

Freedom of Information request reference number: 8927.1

Date of response: 08 August 2024

Request:

Groveland Park, 43 Stephen Rd, Bexleyheath DA7 6EF

Please can we have the full report following an inspection at the above address in June? The job number relevant to the inspection was 2427372 And the file number is 93/186040.

Response:

Please find attached copy of the fire safety audit report for the inspection that took place at Groveland Park Care Home on 26 June 2024.

The result of the audit confirmed no significant failure to comply with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (RRO) were found and the premises was deemed broadly compliant. This means that no enforcement action (informal or formal) was required as a result and no notices were issued.

Personal data has been removed from the attached documents under [section 40 of the FOIA – Personal Information](#).

We have dealt with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. For more information about this process please see the guidance we publish about making a request [on our website](#).



Fire Safety Audit Report

Audit Information

Audited By [REDACTED]
Audit Completed 26 June 2024

Location summary

File No 93/186040
UPRN 10023305355
Building Name
Address GROVELAND PARK CARE HOME
 43 STEPHEN ROAD
 BEXLEYHEATH
 DA7 6EF
Borough Bexley
Use B - Care Homes
Responsible Team FSD SOUTH-LEW-GREEN-BEX
Station Ground E28 - Bexley
Site Risk Score 9.00
Total Floors 3 **Basement floors** 0
Estimated number of sleeping 55
Special Features

Additional detail

The premises is staffed 24 hours a day.
 The premises has a laundry and kitchen rooms onsite.
 Main fire doors in the premises that form part of the phased horizontal evacuation and rooms of high risk are all on electronic closers that close when the alarm actuates.
 CQC MR1 registered care home

Premises Description

The property is a Residential Care home offering residential, respite care, nursing care and dementia care. Construction is of Brick construction, pitched tiled roof area, built in 2011. The premises has three staircases and two passenger lifts.
 Facilities comprise, floor lounges, dining rooms, commercial kitchen, managers office, All floors have a nurse station area. There is a hair salon, laundry room. There is a large garden that leads to ultimate safety, adequate lighting, a designated smoking area. There is a lower ground level which houses plant/boiler room laundry room and main kitchen. The premises has L1 fire detection fitted throughout. The roof void benefits from fire compartmentation and interlinked smoke detection and warning. The premises has 51 residents currently but can have up to 55. The premises consist of lower ground, ground floor and 1st floor with main entrance at ground level to the front by the car park to the premises.
 The site has adequate access for fire service vehicles and hydrants are provided outside of the premises in the road.

Exterior Wall Cladding	N/A
Exterior Wall Insulation	N/A
Cladding/Insulation details confirmed by NOT CONFIRMED	
Environmental Risks	NONE
Features assisting fire spread	NONE
Site Reinspection date	8 July 2027
Heritage Building	No
Balconies present?	Unknown
Gas Supply present?	Unknown
Petroleum redevelopment?	No
Known firesetting in area?	No
Site lone worker risk	0

Property Detail (OCCUPIER PROPERTY)

Occupier Contact	Groveland Park Care Home
Address	GROVELAND PARK CARE HOME 43 STEPHEN ROAD BEXLEYHEATH DA7 6EF
Responsible team	FSD SOUTH-LEW-GREEN-BEX
Occupancy Type	Sole Occupier
Property Use	B - Care Homes
Valuation Office	MR1 - CQC Registered Care Home
Original Risk Score	5.00
Reinspection Date	8 July 2027
Last Inspection	21 June 2024
Total Capacity	0
Maximum number of people	<u>20-100</u>
Property Size for use	Large 1501m ² to 2500m ²
Environmental Risks	NONE
Occupant Mobility	Average
Fire Loading	Average
Additional detail	

Specific lone worker risk

Primary Authority Partnership	N/A
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Protection Data

Fire Protection & Warning	Adequate
Unwanted fire signals count	0
AFD remote monitoring	No
Smoke ventilation	Natural

Covers MOE/Common areas?	Yes
Sprinklers Installed?	No
Access for fire-fighting	Average
Water supplies	Average
Special Features	
# Fire fighting shafts	0
Engineered solution?	No
Trade off measures?	No
Evacuation type	Progressive Horizontal Evacuation
History of fires?	<u>YES</u>

Contacts

Occupier - CHANGED

Name Groveland Park Care Home
Person [REDACTED]
Position General Manager
Address Groveland Park Care Home
 43 Stephen Road
 Bexleyheath
 DA7 6EF
Telephone [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]@grovelandpark.co.uk

