

Essex Care Consortium Limited

# Essex Care Consortium - Colchester

## Inspection report

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24 January 2022

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23 February 2022

## Ratings

Overall rating for this service

Inspected but not rated

Is the service safe?

**Inspected but not rated**

# Summary of findings

## Overall summary

Essex Care Consortium is a residential care home, providing personal care and accommodation for up to 20 people with a learning disability or physical health needs or who are autistic. On the day of our inspection 19 people were living at the service accommodated over two separate buildings and three single apartments.

We found the following examples of good practice:

Personalised risk and needs assessments had been carried out to ensure people continued to have their needs met whilst remaining safe.

Staff had supported people in a person-centred manner to keep in touch with their families.

The provider had shared information about COVID-19 with people and their families in a supportive and accessible way.

A member of staff described how the management team had been supportive throughout the pandemic., this included helping staff understand the changing guidance and how it affected their role.

## 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 care homes with outbreaks of COVID-19, we are conducting reviews to ensure that the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) practice is safe and that services are compliant with IPC measures. This was a targeted inspection looking at the IPC practices the provider has 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 24 January 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 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.
- The provider ensured people living at the service could receive visitors safely, in line with their individual needs and current guidance. Some people were not able to socially distance and staff had made alternative arrangements such as visits in the neighbouring office or day centre.

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.