

Mental Health Commission

Focused Inspection Report – 24-Hour Nurse Staffed Community Residences

COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE ORGANISATION:	CHO 2
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE:	Galway/Roscommon
RESIDENCE:	Woodview, Merlin Park University Hospital
TOTAL NUMBER OF BEDS:	22
TOTAL NUMBER OF RESIDENTS:	22
TEAM RESPONSIBLE:	Rehabilitation
TYPE OF INSPECTION:	Announced Focused Inspection
DATE OF INSPECTION:	29 January 2016
INSPECTED BY:	Dr Fionnuala O'Loughlin MCN 008108 Dr Enda Dooley MCN 004155
ACTING INSPECTOR OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES:	Dr Susan Finnerty MCN 009711

Scope and purpose of inspection

This announced inspection of Woodview was carried out to gain an overview of the community residence and to ascertain whether the residence was operating as a centre, as defined in the Mental Health Act 2001.

Findings

Woodview, a 22-bed community residence on the outskirts of Galway city, provided care and treatment to residents under the care of a consultant psychiatrist in the rehabilitation team. Seventeen residents did not attend any therapeutic services outside of the unit. Group activities were facilitated by members of the rehabilitation team within the residence.

At the time of inspection, two patients from the Department of Psychiatry, University College Hospital Galway were on approved leave in the residence and both had been on leave for a period in excess of eighteen months. The current approved leave forms in relation to both patients stated the expiry date of the approved leave. However, the period of approved leave for periods between April 2014 and November 2015 was not specified in five of the approved leave forms relating to one of these patients, as is required in Section 26 Mental Health Act 2001. The Inspectorate wishes to raise a concern about the extended use of Section 26 approved leave in relation to the two patients in Woodview.

On inspection of the community residence against the criteria for operation as a centre, the inspection team considered that it met the requirements of a centre, as defined in the Mental Health Act 2001.

Description

Woodview, formerly known as Unit 9A, Merlin Park, was a 22-bed community residence, situated on the campus of Merlin Park University Hospital on the outskirts of Galway city. The unit had previously been an approved centre and was removed from the Register of Approved Centres in 2010.

Profile of residents

There were 22 residents in the unit at the time of the inspection, one of whom was on overnight leave. Two of the residents were detained patients on approved leave from the Department of Psychiatry, University College Hospital Galway (UCHG).

Eight of the residents were female and the age range was from 49 to 76 years; most of the residents had been in long-term residential care of the mental health services. Six residents required assistance with bathing and showering.

The definition of a “centre” is set out in Section 62 of the Mental Health Act 2001 as follows:

“..hospital or other in-patient facility for the care and treatment of person suffering from mental illness of mental disorder.”

A. Is the facility a hospital or other in-patient facility?

Facilities:

Residents were accommodated in the unit, which was one of a number of stand-alone units of Merlin Park University Hospital. Three of the bedrooms were shared, with two beds in each; these rooms did not have a curtain for privacy between the beds. The remainder of the residents were accommodated in single bedrooms (x 16). The bedrooms and bathrooms/shower rooms upstairs had recently been refurbished and painted. Rooms were good-sized and many were personalised.

There were two sitting rooms and a large, pleasant dining room.

The art room was not functioning as such and was used as a storage room. The therapy kitchen was in use as an occupational therapy kitchen for cooking sessions and personal laundry for residents but it also doubled up as an office for the principal social worker, senior occupational therapist and as a space for the multi disciplinary team (MDT).

Medical facilities on the hospital campus, including X-Ray, dietician and physiotherapy, were accessible to residents on referral from medical and surgical specialists.

The Rehabilitation & Recovery Service MDT was based in Woodview and team members were variously available within the unit to support the residence-based staff.

Staffing:

At the time of inspection, the unit was staffed with three registered psychiatric nurses (RPN) by day. At night, staffing comprised one RPN and one clinical nurse manager (CNM). An assistant director of nursing had overall responsibility for the residence.

Provision of food and nutrition:

Meals were prepared in the main Merlin Park University Hospital kitchen and transported to Woodview in heated trollies. A choice of meal was offered to residents.

There was no facility for residents to prepare and cook their own meals, or engage in purchasing food for preparation of meals.