Owner/Co-Owner

Name Groveland Park
Person [REDACTED]
Position Head of operations
Address Groveland Park Care Home
 43 Stephen Road
 Bexley
 DA7 6EF
Telephone [REDACTED]
Mobile [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]@grovelandpark.co.uk

Other relevant contact

Name Groveland Park
Person [REDACTED]
Position Maintenance team
Address Groveland Park Care Home
 43 Stephen Road
 Bexley
 DA7 6EF
Telephone [REDACTED]

Enforcement history

Articles

Article 9 - Risk assessment

SAFETY CRITICAL
Safety Evaluation
 Broadly Compliant

Observations

At the time of the audit there was evidence that the fire risk assessment was

Article 9
(continued)

suitable and sufficient for the premises. The fire risk assessment was completed in may 2024. This document was clear and in date and is subject to a new fire risk assessment being completed every year.

A clear and suitable emergency plan is in place and evidenced by fire safety notices and adopts the emergency strategy in place.

The majority of significant finding shad already been actioned, which included:

- Completing a compartmentation survey within the attic
- Missing strips and seal found on fire doors to be replaced, as well as tending to fire doors which were grounding
- Recording fire drills for the premises
- Reviewing the fire resistance of the fine dining room and one bedroom located on a protected corridor which will be remedied in an upcoming refurbishment, with interim measures being implemented in the meantime

Article 11 - Fire Safety Arrangements**SAFETY CRITICAL**
Safety Evaluation
Broadly Compliant

Verbal Advice Given

Observations

There is a proactive attitude to fire safety which is evident in the correct maintenance works carried out and use of signs to residents in how to protect themselves and be safe in the event of a fire. There is a system in place to report fire safety issues and deficiencies and ensure remedial works are implemented in a timely manner by a competent person. Some of the significant findings of the fire risk assessment have been either addressed or are in the process of being addressed.

This audit occurred due to a fire within the kitchen. There was no smoke damage and no injuries. Staff managed to extinguish the fire via fire blankets and evacuated the area following the event in a reasonable time frame and called the fire brigade to follow correct processes. The situation was managed effectively and no concerns were raised with the way in which the home acted during the incident.

Verbal advice was given to remove excessive combustibles within storage rooms which housed electrical fuse boards. Although storage space is at a premium in the premises, this will be reviewed and storage will be relocated where necessary.

Article 13 - Detection and warning**SAFETY CRITICAL**
Safety Evaluation
Broadly Compliant**Observations**

At the time of my audit there are smoke detectors located in the premises and in every cupboard and all rooms this system is linked to a fire alarm panel in the main entrance lobby. The system is an LD1 alarm system in place and is suitable and sufficient for the type of premises and the risks associated with it. The evacuation strategy of the premises is phased horizontal evacuation. Each zone is highlighted and has no more than 10 bedrooms per zone to make this strategy work. This is across five zones in the care home. All staff are aware and have training to make this strategy work.

Article 14 - Emergency routes and exits

**SAFETY CRITICAL
Safety Evaluation**
Broadly Compliant

Verbal Advice Given

Observations

At the time of the audit, all fire exits and emergency escape routes and lobby areas were clear. This will allow all Relevant Persons the ability to escape quickly and safely in event of a fire. There are final exit doors located throughout the premises and three stairwells, the fire exit doors and escape routes are of sufficient and adequate widths for the number of people who may be required to use them. The fire exit doors on escape route opens in the correct direction for the number of people using the premises. The designated emergency escape route leads to an ultimate place of safety and all relevant persons are aware of the route.

Verbal advice was given to review furniture located on the means of escape on the first floor as this was picked up in the FRA. Although this does not impede the means of escape, a review will be undertaken as to whether to replace two chairs with a bench which takes up less room

Article 15 - Procedures for serious and imminent danger and for danger areas

**SAFETY CRITICAL
Safety Evaluation**
Broadly Compliant

Verbal Advice Given

Observations

At the time of the audit, there are appropriate procedures in place for evacuation in case of fire. The system in place is designed so that any incident is managed and to ensure the safe evacuation of all relevant persons. It is evidenced within the Fire risk assessment that records are available to reflect the application of the emergency plan in place for the premises which is phased progressive horizontal evacuation. The fire alarm system is an LD1 system and all linked to the fire alarm panel in the main lobby. There is a zonal map located here showing each compartment for the evacuation strategy. There is also a grab pack located at reception which a manager will hand over to the Brigade officer in charge at the time of an incident which included PEEPS of all residents and is colour coded based on dependency and mobility.

Fire drills are conducted regularly, given the occupancy type, a walkthrough with staff is in place as opposed to a full evacuation procedure with residents.

