

Elstow Lodge Ltd

Elstow Lodge

Inspection report

Wilstead Road
Elstow
Bedford
MK42 9YD

Tel: 01234405021

Date of inspection visit:
23 February 2022

Date of publication:
11 March 2022

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

Elstow Lodge is a care home providing accommodation and personal care for up to 9 adults who may have a learning disability and / or are autistic. At the time of our inspection there were 9 people living at the service.

We found the following examples of good practice:

The provider had systems in place to support safe visiting at the service. Visitors were required to provide a negative lateral flow COVID-19 test and proof of COVID-19 vaccination prior to entering the service.

There was a dedicated indoor area for visiting, which let in plenty of fresh air and hand sanitiser was available too. During periods of COVID-19 'lockdown' people had been supported to maintain alternative contact with their families and friends through writing letters, window visits, video and telephone calls.

Additional communal space had been created, and new equipment purchased for the garden, enabling people to have a wider choice of indoor / outdoor space. This helped to promote social distancing.

The home was clean, well ventilated and there was a safe process to manage people's laundry.

There were good stocks of PPE and staff were observed wearing PPE in accordance with current guidance. They had received training in relation to infection control and the safe use of PPE.

Staff and people at the home received regular COVID-19 tests in line with current government guidance. Everyone had received the maximum number of COVID-19 vaccinations offered to date.

Systems were in place to monitor key aspects of infection prevention and control (IPC), to promote people's safety. The registered manager demonstrated a good awareness of current guidance relating to registered care settings, in terms of preventing a COVID-19 outbreak.

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

Elstow Lodge

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 service 24 hours' 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 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 provider facilitated visits to the home in line with current government guidance.

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.