



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

Issued by the Chief Inspector

Name of designated centre:	Moorehall Lodge Ardee
Name of provider:	Moorehall Living Limited
Address of centre:	Hale Street, Ardee, Louth
Type of inspection:	Unannounced
Date of inspection:	02 December 2024
Centre ID:	OSV-0000147
Fieldwork ID:	MON-0043823

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 environmental¹ 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.

¹ 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
Monday 2 December 2024	09:15hrs to 14:00hrs	Sheila McKeivitt

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

This was an unannounced inspection to monitor the use of restrictive practices in the centre. Residents spoken with told the inspector that their rights were upheld and that they could do as they pleased and their right to choice was respected.

The use of restraint in this centre was minimal. For example, the inspector saw the use of bedrails had been reduced to just one resident, four residents had seat belts insitu and floor sensor mats were the only sensor alarms used. Tilted chairs, bed and chair sensor alarms were no longer in use in this centre.

Residents using restrictive practices had restrictive practice risk assessments and care plan in place and these were reviewed within a four monthly time period.

Residents said they could come and go from the centre, once they informed staff of their plans. Residents described how they went out with family and friends and this was facilitated by the staff. They also went out each week for a day trip to different areas of interest, however for December residents said the main focus was Christmas shopping.

Residents and their visitors had access to safe and secure internal courtyards, the doors of which were open, making them accessible to residents at all times.

The nursing home was accessed by calling a front door bell which staff controlled from the reception. Visitors came and went via the front door. The inspector observed visitors sign the visitors' book situated at reception and both visitors and residents spoken with confirmed that there were no visiting restrictions.

Residents told the inspector they had freedom of movement to and from their own bedroom and were facilitated to personalise their room with their own belongings. They said the rooms were a good size and contained enough storage space for their personal belongings. They assured the inspector that they could maintain their privacy by using the lock provided on both the en-suite and bedroom door. There was a lockable facility in all bedrooms for valuables.

Residents spoken with were aware of the complaints policy which was displayed throughout the centre. They had no complaints about life in the centre and the inspector saw that there were no open complaints. Details of the Ombudsman's office together with contact details for the National advocacy service and Sage advocacy service were on display on the residents' notice boards.

Residents told the inspector that they felt listened to. They had resident meetings each month where they discussed a range of items, including activities, menus and any issues of concern they had. The inspector reviewed minutes of these minutes and saw that issues raised by residents were addressed promptly by the management team.

Residents said there was no shortage of activities and the variety on offer was excellent. Residents told the inspector they decided at resident meetings on activities and planned their outings. Residents were supported to establish links with the local community, for

example, the Legion of Mary came into the centre every Tuesday and a local prayer group came in on a Friday. Children from the local schools came in to do activities with residents each week and there were lots of planned visits for the month of December, including a musician and music group that came in at least once a week. External persons came in to deliver activities, such as, exercise classes and dog therapy.

Residents told the inspector they were registered to vote. They had access to religious services with Mass being celebrated in the centre every second Friday. They also said they were facilitated to attend Mass and religious services in the church located next to the centre. They were also facilitated to watch church services on live stream television.

Residents spoken with on inspection told the inspector that the standard of communication between them and the staff was good. They said they were kept informed of their health status and they saw their general practitioner (GP) whenever they requested a visit. They believed that they received a good standard of healthcare.

Oversight and the Quality Improvement arrangements

The centre was well-advanced to achieving a restraint-free environment and had put a lot of work into ensuring residents' rights and choices were maximised.

Prior to the inspection, the person in charge completed a self-assessment questionnaire which looked at the centre's responses to restrictive practice within the centre. This questionnaire focused on how the centre's leadership, governance and management, use of information, use of resources and workforce were deployed to manage restrictive practices in the centre. In addition, the questionnaire focused on how residents' rights and diversity were maintained and on how assessment and care planning were used to safeguard and maximise residents' well-being.

Discussion with the assistant director of nursing confirmed that they had reduced the use of restraint and had almost achieved a restraint-free environment. Where restrictive practices were used, they had ensured that their use was proportionate and deemed to be the least restrictive option.

There was a restraints policy in place which gave clear guidance on how restrictive practice was to be managed in the centre. The person in charge was the restrictive practice lead and a restraint register had been established to record the use of restrictive practices in the centre and was updated each month.

The use of all restrictive practice was monitored by staff in each unit and they reflected a downward trend in the use of restraint. The management team had restraint documentation on the audit schedule and restrictive practice records were audited on monthly basis. Each audit had a quality improvement plan.

The person in charge had also established a restrictive practice committee which were meeting on a monthly basis to discuss the use of restraint in the centre. There was a representative from each department within the centre on the committee, their focus was on reducing its use.

A review of the restraint risk assessments assured the inspector that alternatives to restraint were trialled prior to any form of restraint being used. It also assured the inspector that the use of restraint had reduced and staff had access to alternative less restrictive equipment.

A sample of resident records were reviewed and the inspector saw that each resident who was using some form of restraint had a restrictive practice assessment in place and the one resident with bed-rails had a bed-rail assessment. Resident care plans were developed on the basis of information obtained during their assessment. In addition, care records reviewed showed that the resident with bed rails in use was checked every two hours and these checks were consistently recorded by staff.

Discussion with various members of the staff and a review of training records confirmed that they all had appropriate training on restrictive practice and felt that

this training informed their understanding of restrictive practice and how it could impact on the individual. All staff had completed training on the human rights, including the FREDA principles (Fairness, Respect, Equality, Dignity and Autonomy) and a human rights-based approach to care. They had also completed training on the fundamentals of advocacy in health and social care and on assisted decision-making.

An information leaflet on bedrails had been developed for residents and relatives and was included in the admissions pack given to each new resident.

The inspector observed that complaints made were addressed in line with the centre's policy and they were reviewed by the named complaints reviewer as per policy.

The management team ensured that residents were facilitated to live the best life possible while upholding their rights.

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

Theme: Leadership, Governance and Management	
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.

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

Theme: Responsive Workforce	
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.

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

Quality and safety

Theme: Person-centred Care and Support	
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.

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

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

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

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