Due to lower levels of staffing at night, an emergency contingency plan is in place for off site staff to attend the premises if ever called to assist with evacuation wherever necessary.

Verbal advice included ensuring a system is in place for all staff to be included within fire drill walk throughs to ensure all staff have relevant training in this area.

Verbal advice was also given to install an assembly point sign at the front of the premises where the intended assembly point is located.

Article 17 - Maintenance

**SAFETY CRITICAL
Safety Evaluation**
Broadly Compliant

Observations

At the time of the audit the final exit door, Fire doors and maintenance of such was in place in the premises. It was found that these are checked regularly and that provisions have been made and considered.

Fire alarm serviced April 2024 on an annual maintenance schedule

Emergency lighting serviced June 2024 on an annual maintenance schedule

Fire extinguishers serviced march 2024 on an annual maintenance schedule

PAT testing completed in may 2024

Gas safety is not due until November 2024

TR19 cleaning has only recently been undertaken therefore a certificate was not able to be produced however a visual inspection showed grills to be of a good standard and cert. will be produced once received internally.

Article 21 - Training

**SAFETY CRITICAL
Safety Evaluation**
Broadly Compliant

Observations

At the time of the audit there is evidence that suitable and sufficient training and instruction has been provided for all employees on the appropriate precautions and actions to be taken in order to safeguard themselves and other Relevant Persons. Training is completed on induction and then reviewed annually.

All training records are held on site and centrally.

Article 8 - General fire precautions

Safety Evaluation
Broadly Compliant

Observations

At the time of the audit, there were no visible compartmentation breaches seen when walking the premises. fire risk assessment advised a compartmentation survey within the attic to assess whether there was any fire separation/barriers above the corridor doors which split the sleeping compartments up. I visually inspected two loft hatches and could not determine any issues however a survey is planned to be organised and rectified if any deficiencies are found to be present.

Article 10 - Principles of prevention to be applied

Safety Evaluation
Broadly Compliant

Observations

At the time of the audit, there was evidence of appropriate instructions to relevant persons, in the preventative measures for fire safety.

All relevant persons are instructed of the need for avoiding risk, the prevention of a risk and the evaluation of an existing risk in order to safeguard themselves and other relevant persons.

Article 12 - Elimination or reduction of risks from dangerous substances

Safety Evaluation

Broadly Compliant

Observations

At the time of the audit, the use of emollient creams is present within the premises however there are currently no residents who smoke within the premises, and clothing and laundry is changed daily to help negate this risk.

Article 13 - Fire Fighting Equipment

Safety Evaluation

Broadly Compliant

Verbal Advice Given

Observations

There are fire extinguishers located around the premises all of which are correctly identified and located. These are maintained regularly and are subject to annually being reviewed by a competent person.

Verbal advice was given to replace one fire extinguisher sign within the plant room which was missing its signage. It was confirmed that a check for spare signage in the home would be done, if not, a new sign would be ordered in due course.

Article 16 - Measures for dealing with dangerous substances affecting general fire precautions

Safety Evaluation

Not Applicable

Observations

n/a

Article 18 - Safety assistance

Safety Evaluation

Broadly Compliant

Observations

At the time of the audit evidence was provided that a competent person had been appointed to carry out the fire risk assessment for the premises. The care home only hire contractually competent persons with the sufficient training, knowledge, and experience and they will be given the sufficient time and means to carry out their function in order to undertake any preventative and protective measures required for the premises.

Article 19 - Provision of information to employees

Safety Evaluation

Broadly Compliant

Observations

The fire risk assessment not only identifies the risks to them but also the preventative and protective measures in place, which are required in order to ensure the safety of themselves and other relevant persons.

Article 19
(continued)

PEEPS is in place and reviewed every month. This information is also available on the grab pack given to crews on arrival. There are also risk assessments in place for the residents in the home that use Paraffin based Emollient creams. Staff are all trained in the safety and use of this item and the regulations of changing sheets and clothing and the use of fire resisting furniture.

Article 20 - Provision of information to employers and the self employed from outside undertakings**Safety Evaluation**
Broadly Compliant**Observations**

All contractors are to be informed of their responsibilities and action to take in the event of a fire related incident. The information given to outside employees are written and verbal instruction.

Article 22 - Co-operation and co-ordination**Safety Evaluation**
Not Applicable**Observations**

n/a

Article 23 - General duties of employees at work**Safety Evaluation**
Broadly Compliant**Observations**

There is policy and procedure to adhere to in reporting all issues to the site team and a procedure to ensure that any identified issues are followed up and resolved.

