

ASD Unique Services LLP

43 Sedlescombe Road

South

Inspection report

43 Sedlescombe Road South
St Leonards On Sea
East Sussex
TN38 0TB

Date of inspection visit:
25 February 2022

Date of publication:
28 March 2022

Ratings

Overall rating for this service

Inspected but not rated

Is the service safe?

Inspected but not rated

Summary of findings

Overall summary

About the service

43 Sedlescombe Road South is a care home providing accommodation and personal care for up to six people with learning disabilities and autistic people. At the time of our inspection, six people were living there. Accommodation was on ground and first floor.

We found the following examples of good practice.

People were supported by staff to have visits from friends and family. Some people met with their relatives away from the home and others went to stay with relatives. Individual risk assessments were completed to consider each person's safety. Some people's relatives were unable to visit, for example if they lived at a distance, were elderly or had ill health and staff supported people to stay in touch through video calls. If relatives did not have facilities for video calling, staff provided updates via telephone or email.

People were supported to go out safely and, where possible, were encouraged to wear a mask and to wash their hands when they returned home. People were supported with their normal routines. At the time of our visit three people were out. One person told us they had just been shopping.

The registered manager told us that they had a flexible plan in the event of an outbreak as some people would be able to isolate but others would find this difficult. Each person had a risk assessment describing the support they would need.

There were cleaning schedules to demonstrate the routine and additional cleaning that was carried out. There was paint peeling from the walls in the laundry room, the counters in the kitchen were faded from the additional cleaning and there was a broken kitchen floor tile that could be an infection control risk and a trip hazard. The registered manager confirmed that all areas referred to were on a list of areas to be addressed in April 2022. The issue of the broken tile was more of a trip hazard than an infection risk so the registered manager confirmed this would be addressed as a priority.

Staff had received COVID-19 training along with training on infection prevention and control, and guidance for staff about how to put on and take off PPE safely. Updates and refresher training took place to ensure all staff followed the latest good practice guidance. Personal protective equipment (PPE) was stored in bathrooms. Hand sanitiser was readily available throughout the home. One person told us they thought the masks, "look silly, but if they make you feel safe, that's all that matters."

The home had some long-term agency staff that were used from time to time. A staff member told us, "The agency staff are amazing, we use the same workers where possible so there is consistency and they are familiar with the guys." Regular testing for people and staff was taking place. Staff tested before each shift in line with government guidance and people were supported to have a monthly test.

The registered manager told us they felt supported by the organisation. They also attended various support networks and peer support groups locally. They valued the opportunities this brought to meet virtually with other managers, to share experiences, and to give and receive support.

The registered manager told us that staff support and wellbeing had been a priority. All staff received regular one to one support. A staff member said, "There is always support available. We had a bonus at Christmas and we always get a voucher for birthdays."

Throughout the pandemic the home had strong support from their GP surgery. A GP and other health professionals had visited the service on the day of our inspection to carry out annual health reviews for people.

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

43 Sedlescombe Road South

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 the COVID-19 pandemic we are looking at how services manage infection control and visiting arrangements. This was a targeted inspection looking at the infection prevention and control measures the provider had 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 25 February 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 told us that people's relatives were welcomed to visit the service in line with government guidance. Some people's relatives were unable to visit so staff facilitated video and phone calls to keep them up to date and to give them the opportunity to see their loved ones.

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.