

RESIDENTIAL INFORMATION

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Registered Provider: Autism East Midlands,
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www.aem.org.uk

Responsible Person: Ben Brown, Head of Quality & Operations
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Our Vision

"A world which recognises, understands and values people with autism, and where they, and their families, receive the services and support they need throughout their lives"

Our Mission

To advocate, provide and develop high-quality services, information and support, in partnership with others, for all those whose lives are affected by autism.

To recognise and respond to the needs of the individual, enabling people with autism to live their lives with dignity, choice and independence.

Our well trained and passionate staff offer a wide range of services to help individuals to live their lives the way they want.

Philosophy, Aims and Objectives

Autism East Midlands' philosophy is to advocate that adults with an autism spectrum condition should live their lives with dignity, choice and independence to the maximum of their ability.

Autism East Midlands provides access to an internal Clinical Team consisting of Psychology, Speech and Language Therapy and Occupational Therapy that work in partnership with the people living at the Poplars and the staff team; as well as people being support to access external agencies and professionals when necessary.

The individual's progression and well being is the underlying ethos at the heart of all our staff. Outcomes are in place for all the people living at the Poplars; the purpose of these being to promote planned strategies and record of the individual's independent progress in a certain task or activity. All individuals are given respect and time to achieve their own personal level of attainment with a focus on outcomes; individuals are offered choice, opportunities and they are supported in the choices they make.

Support packages are tailored to individual needs and choices; maximizing dignity and control. Person Centered Support Plans are designed to offer additional help with communication and social skills to compensate for impairment with social imagination. A Person Centered Plan and Positive Behaviour Support Plan are promoted throughout Autism East Midlands.

The use of communication aids such as signs & symbols, objects of reference, picture boards, social stories, Brain in hand, and talking mats all aid in maximizing the choice and control of our individuals. Three of the individuals use a mobile phone application called Brian in Hand, an application designed to help people to recognize their own daily challenges and encourages them to find their own solutions to problems and much more. Autism East Midlands won the 'Charity Times Award 2016' for best use of assistive technology for the work across all services with services users to make the most out of their Brain in Hand. Individuals have access to a good range of fulfilling social and leisure activities, people are supported to maintain good contact with their families, friends and local community.

All of our individuals are enabled and supported to make choices and take responsible risks in order to increase their independence. Providing this support is regarded as a fundamental part of staff duties.

The Poplars is a registered with The Care Quality Commission to provide:

Accommodation for persons who require nursing or personal care and learning disabilities.

Further details can be found at www.cqc.org.uk

Acknowledgement is given to the Mental Capacity Act 2005, Deprivation of Liberty safeguarding, Dignity in Care 10 point Challenge in the development of Person Centred Support Plans. Autism East Midlands is proactive in supporting individuals to engage with independent advocating services and the IMCA service where appropriate.

About The Poplars

The Poplars is a 6 bed bungalow providing 24hr personal & social care to adults who have an autistic spectrum condition (ASC), situated in a very peaceful and desirable residential area of Whitwell; and is proud to be part of the "home for life" ethos of Autism East Midlands and is accessible by all no matter what their mobility may be.

It aims to meet the needs of the individual whether social, physical emotional, or spiritual. Person Centred Support Plans focus on both ASC and individual specific needs in a manner suitable to or on a level of personal attainment.

The experienced support team develop **Person Centred Plans** with service users and appropriate others, which help to identify specific needs and desires.

The further development of 'needs & desires' individual Support Plans enables consistency in support whilst lessening the opportunity to over or under support.

Life in a communal setting, and the need to accept help with personal tasks, are inherently invasive of an individuals' ability to enjoy the pleasure of being alone and undisturbed. We retain as much privacy as possible for our service users.

Principles

The Poplars offers a wide range of social activities at home and in the community. All of the planned activities are tailored to individual likes and interests.

The operations is the overall responsibility of the Registered Manager. Views and ideas are listened to and where possible acted upon. Our individuals choose the décor and colour of their rooms and as a group make decisions together when decorating communal areas. Parental views are important and contribute to creating a relaxing home environment for our individuals.

The Poplars ensure individuals are free to practice and attend religious services of their choice; supported and respect shown to all individual religious and cultural beliefs.

Personal dietary needs of each individual are catered for. At meal times there are always two main meal options from a weekly meal plan designed on the likes and preferences of the individuals living at the Poplars. Other appropriate alternative choices are provided should they be requested.

Staff maintain and promote parental liaison. Parents are invited to attend reviews, always made welcome when visiting and have regular contact with a keyworker whenever requested. Arrangements are made for visits to the family home, which are appropriate for both family and individual.

There is a formal complaints procedure which is displayed and available upon request.

The Support Team

The service is managed by an appropriately qualified and experienced manager (minimum NVQ level IV).

All staff at has received an enhanced DBS and training appropriate to their role. This includes but is not confined to: -

- NVQ II (minimum for direct support workers)
- Autism/ Asperger/ PDA awareness
- SVA
- Mental Capacity Act
- Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
- First Aid
- Food Safety and Hygiene
- Moving & Handling
- Safe handling of medication / Boots MDS System
- Autism Specific Physical Intervention & Reactive Educational Strategies
- Health & Safety
- Risk Assessments
- Equality & Diversity
- Fire Safety
- Infection Control
- Epilepsy
- Positive Behaviour Support training (Calm)

Training needs and opportunities for further development are identified through supervision and annual appraisal for all staff.

All staff has a professional responsibility to respect the rights of service users, treat them with respect and dignity and protect them as far as possible from danger or harm.

Recruitment

Autism East Midlands has a robust recruitment procedure in place. Records include an application form, two satisfactory references and an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Check.

Service users are, wherever possible, involved in the interview process.

Referral, Admission and Assessment

Information is available to help people to decide if The Poplars can meet their needs and to tell them how the home operates. Our service placement operation guidelines and procedures help in ensuring that a prospective individual receives an assessment to determine whether the home is able to meet their needs before being considered for admission. The Admission Panel is responsible for taking the final decision.

Transition plans are personalised to meet individual needs and can involve visits to the home and overnight stays where appropriate.

Evaluation of Service

The service is monitored and evaluated by a number of internal & external bodies: -

- The service user voice framework- introduced to ensure people are involved in their care and supported to express views, wishes and ensure all services users have a voice as much choice and control as possible.
- Parent / carer & Service user feedback via 6 monthly questionnaires.
- The Care Quality Commission www.cqc.org.uk inspections.
- Regular review of Individual Support Plans.
- Self Assessment Monitoring Process
- Spot audits carried out by senior management team.
- Quality monitoring audits carried out by local funding authorities.