

Treehome Limited

Elm Tree House

Inspection report

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Date of inspection visit:
11 March 2021

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21 April 2021

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

Elm Tree House is a residential care home for eight people with learning disabilities or autistic spectrum disorders. At the time of the inspection, six people were living there. The home had communal areas including a lounge, dining room and kitchen with a seating area. People had access to a secure garden.

We found the following examples of good practice.

An area had been set up at the entrance of the home so that hands could be cleaned before staff and visitors entered the building. Health declaration forms were completed on arrival at the home and staff checked visitors' temperatures.

Staff had received training in infection control, including how to safely put on and take off personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, aprons, and face coverings. The home had adequate supplies of PPE and we saw staff wearing PPE appropriately.

A visiting room was allocated for visits. There was a visiting procedure in place. Staff also supported people to keep in touch with their relatives via video calling.

Changes had been made to the inside of the home to enable social distancing such as placing circles on the floor to encourage people to keep two meters apart. There were also posters around the home. Additional cleaning had been implemented throughout the home. This included cleaning frequently touched areas such as handrails, light switches and handles.

There was a procedure in place for new admissions. No one would be admitted without a negative COVID-19 test first and they would isolate for 14 days.

The manager ensured regular COVID-19 testing was carried out for staff and people living in the home.

A business continuity plan was in place, to reduce the effects of potential disruption to people's care. There were policies and procedures to provide guidance for staff on safe working practices during the pandemic. The provider had a range of communication systems in place.

Staff were confident and knowledgeable about how to protect people from the risk of infection and the environment was clean.

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?

Further information is in the detailed findings below.

Inspected but not rated

Elm Tree House

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 the preparedness of care homes in relation to infection prevention and control. This was a targeted inspection looking at the infection control and prevention measures the provider has in place.

This inspection took place on 11 March 2021 and was announced.

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. Mental Capacity assessments and best interest decisions were required for two people living at the home. Although they were happy to receive the test, staff told us they would not fully understand the reasons for this. We discussed this with the manager who told us they would address this.
- We were somewhat assured that the provider was promoting safety through the layout and hygiene practices of the premises. The laundry room floor required replacing as it was worn in areas, this had been identified by the provider and action was being taken to resurface the floor. We also noted the laundry sideboards were cluttered in areas that would prevent effective cleaning. The manager told us they would arrange for storage boxes to be ordered to rectify this.
- 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 have also signposted the provider to resources to develop their approach.