

Elysium Care Partnerships Limited

Elysium Care Partnerships Limited - 1a Upper Brighton Road

Inspection report

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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

Elysium Care Partnerships Limited - 1a Upper Brighton Road is a residential care home that can accommodate and provide personal care and support to nine people. The service caters for younger adults with learning disabilities or autism spectrum disorder. At the time of our inspection nine people were living at the care home.

We found the following examples of good practice.

There were suitably robust measures in place to help prevent or minimise the risk of relatives and friends, professionals and others who visited the care home from catching or spreading infections.

Access to the care home was being restricted for non-essential visitors. Alternative arrangements were in place to help people maintain social contact with their relatives and friends including, phone and video calls. All essential visitors to the care home had to pre-arrange their planned visit and on arrival were required to have a COVID-19 test if they had not been tested recently, wash and sanitize their hands and wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

There were suitable arrangements in place to ensure people who had stayed overnight in another setting, such as a hospital or in their family home, were tested for COVID-19 on their return to the service and required to self-isolate in their bedroom for at least 14 days. People living in the care home who had tested positive for COVID-19 or showed signs of being symptomatic were also required to self-isolate in their bedroom for a minimum of 14 days.

Staff used PPE in accordance with current recognised best infection prevention and control (IPC) practice. We saw managers and staff wore their PPE correctly throughout our inspection. Managers told us staff were required to wear a face mask, a plastic apron and gloves when they provided people with any personal care. Staff had received up to date external and internal training from the local NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and their employer in relation to the latest IPC guidance including, the safe use of PPE and how to undertake COVID-19 tests safely for people with learning disability or autism. The service had adequate supplies of PPE.

The care home was clean. There were detailed records kept of staffs new cleaning schedules, which included a rolling programme of continuously cleaning high touch surfaces, such as light switches, grab rails and door handles. Managers told us staff were now required to clean these areas at least two-hourly. People's bedrooms and the main communal areas including the lounge, kitchen and laundry room, were all subject to regular enhanced cleaning.

The provider had thoroughly assessed and mitigated infection risks to everyone living and working in the care home who were deemed to be in high risk groups. This included people with learning disabilities or autism and black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) members of staff. Managers told us they had taken risks

they had identified into consideration and gave us a good example of how they had made reasonable adjustments by ensuring staff who had not yet received a COVID-19 vaccination did not provide any personal care to people who were self-isolating and/or had tested positive for COVID-19.

The service did not currently use any temporary agency staff. Managers were aware of good practice in relation to staff only working in one care setting at the moment to reduce the risk of spreading infection. For example, bank staff who had previously worked in multiple care homes run by this provider were no longer permitted to do this and were required to choose which Elysium Care Partnerships Limited service they preferred to work in during the pandemic. To help staff stay safe and socially distanced during staff meetings and shift handovers, staff met in a large communal lounge, which was spacious enough to allow people to stand at least two meters apart.

A 'whole home testing' regime was being operated at the service. This ensured people living in the care home and staff working there were routinely tested. The managers confirmed any staff who had concerns regarding testing were thoroughly supported by the management team to understand the importance of testing. All staff currently working in the care home are routinely tested. Managers demonstrated good awareness of how to apply for COVID-19 home testing kits for everyone living and working in the care home and had no issues with their supply. Most people living and working in the care home had now received a COVID-19 vaccination. Staff who had declined an offer to have a COVID-19 vaccination were being actively encouraged and supported by managers to reconsider and have it done.

There were IPC and PPE policies and procedures in place, which had been recently reviewed and updated to reflect ongoing changes to COVID-19 related guidance. This included contingency plans for managing adverse events, such as COVID-19 outbreaks and staff shortages at the care home. Managers routinely monitored and audited compliance with IPC practices. This included regular walkabout tours of the care home to check staff continued to wear their PPE correctly, were socially distancing as and when required, and were routinely cleaning high touch surfaces. Managers also supported people and their relatives to understand the self-isolation process and how the service could help to alleviate them feeling lonely.

Further information is in the detailed findings below.

The five questions we ask about services and what we found

We always ask the following five questions of services.

Is the service safe?

We were assured the service were following safe infection prevention and control procedures to keep people safe.

Inspected but not rated

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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 coronavirus, we are conducting reviews to ensure that the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) practice was safe and the service was compliant with IPC measures. This was a targeted inspection looking at the IPC practices the provider has in place.

This inspection took place on 4 February 2021 and was announced.

Is the service safe?

Our findings

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

- 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 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 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.