

# 1211772

Registered provider: Aspris Children's Services Limited

Interim inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

## **Information about this children's home**

This home is owned and managed by a private provider. It provides care for up to six children who experience social and/or emotional difficulties.

The manager registered with Ofsted in November 2020.

**Inspection date: 23 March 2022**

**Date of last inspection:** 13 December 2021

**Judgement at last inspection:** requires improvement to be good

**Enforcement action since last inspection:** none

## **This inspection**

### **The effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection**

This home was judged requires improvement to be good at the last full inspection.

At this interim inspection, Ofsted judged that it has sustained effectiveness.

Since the last inspection, the children are starting to make progress. Children are engaging in learning and attending school. The children's relationships with staff were fractious. Children are now choosing to spend time with the staff and accept their advice and care. The children enjoy going out on activities with the staff and their friends. This creates a more settled and stable environment for children to live in.

No children have moved into or left the home since the last inspection. As children approach adulthood, their transitions from the home are being planned. The manager recognises that children may become anxious as they prepare to leave the home, and the planning and preparation for children is well supported by the staff. When children experience unnecessary delays to their planned move from the home, the manager challenges children's placing authority. This ensures that children receive the support that they need.

The children are vulnerable and they present behaviours that place themselves and others at risk of harm. Staff use sanctions as a response to children's behaviours and to encourage them to use alternative strategies to manage their anxieties and frustrations. However, records of these sanctions are not consistently completed to a good standard. This does not allow for management oversight and reflection to ensure that these measures are appropriate.

Risk assessments do not provide staff with the necessary guidance on how to support children when they are in crisis. There were particular shortfalls within the children's ligature risk assessments, and staff have not had adequate training to ensure that they can confidently respond to a ligature incident. This means that staff practice is inconsistent, and this places children at risk of harm. Furthermore, the manager has failed to inform Ofsted of a significant ligature incident within an acceptable time frame.

Children enjoy time with their friends. The children's risk assessments provide guidance for staff about the need to complete welfare checks on children when they are away from the home. Staff do not consistently record when they have visually seen or made telephone contact with children while they are in the community with friends. This has the potential to lead to unsafe practice.

The manager is completing additional training and self-reflection to develop her ability to lead and manage the staff team. Senior leaders have oversight of the

home, and this includes an additional level of quality assurance. The manager has developed the internal and external monitoring systems and is addressing the deficits that were highlighted at the last full inspection. As a result, there is more effective scrutiny over the quality of care for children and the service that the home provides. The requirements and recommendations from the last inspection have been met.

Recruitment processes are in place to address staff vacancies. Staff spend additional time in the home to ensure that children receive care from staff who they know. When staff are appointed, safer recruitment practices are followed. However, the manager has failed to have oversight of staff recruitment records to ensure there are no shortfalls before staff start caring for the children.

Partnership working with other agencies supports children's progress. The manager advocates for the children to ensure that all professionals supporting the children work together to effectively meet children's needs. This collaborative approach means that, for one child, they have now completed a specialist assessment for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Although staff require additional training to further their knowledge and understanding of this disorder, this joined-up working means that the child's specific needs are now known.

The home environment has been significantly improved, and this now provides a homely place where the children can relax and feel at home.

## Recent inspection history

<b>Inspection date</b>	<b>Inspection type</b>	<b>Inspection judgement</b>
13/12/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good
15/10/2019	Full	Outstanding
26/02/2019	Full	Good
08/08/2017	Full	Good

## What does the children’s home need to do to improve? Statutory requirements

This section sets out the actions that the registered person(s) must take to meet the Care Standards Act 2000, Children’s Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the ‘Guide to the Children’s Homes Regulations, including the quality standards’. The registered person(s) must comply within the given timescales.

Requirement	Due date
<p>The protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe.</p> <p>In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure—</p> <p>that staff—</p> <p>assess whether each child is at risk of harm, taking into account information in the child’s relevant plans, and, if necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i))</p>	<p>1 June 2022</p>
<p>The registered person must notify HMCI and each other relevant person without delay if—</p> <p>there is any other incident relating to a child which the registered person considers to be serious. (Regulation 40 (4)(e))</p>	<p>1 June 2022</p>

## Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that all sanctions are recorded and are subject to systems of regular scrutiny to ensure that their use is fair. (‘Guide to the Children’s Home Regulations, including the quality standards’, page 46, paragraph 9.36)
- The registered provider should ensure that the staff can access appropriate facilities and resources to support their training needs, specifically about attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. (‘Guide to the Children’s Home Regulations, including the quality standards’, page 53, paragraph 10.11)
- The registered person should ensure that they maintain good employment practice. (‘Guide to the Children’s Home Regulations, including the quality standards’, page 61, paragraph 13.1)

## **Information about this inspection**

This inspection focused on the effectiveness of the home and the progress and experiences of children and young people since the most recent full inspection.

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children and young people, using the social care common inspection framework. This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service, how it meets the core functions of the service as set out in legislation, and to consider how well it complies with the Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015 and the 'Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards'.

## Children's home details

**Unique reference number:** 1211772

**Provision sub-type:** Children's home

**Registered provider:** Aspris Children's Services Limited

**Registered provider address:** The Forge, Church Street West, Woking, Surrey  
GU21 6HT

**Responsible individual:** Kerry Maynard

**Registered manager:** Rachel Ridley

## Inspector

Jennifer Fenlon, Social Care Inspector

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