistently reviewed, monitored and improved upon. Staff demonstrated an excellent knowledge of best practice in infection prevention and control in the context of their daily roles. The provider had hired competent staff who had access to appropriate training in relation to infection prevention and control and there were escalation pathways in place to raise concerns or risks and to ensure during out-of-hours staff had appropriate support.

Where there had been suspected or confirmed instances of infection within the designated centre, these had been well managed, reported and learned from. The provider had implemented a risk management process for identifying potential risks and had contingency plans in place to manage any infection risks. There were structures in place to consistently review and monitor these risks and adapt control measures in response to changing circumstances or information.

Overall the provider demonstrated that they were protecting residents from the risk of infection, through their governance and management structure and the care arrangements being delivered with the designated centre. This inspection found evidence of good practice, but also identified a number of minor areas for improvement. These are as follows:

- The arrangements for managing and storing soiled laundry at times when the designated trolley was absent had not been considered.

- There were cloth laundry baskets in place in the respite home, which could not be effectively cleaned between use.

- Wooden fixtures within bathroom areas required repair or replacement to ensure effective cleaning of all surfaces.

- The facilities were not in place to store sharps bins off floor level in one home of the designated centre.

- Storage issues resulted in items being stored on top of sharps bins in one home of the designated centre and large pieces of resident equipment being stored in corridor areas.

- A handwashing sink in one area of a home required hand-drying facilities.

Judgment: Substantially compliant

Appendix 1 - Full list of regulations considered under each dimension

This inspection was carried out to assess compliance with the Health Act 2007 (as amended), the Health Act 2007 (Care and Support of Residents in Designated Centres for Persons (Children and Adults) with Disabilities) Regulations 2013, and the Health Act 2007 (Registration of Designated Centres for Persons (Children and Adults) with Disabilities) Regulations 2013 (as amended) and the regulations considered on this inspection were:

Regulation Title	Judgment
Capacity and capability	
Quality and safety	
Regulation 27: Protection against infection	Substantially compliant

Compliance Plan for The Children's Sunshine Home (operating as LauraLynn Children's Hospice) OSV-0003282

Inspection ID: MON-0035567

Date of inspection: 24/01/2022

Introduction and instruction

This document sets out the regulations where it has been assessed that the provider or person in charge are not compliant with the Health Act 2007 (Care and Support of Residents in Designated Centres for Persons (Children and Adults) with Disabilities) Regulations 2013, Health Act 2007 (Registration of Designated Centres for Persons (Children and Adults with Disabilities) Regulations 2013 and the National Standards for Residential Services for Children and Adults with Disabilities.

This document is divided into two sections:

Section 1 is the compliance plan. It outlines which regulations the provider or person in charge must take action on to comply. In this section the provider or person in charge must consider the overall regulation when responding and not just the individual non compliances as listed section 2.

Section 2 is the list of all regulations where it has been assessed the provider or person in charge is not compliant. Each regulation is risk assessed as to the impact of the non-compliance on the safety, health and welfare of residents using the service.

A finding of:

- Substantially compliant A judgment of substantially compliant means that the provider or person in charge has generally met the requirements of the regulation but some action is required to be fully compliant. This finding will have a risk rating of yellow which is low risk.
- Not compliant A judgment of not compliant means the provider or person in charge has not complied with a regulation and considerable action is required to come into compliance. Continued non-compliance or where the non-compliance poses a significant risk to the safety, health and welfare of residents using the service will be risk rated red (high risk) and the inspector have identified the date by which the provider must comply. Where the noncompliance does not pose a risk to the safety, health and welfare of residents using the service it is risk rated orange (moderate risk) and the provider must take action *within a reasonable timeframe* to come into compliance.

Section 1

The provider and or the person in charge is required to set out what action they have taken or intend to take to comply with the regulation in order to bring the centre back into compliance. The plan should be **SMART** in nature. **S**pecific to that regulation, **M**easurable so that they can monitor progress, **A**chievable and **R**ealistic, and **T**ime bound. The response must consider the details and risk rating of each regulation set out in section 2 when making the response. It is the provider's responsibility to ensure they implement the actions within the timeframe.

Compliance plan provider's response:

Degulation Handing	Tudencent				
Regulation Heading	Judgment				
Regulation 27: Protection against infection	Substantially Compliant				
Outline how you are going to come into compliance with Regulation 27: Protection against infection:					
A Quality Improvement Action Plan was developed and implemented post Inspection, arrangements for regular review and monitoring of plan in place.					
 Storage CNM 2 & Facilities Manager to lead on review of storage requirements and options for improved management Review all active store spaces Audit existing Clinical Equipment Identify storage requirements Add hooks on walls for storage of floor mats Additional Wardrobe space. Complete office moves in one house to maximise suitable storage Review storage of sharps boxes in children's respite nurses office Timeline - 30/04/2022 Laundry storage and storage space included in building plans for children's respite house, works to be scheduled in Quarter 3 2022 					
 Laundry Management Refurbishment of children's respite house includes provision for new laundry room, works scheduled for Quarter 3 2022. Timeline 31/12/2022 Draft up process around management of laundry to include management and transportation of soiled laundry. Timeline 30/04/2022 					

c. Dispose of existing laundry baskets in children's respite house and purchase plastic washable ones. Completed on 25/02/2022

3. Hand Drying Facility beside hand wash sink in kitchen area in children respite house is on the works schedule list with facilities, interim arrangement staff use hand wash sink in same room but different location.

Timeline 30/04/2022

4. General maintenance A schedule for general maintenance and painting is in place to include all wooden fixtures

Timeline 30/04/2022

Section 2:

Regulations to be complied with

The provider or person in charge must consider the details and risk rating of the following regulations when completing the compliance plan in section 1. Where a regulation has been risk rated red (high risk) the inspector has set out the date by which the provider or person in charge must comply. Where a regulation has been risk rated yellow (low risk) or orange (moderate risk) the provider must include a date (DD Month YY) of when they will be compliant.

The registered provider or person in charge has failed to comply with the following regulation(s).

Regulation	Regulatory requirement	Judgment	Risk rating	Date to be complied with
Regulation 27	The registered provider shall ensure that residents who may be at risk of a healthcare associated infection are protected by adopting procedures consistent with the standards for the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections published by the Authority.	Substantially Compliant	Yellow	31/12/2022