

Community Homes of Intensive Care and Education Limited

St Andrews

Inspection report

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15 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

St Andrews is a care home accommodating up to five adults with learning disabilities and or mental health needs.

We found the following examples of good practice.

On arrival we were asked to sanitise our hands, sign in, have our temperature taken and asked if we had symptoms of, or been in contact with anyone who had symptoms of, COVID-19. We were also asked to show our vaccination record and evidence of a lateral flow device test taken that day. Face masks were available at the door should they be needed and visitors were only admitted to the service after following these procedures.

Shared spaces in the service had been arranged to facilitate social distancing to encourage people to participate fully in the life of the service without compromising safety.

The provider had implemented risk assessments in relation to visits for people. These were reviewed and updated following any change in government guidance. This meant people were supported promptly to adapt their visits with their family members as guidance changed.

Staff were supported by the provider to work flexibly which supported staff and their wellbeing. For example, staff were supported to accommodate changes to shift times to accommodate childcare requirements. This meant the provider maximised staff availability which supported them to maintain safe staffing levels.

The registered manager had introduced smaller team meetings across multiple shifts to ensure information was shared with staff effectively whilst managing risks. They told us how this had resulted in an increased participation from staff and had a positive impact on the service. They planned to continue holding team meetings in this way.

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 Andrews

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 15 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 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.
- 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.

Visiting in care homes

- Visiting arrangements for friends and relatives were in line with current guidance. All visitors were required to follow the providers clear visitors protocol in place at the time of inspection and to wear suitable personal protective equipment, PPE provided at the service.

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.