

The Disabilities Trust

Disabilities Trust - 4 Pages Orchard

Inspection report

Sonning Common
Reading
Berkshire
RG4 9LW

Tel: 01189722928

Date of inspection visit:
16 February 2022

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25 February 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

Disabilities Trust - 4 Pages Orchard is a 'care home'. This service supported autistic people or those with learning disabilities. The service is registered to support up to three people. Three people were being supported at the time of the inspection.

We found the following examples of good practice:

On arrival at the service, there was an infection control process which included checking a negative lateral flow test had been undertaken on the day of inspection. Temperatures were also taken and noted. Staff were wearing face masks during the inspection in line with government guidance.

The home was clean, and a regular cleaning schedule was in place and followed by all staff in the service. Regular audits took place which led to improvements and safety.

Staff had been trained and followed PPE [personal protective equipment] protocols. The provider ensured there was a sufficient stock of personal protective equipment (PPE). Staff had infection control training and understood the correct donning and doffing procedure.

People were supported by a consistent team of permanent staff whom they knew well.

The provider participated in the COVID-19 regular testing programme for both people and staff.

Additional, regular communication took place with relatives of people in the service. This included updates on the current government guidance and advice. The provider also made arrangements for relatives to dial into meetings to ask questions.

The provider ensured people's relatives were able to stay in touch with people. For example, through visits in line with government guidance.

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

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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 16 February 2022 and was announced. We gave the service 48 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. Checks took place prior to visitors entering the home.
- We were assured that the provider was meeting shielding and social distancing rules. As the service supported people with learning disabilities and autistic people and was a small service, the approach was proportionate to the household set up.
- We were assured that the provider had measures in place if people were admitted to the service. However, the three people were established and there were no vacancies, so admittance measures had not been needed.
- 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. Cleaning schedules were in place to reduce the risk of infection.
- We were assured that the provider was making sure infection outbreaks were effectively prevented or managed. However, no-one in the service had contracted COVID-19 during the pandemic.
- We were assured that the provider's infection prevention and control policy was up to date. The provider's policy was up to date and reflected best practice.

Visiting in care homes

The provider was ensuring they were following the latest government guidance in relation to people continuing to have visits with their relatives

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.