

Autism Unlimited limited

Autism Wessex - Higher Ground

Inspection report

Higher Ground
Marston Road
Sherborne
Dorset
DT9 4BJ

Tel: 01935389356

Date of inspection visit:
31 January 2022

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04 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

Autism Wessex - Higher Ground is a residential service registered to provide accommodation and personal care for up to four people. The home specialises in providing a service to adults who have a learning disability, autism, sensory impairment or physical disability.

We found the following examples of good practice.

People were supported to maintain contact with their relatives and the management team ensured people's relatives were kept informed about any changes or updates.

The provider ensured that regular COVID-19 testing regime was adhered to.

Staff received training in infection and prevention control and used personal protective equipment (PPE) correctly. The provider ensured there was a stock of appropriate PPE available. This included sourcing an alternative equipment, for example visors, where required.

People received continuity of care as they were supported by a group of staff that knew them well.

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

Autism Wessex - Higher Ground

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 31 January 2022 and we gave the provider 1 days' notice.

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 somewhat 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 somewhat assured that the provider was promoting safety through the layout and hygiene practices of the premises.
- We were somewhat 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 supported people to remain in contact with their relatives and kept people's relatives informed about any changes and updates.

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 service was meeting the requirement to ensure non-exempt staff and visiting professionals were vaccinated against COVID-19.

The management team told us about the system there was in place to ensure safe visiting, however there

were no records of the checks.

The service was clean and free of unpleasant odours but there were no records of the cleaning tasks or audits. The management team shared with us a blank template they were going to introduce.

We have signposted the provider to resources to develop their approach.