

Autism East Midlands

Lynton House

Inspection report

Sutherland Road
Nottingham
Nottinghamshire
NG3 7AP

Tel: 01159764652

Website: www.autismeastmidlands.org.uk

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22 February 2022

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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

Lynton House is a 'care home'. People in care homes receive accommodation and nursing or personal care as a single package under one contractual agreement. CQC regulates both the premises and the care provided, and both were looked at during this inspection. This service supports people who have a learning disability.

Lynton House accommodates up to three people in one building and an annex. During our inspection there were three people living at the home.

We found the following examples of good practice.

Provider understood and met COVID-19 visitor vaccination requirements. All visitors were screened for symptoms of acute respiratory infection before being allowed to enter the home.

People were supported to access community in a way that mitigated the risk of catching and spreading infection. For example, a person who could not receive COVID-19 vaccination due to medical reasons was encouraged to go out to places off peak times, to reduce contact with a lot of people.

There was prominent signage and instructions to explain what people should do to ensure safety. The information was available in a format that can be easily understood by people with variety of communication needs.

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

Lynton 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 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 22 February 2022 and was unannounced.

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 not assured that the provider was using PPE effectively and safely. We observed members of staff who did not wear the PPE correctly, in accordance with current government guidelines. We challenged the poor practice and the provider agreed to address it with the staff immediately.
- We were not assured that the provider was promoting safety through the layout and hygiene practices of the premises. We observed that some areas of the home were not clean or hygienic. The provider agreed to address the shortfalls identified by the inspector immediately. We received an update from the provider who informed us the shortfalls had been addressed. We have also signposted the provider to resources to develop their approach.
- 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 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.

Visiting in care homes

The provider had a visiting policy in place. The policy was aligned to government guidance. The visitors were required to wear PPE provided and evidence a negative COVID-10 lateral flow test (LFT). This allowed people to have as many visitors as they wished in a risk assessed way.

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.