

Autonomy Healthcare Limited

Autonomy: Victoria & Elizabeth

Inspection report

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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

Autonomy: Victoria and Elizabeth is a 'care home'. People in care homes receive accommodation and nursing or personal care as single package under one contractual agreement. CQC regulates both the premises and the care provided, and both were looked at during this inspection.

The service accommodates up to nine people across two adapted buildings, the buildings contain spacious apartments. At the time of our inspection there were nine people using the service. The service specialises in the care of people diagnosed with learning disabilities, autistic spectrum disorders, and mental health needs.

We found the following examples of good practice.

- There were Covid-19 stations throughout the service. These contained hand sanitiser, gloves, aprons and masks. They also contained lateral flow tests and forms for those using the service, staff and visitors. There was also a small amount of first aid equipment on each station. If people using the service had tested positive they were encouraged to isolate and a Covid-19 trolley was placed outside their apartment.
- A system had been adopted whereby staff used the back door to enter the premises and then went into a large kitchen area where they could put on their personal protective equipment and also do a lateral flow test prior to starting their shift.
- People using the service had also embraced wearing face masks. The registered manager told us that they enjoyed wearing some of the more fun creations which were available.
- Staff had been trained in infection prevention and control, food hygiene and COVID-19. They were aware of steps to take if there was an outbreak and had engaged with people living at the service and it made a team effort. One person had made a notice which read 'Please can you sanitise your hands and wear a mask when coming in because we are preventing Covid.'
- A regular programme of testing for COVID-19 was in place for staff and people who lived in the service. This meant swift action could be taken if anyone received a positive test result.
- One person was anxious that their mother was in a residential home and concerned regarding the risk of becoming ill. The service purchased two devices, one for each so that they could have video calls and offer reassurance.
- We saw that cleaning took place throughout the day and the member of staff overseeing the cleaning told us that they continued to regularly sterilise touch points throughout the service.
- Policies, procedures and risk assessments related to COVID-19 were up to date which supported staff to keep people safe.

The five questions we ask about services and what we found

We always ask the following five questions of services.

Is the service safe?

Inspected but not rated

Further information is in our details findings below.

Autonomy: Victoria & Elizabeth

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 21 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.
- We were assured the provider was facilitating visits for people living in the home in accordance with the current guidance.

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.