Article 37 - Fire fighters switches for luminous tube signs**Safety Evaluation**
Not Applicable**Observations**

n/a

Article 38 - Maintenance of measures provided for protection of fire fighters**Safety Evaluation**
Broadly Compliant**Observations**

A grab pack with zonal plans, floor plans and high risk identified areas as well as keys and information is available and will be given to local crews on arrival to an emergency situation. The information in the bag is reviewed and updated regularly.

Article 24 - Power to make regulations**Safety Evaluation**
Not Applicable**Observations**

None

Article 27 - Powers of inspectors

Safety Evaluation	Observations
Not Applicable	None

Article 29 - Current alterations notices

Safety Evaluation	Observations
Not Applicable	None

Article 30 - Current enforcement notices

Safety Evaluation	Observations
Not Applicable	None

Article 31 - Current prohibition notices

Safety Evaluation	Observations
Not Applicable	None

Article 32 - Offences

Safety Evaluation	Observations
Not Applicable	None

Overall safety standard

Broadly Compliant

Management compliance level

Management Compliance Level	1 - Well above average
Initial Expectation	Verbal action
Considered EMM?	Yes
Confirmed Action	Verbal action

Audit Conclusion

Date audit carried out

25:06:2024

Time of audit

10:00

Reason for audit;

post fire FS01

Conclusion

The systems I used in order to carry out my pre audit research are as follows:

- Farynor
- E-FSS Portal
- Imapping
- IMS
- Companies House
- Google Maps

It was agreed before entering that it was going to be an extensive audit, looking at the means of escape, compartmentation and any other general fire safety arrangements which were present throughout the premise.

The audit was split into three sections, at the beginning of the audit I went through relevant documentation in regards to the inspection. The latest FRA was able to be produced, and it appeared that there were some significant findings present which the RP had actioned and completed. Along with this, documentation in regards to fire alarm maintenance, firefighting equipment servicing, staff training, and emergency lighting maintenance were produced. Whilst looking at the documents, it was clear that all servicing records were in date. Regular in house safety checks were also presented, highlighting that there was some effective management in place.

As the inspection progressed, it was clear that fire safety was acted upon, with emergency lighting present, as well as measures such as directional exit signage at final exits. The escape routes were kept clear without obstruction. There is also a grab pack located at reception which a manager will hand over to the Brigade officer in charge at the time of an incident which included PEEPS of all residents and is colour coded based on dependency and mobility.

There were some areas which verbal advice was necessary throughout the inspection, this included:

- remove excessive combustibles within storage rooms which housed electrical fuse boards.

Although storage space is at a premium in the premises, this will be reviewed and storage will be relocated where necessary.

- review furniture located on the means of escape on the first floor as this was picked up in the FRA. Although this does not impede the means of escape, a review will be undertaken as to whether to replace two chairs with a bench which takes up less room

- install an assembly point sign at the front of the premises where the intended assembly point is located.
- ensuring a system is in place for all staff to be included within fire drill walk throughs to ensure all staff have relevant training in this area.
- replace one fire extinguisher sign within the plant room which was missing its signage. It was confirmed that a check for spare signage in the home would be done, if not, a new sign would be ordered in due course.

All areas of the premises was inspected, the means of escape at both the front and rear of premises was clear and unobstructed. Firefighting equipment was also suitable and sufficient along with a fire alarm system which was suitable for the size and type of premises inspected. There was also a suitable progressive horizontal evacuation strategy in place for the premises.

After the inspection took place, a debrief with manager [REDACTED] took place in the presence of colleagues [REDACTED] highlighting the positive aspects which were found during the inspection, such as the effective proactive management system which was observed throughout the visit. After this, the shortcomings were once again discussed, before giving an insight into the next steps involved post inspection. I confirmed that I would forward over a review of the inspection and outcome to the manager after processing. An overview of how the inspection would be scored was given before the audit was concluded.

Extent of premises audited

90% - sampled two loft hatches.

Justification of audit outcome

low level of risk present due to efficient management present and procedures in place in regards to fire safety arrangements.

Verbal Advice Given

Advice given on article(s) 11, 14, 13ffe, 15

verbal advice can be seen in art 11, 14, 15, 13FFE

Other Authorities to notify

None

Weeks to Complete Work

N/A

Specific instructions for Admin to Action

None

Compliance calculation & signature

Compliance Level	1 - Well above average
Property Risk Group	A - Sleeping Unfamiliar
Life Risk	1
Actual Risk Score	5.11
Risk Score	5.00

Audit Timings

Audit Duration
150

Travel Time
90

Post Audit Processing Duration
240