

National Autistic Society (The) St Edwards Close

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

St Edwards Close is a care home for people living with learning disabilities and autistic spectrum needs. It can accommodate a maximum of eight people. At the time of our inspection seven people were living there.

We found the following examples of good practice.

Staff had received infection prevention and control training, including how to put on and take off personal protective equipment (PPE) and hand washing. Staff were wearing PPE face masks inside the home throughout our inspection.

The visiting arrangements for the service were in line with government guidance. People were also able to keep in touch with family and friends using video and telephone calls.

People and staff were tested for COVID-19 in line with government guidance and all staff had been vaccinated. Staff checked the vaccination status of professionals visiting the home.

Staff supported people whilst in the community to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection, including wearing PPE face masks outside.

The service had enough staff and had measures in place to deal with any staffing difficulties arising from COVID-19.

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

St Edwards Close

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 23 February 2022 and was announced. We gave the provider 48 hours notice of our 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 somewhat assured that the provider was preventing visitors from catching and spreading infections.

Staff were taking visitors' temperatures and checking they had a negative lateral flow test (LFT) before they entered the premises. However, staff had not always taken the gardener's temperature or checked whether they had taken a LFT before they entered the building. After our inspection the provider confirmed staff were taking and recording the gardener's temperature and checking they had a negative LFT before they were allowed to enter the premises.

- We were assured that the provider was meeting shielding and social distancing rules.
- We were somewhat assured that the provider was admitting people safely to the service.

The provider's admissions policy was not up to date and did not include COVID-19 procedures. After our inspection the provider updated their admissions policy to include COVID-19 information.

- We were somewhat assured that the provider was using PPE effectively and safely.

Staff were wearing PPE face masks inside the home and using full PPE when giving people personal care. However, staff were taking used PPE from people's rooms through the building to clinical waste bins without putting it in a bag. This meant there was a risk of spreading infection. After our inspection the provider confirmed staff were putting used PPE in bags in people's rooms before taking it to the clinical waste bins.

- We were assured that the provider was accessing testing for people using the service and staff.
- We were somewhat assured that the provider was promoting safety through the layout and hygiene practices of the premises.

The home was clean and tidy. However, the cleaning schedule in place was not rigorous enough to prevent and control infection and had not always been completed. Mops and buckets used to clean the home were not stored securely. Some COVID-19 signs had the wrong wording regarding staff wearing PPE face masks in the community. After our inspection the provider confirmed they had put a new cleaning schedule in place which included more frequent cleaning of some areas and were carrying out a daily walk around to make sure cleaning tasks had been done. Also, a lock had been put on the cupboard used to store mops and buckets and the incorrectly worded COVID-19 signs had been changed to include the correct wording.

- We were somewhat assured that the provider was making sure infection outbreaks can be effectively prevented or managed.

The provider's infection prevention and control (IPC) audits did not include an audit of the cleaning schedules. In addition, the provider had not identified the issues we found during our inspection. However, after our inspection the provider took immediate action to address and resolve the failings we found.

- We were assured that the provider's IPC policy was up to date.

Visiting in care homes

- The visiting arrangements for the service were in line with government guidance. This reduced the risk to people from COVID-19 infection.