

Mrs Joanne Brown

# Elms House

## Inspection report

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23 February 2022

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## 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

Elms House is a residential care home providing personal care and support for up to six autistic people and people with a learning disability. At the time of our inspection five people were living at the service.

We found the following examples of good practice:

All staff had received training in infection prevention and control and the safe use personal protective equipment (PPE). Staff wore PPE in line with Government guidance. PPE was available throughout the home and was disposed of safely.

Staff were carrying out enhanced cleaning to ensure people were protected as much as possible from the risk of cross infection.

The provider ensured there were clear processes in place for visitors to the service. On arrival, visitors were required to provide proof of a negative lateral flow device (rapid) test to confirm that they did not have a COVID-19 infection. Their temperature was taken, and they were required to sanitise their hands and wear appropriate PPE. The vaccination status of all visiting professionals was checked before they entered the home.

Staff and people living at the home were being tested regularly in line with Government guidance, to ensure that appropriate action could be taken if anyone contracted the COVID-19 virus.

Further information is in the detailed findings below.

## 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**

# Elms 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 was 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 manager 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 manager 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 could 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 ensured that people were receiving visits in line with current Government guidance. During periods when visits within the home environment had not been possible, the manager had supported people to maintain contact with people who were important to them, through telephone and video calls.

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.