

Berkshire Coroners' Office  
Reading Town Hall  
Blagrove Street  
Reading  
RG1 1QH

30/01/2023

**Care Quality Commission**

Dear Ms Goldring

**Prevention of future death report following inquest into the death of Mr Frederick King.**

Thank you for sending CQC a copy of the prevention of future death report issued following the death of Mr Frederick King.

Further to your report referenced above, we are writing to you with our response to the issues raised.

At the time of Mr King's death, Birchwood Care Home had a rating of good in the safe, effective, caring and responsive domains and requires improvement in the well led domain. Please see the link to the comprehensive inspection report published in June 2021:

<https://api.cqc.org.uk/public/v1/reports/431a2180-a602-4f75-bf39-52921ff46e19?20211030120000>

In April 2022, prior to the conclusion of Mr Frederick King's inquest, CQC conducted a further, focused inspection in response to concerns. Following this Birchwood Care Home was rated requires improvement in safe and inadequate in well led. Please see the following link to the report published 21 April 2022:

<https://api.cqc.org.uk/public/v1/reports/a2c76cb6-d280-414d-9c43-5ef34e6489db?20220426120000>

During a follow up inspection conducted in July 2022, CQC rated Birchwood Care Home requires improvement in all domains. Please see the link to the report published 25 August 2022:

<https://api.cqc.org.uk/public/v1/reports/f95599f7-bc7e-4609-97f2-e5129b59e250?20220825120000>

In your report you stated the following matters of concern:

- Mr King did not receive adequate fluids in the days prior to his death and on 10 days during August and September during a period of very high temperatures
- There was inadequate record keeping at Birchwood Care Home with regards to Mr King's fluid intake and output and whether pads were wet or dry.
- There was no manager on the ground of the care home in the 3 days prior to Mr King's death.

We sent an urgent letter to the provider West Berkshire Council to confirm CQC had received the regulation 28 report and asked them to set out in writing evidence of the actions they had taken to date following this death and any additional action they intended to take in response to the prevention of future death report. We received a detailed response from the provider. We are satisfied the provider has taken sufficient action according to section 6 of the regulation 28 report to mitigate risks to people and prevent future deaths.

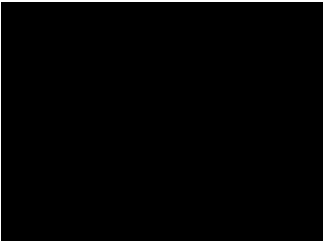
We are keeping the service under review and will be returning for a follow up comprehensive inspection to assess their progress by 25 August 2023. When services are rated requires improvement CQC requests an action plan from the provider to understand what they will do to improve the standards of quality and safety. We work alongside the provider and local authority to monitor progress and we continue to monitor information we receive about the service, which will help inform when we next inspect. At the next inspection of Birchwood Care Home the inspection team will assess whether the provider is meeting legal requirements under the regulations of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014 as well as the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2010 ('Regulated Activities Regulations 2010') and the Care Quality CQC (Registration) Regulations 2009 ('the Regulations') which set out the essential standards of quality and safety that service users have a right to expect.

In addition, we will consider the circumstances which led to the death of Mr Frederick King in accordance with our Enforcement Policy to determine whether we need to pursue criminal or civil enforcement action. Our civil enforcement powers include;

- Issuing a warning notice;
- Impose, vary, restrict or remove a condition from the provider's registration;
- Suspend registration; or
- Cancel registration.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us on the above number.

Yours Sincerely



Deputy Director Operations  
ASC South Central