

Elysium Healthcare (Ann House) Limited

# Ann House

## Inspection report

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27 January 2022

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## Ratings

Overall rating for this service

Inspected but not rated

Is the service safe?

**Inspected but not rated**

# Summary of findings

## Overall summary

Ann House provides personal and nursing care for up to 16 adults who have a learning disability and/or mental health needs. The accommodation is arranged over two floors and there is a passenger lift to assist people to access the upper floor. There are communal sitting rooms and kitchens on the ground and first floor of the home which people share.

We found the following examples of good practice.

Staff carried out checks on people visiting the home to reduce the risk of them spreading infection. This included checking people's temperatures and visitors were asked show evidence of a negative Lateral Flow Device COVID-19 test, taken on the day of their visit.

The service had been responsive to people's needs. Staff had worked with people to support them when they needed to isolate after testing positive for COVID-19.

Staff had been creative in providing activities for people to follow in the home. Activities were provided to promote people's wellbeing during the pandemic. The provider had invested in additional resources for activities which people could carry out in the home during periods when access to the community was restricted.

People had been supported to maintain relationships that were important to them. The registered manager had followed government guidance about visiting in and out of care homes. The registered manager supported people to access the community in a safe way when this was permitted.

Staff used appropriate Personal Protective Equipment, (PPE), to protect people from the risk of infection. The staff were trained in Infection Prevention and Control and how to use PPE safely. The registered manager had purchased storage units to ensure PPE could be stored securely and was available in areas as needed.

The provider had good systems to ensure changes to government guidance was shared with the management team in the home.

The provider followed government guidance on COVID-19 testing of staff. People who lived in the home were supported to test for COVID-19. The registered manager ensured staff deployed to work in the home were fully vaccinated against COVID-19, unless exempt. The registered manager had worked with healthcare teams to support people who lived in the home to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

The home was clean and hygienic. Areas of the home had been deep-cleaned and additional cleaning had been introduced, including regular cleaning of frequently touched surfaces.

The registered manager acted on advice from external agencies to improve infection prevention and control. They had carried out a detailed audit of infection prevention and control measures in the home and developed an action plan to ensure robust procedures were in place and followed.

## The five questions we ask about services and what we found

We always ask the following five questions of services.

### **Is the service safe?**

Further information is in the detailed findings below.

**Inspected but not rated**

# Ann House

## **Detailed findings**

### Background to this inspection

We carried out this inspection under Section 60 of the Health and Social Care Act 2008 as part of our regulatory functions. This inspection was planned to check whether the provider is meeting the legal requirements and regulations associated with the Health and Social Care Act 2008.

As part of CQC's response to care homes with outbreaks of COVID-19, we are conducting reviews to ensure that the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) practice is safe and that services are compliant with IPC measures. This was a targeted inspection looking at the IPC practices the provider has in place. We also asked the provider about any staffing pressures the service was experiencing and whether this was having an impact on the service.

This inspection took place on 27 January 2022 and was announced. We gave the service one day's notice of the inspection.

# Is the service safe?

## Our findings

### Staffing

- The provider told us they had measures in place to mitigate the risks associated with COVID-19 related staff pressures.

### How well are people protected by the prevention and control of infection?

- We were assured that the provider was preventing visitors from catching and spreading infections.
- We were assured that the provider was meeting shielding and social distancing rules.
- We were assured that the provider was admitting people safely to the service.
- We were assured that the provider was using PPE effectively and safely.
- We were assured that the provider was accessing testing for people using the service and staff.
- We were assured that the provider was promoting safety through the layout and hygiene practices of the premises.
- We were assured that the provider was making sure infection outbreaks can be effectively prevented or managed.
- We were assured that the provider's infection prevention and control policy was up to date.
- The registered manager was following government guidance about visiting in and out of the home. They had supported people to access the community in a safe way when this was allowed.

From 11 November 2021 registered persons must make sure all care home workers and other professionals visiting the service are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, unless they have an exemption or there is an emergency.

- The Government has announced its intention to change the legal requirement for vaccination in care homes, but the service was meeting the current requirement to ensure non-exempt staff and visiting professionals were vaccinated against COVID-19.