Documentation and records:

Daily progress notes were maintained by nursing staff on documentation entitled *Galway University Hospital Clinical Notes*. Medications were prescribed on, and administration recorded on, Department of Psychiatry Medication Prescription Administration Records (MPAR).

Conclusion: The inspection team concluded that the residence met the criteria for an ‘in-patient’ facility.

B. Does the facility provide care and treatment to a person with a mental illness or a mental disorder?

Level of assistance and care provided:

All residents were under the care of the rehabilitation team. Residents were reviewed by the rehabilitation team weekly, if indicated by their clinical condition, or three-monthly, at a minimum.

Medication:

Medication was prescribed on Department of Psychiatry, University College Hospital Galway drug charts and supplied by a local pharmacy, on a named patient basis. None of the residents were on a self-medicating programme. When a resident went on leave, a "responsible" adult was given a prescription to fill for the medication required for that resident.

Care planning:

The rehabilitation team met weekly and residents' individual care plans (ICPs) were reviewed by the rehabilitation team approximately every three months. The keyworker/co-keyworker reviewed the recovery care plan with the resident every two weeks.

Therapeutic programmes and services:

Three to four residents attended a day centre located within the grounds of Merlin Park University Hospital on two/three days each week. In addition, one resident attended the Training Centre, also located on the grounds of the hospital, for five days each week.

For the remaining residents, therapies consisted of weekly newspaper and music groups; the newspaper group was facilitated by the occupational therapist and social worker.

Conclusion: The inspection team concluded that, based on the description of treatment provided, care and treatment were provided to persons with a mental disorder or mental illness.

C. Is the care and treatment provided under the clinical direction of a consultant psychiatrist?

Residents were under the care and treatment of the rehabilitation team, comprising a consultant psychiatrist, non-consultant hospital doctor, social worker and occupational therapist.

Conclusion: Care and treatment was provided under the clinical direction of a consultant psychiatrist.

D. Is the primary nature of the service to provide care and treatment to a person(s) suffering from a mental illness or a mental disorder within the meaning of the 2001 Act?

Primary nature of service:

The purpose of Woodview, as indicated by staff, was to provide care and treatment for residents with long- term mental illness who could not manage independent living. Residents in Woodview were described by the treating team as experiencing severe and enduring mental illness, whose needs could not be adequately met if they were not living in Woodview. The rehabilitation and recovery team assumed care of the residents in Woodview in May 2015. In the period between that time and the day of inspection, two residents had been discharged to supported housing.

Conclusion: The inspection team concluded that the primary nature of the service in Woodview was to provide care and treatment to persons with a mental illness or disorder.

A. Section 26 leave: Overview

There were two patients in Woodview on approved leave at the time of the inspection.

Between 22 October 2015 and 14 December 2015, a third patient on approved leave was also accommodated in Woodview.

Patient 1: This patient had been on approved leave from the Department of Psychiatry, University College Hospital Galway (DOP, UCHG) for more than three years. The most recent leave form was completed on 6 November 2015 for a period up to 1 November 2016.

A condition of this leave was that the patient was permitted to leave the residence, only if accompanied by staff or family members. When the responsible consultant was asked if this patient was free to leave the unit on their own if they wished, the inspection team was advised that the patient was not free to leave.

Patient 2: This patient had been on approved leave from the DOP, UCHG since 11 April 2014. The most recent leave form was signed on 22 December 2015. Between 11 April 2014 and 22 December 2015, no expiry date of the approved leave was specified on the approved leave forms.

The conditions of leave dated 22 December 2015 curtailed the resident's freedom to move about freely and permitted absence from the residence for periods of up to four hours only, daily.

Patient 3: A third patient had been discharged from the DOP, UCHG to Woodview on 26 October 2015, on approved leave. The leave form did not specify any restrictions on leave from Woodview. The admission order was revoked by the consultant psychiatrist on 14 December 2015.

B. Approved Leave Documentation

The Conditions of Leave from the Approved Centre forms specified that Patients 1 and 2 reside in Woodview. The Conditions of Leave from the Approved Centre form for patient 3 did not specify an address, but indicated that the patient was to be transferred to "Unit 9A Merlin Park".

The period of absence from the approved centre was not specified in six of the Conditions of Leave forms, inspected by the inspection team.