

Elysium Care Partnerships Limited

# Elysium Care Partnerships Limited - 21b Upper Brighton Road

## Inspection report

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10 February 2021

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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 Partnership Limited – 21b Upper Brighton Road is a residential care home for up to seven young people with learning disabilities and/or autism. There were seven young people living there when we inspected.

We found the following examples of good practice:

The provider had robust systems to ensure visitors to the service were aware of the additional measures in place to reduce the risk of coronavirus infection. There was personal protective equipment (PPE) available for visitors to use at the main gate of the premises and signs alerting visitors to the measures in place. Staff accompanied visitors to the newly-constructed visiting pod in the home's back garden, which was fitted out as a comfortable space for people who lived in the home to see their visitors. Prior to seeing their loved one, visitors were required to undertake a lateral flow test and complete a symptom checker questionnaire. Lateral flow tests for coronavirus return a result in 15 minutes, reducing the risk of a visitor bringing the virus into the home.

There was plenty of PPE available at the service for staff and visitors to use, and for people living in the home to use when they went out (to use public transport or visit the shops, for example). We observed staff wearing PPE according to government guidelines. Staff audited PPE twice per day and a full stocktake was undertaken weekly, so supplies could be replenished quickly.

People who lived in the home had their risks relating to coronavirus assessed, and clear measures were in place for staff to mitigate these risks. The registered manager had also developed a range of robust risk assessments for staff and the service as a whole to reduce these risks, and had an action plan they were working towards to further ensure people's safety. The infection prevention and control policy had been very recently updated when we visited.

Not all of the staff and people who live in the home had consented to regular testing, or were able to participate in a regular testing programme. The registered manager and the provider organisation had a clear plan in place to reduce the risks associated with this, in line with employment law. The registered manager had sought advice and guidance from appropriate stakeholders to support them to respond to these concerns. For example, a doctor had visited the home the week before our visit to support staff to better understand testing and vaccination for coronavirus, and why these were essential to reduce risks.

Staff supported people who were required to isolate with stimulating activities, taking into account their emotional and social needs. The registered manager told us about one person who had responded very positively to the unusual quiet and calmness of the home during the period in which they were required to isolate. The person had started speaking in words in place of their usual vocalisations, and the registered manager told us this was because staff were able to spend more quality time with the person using intensive interaction techniques without the interruption of their usual daily activities. When people were required to

isolate, staff supported them to maintain contact with their loved ones using phone and video calls.

The home was spotlessly clean when we visited. Records showed that cleaning schedules had increased to ensure particular attention was paid to areas of specific high risk of transmitting the virus, such as light switches and door handles, as well as daily deep cleaning of communal areas. There were signs throughout the home to encourage people who lived there, staff and visitors to wear appropriate PPE and maintain distance.

## 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**

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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 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 10 February 2021 and was announced. We phoned the home the day before we planned to inspect to ensure the registered manager would be available.

# Is the service safe?

## Our findings

S5□ 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. The registered manager had a plan in place to support staff to better understand testing and vaccination for coronavirus, in line with employment law.
- 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.