

Autism Together

The Vicarage

Inspection report

Church Lane
Great Sutton
Ellesmere Port
Merseyside
CH66 4RE

Tel: 01513347510

Date of inspection visit:
06 January 2022

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09 February 2022

Ratings

Overall rating for this service	Inspected but not rated
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Is the service safe?	Inspected but not rated
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Summary of findings

Overall summary

The Vicarage is a residential home located in Great Sutton, Ellesmere Port and provides care, support and accommodation for up to five adults with learning disabilities or autistic spectrum disorder. People living at the home are supported by staff on a 24 hour basis. At the time of our inspection there were five people living in the home; each person had their own bedroom and shared communal areas.

We found the following examples of good practice.

The management and staff team supported people and their relatives to understand the policies and procedures surrounding protection against COVID 19, the isolation processes and how the service could help them to keep people safe.

Social media systems such as mobile phones and computer systems were used to facilitate contact between people and their relatives.

During our visit we observed the staff using Personal Protective Equipment, (PPE) safely. The registered manager told us sufficient stocks of PPE were available and we confirmed this on the visit. A staff member said, "We have plenty of PPE always available."

People living in the home and staff were tested regularly for COVID-19. There were no staff employed who had not been vaccinated as now required.

Relatives we spoke with told us their relations were well cared for and protected from the risk of infection. One person said "We visit regularly and feel the testing and precautions in place were appropriate. We feel safe and they are keeping [Name] safe."

The five questions we ask about services and what we found

We always ask the following five questions of services.

Is the service safe?

Inspected but not rated

Inspected but not rated

The Vicarage

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 6 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 using PPE effectively and safely.
- We were assured that the provider was accessing testing for people using the service and staff.
- We were not fully assured that the provider was promoting safety through the layout and hygiene practices of the premises. We have signposted the provider to resources to develop their approach.
- 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.
- We were assured the provider was facilitating visits for people living in the home in accordance with the current guidance.

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 service was meeting the requirement to ensure non-exempt staff and visiting professionals were vaccinated against COVID-19.