

1236278

Registered provider: Aspris Children's Services Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home provides care for up to three children. At the time of this inspection, two children were living in the home.

The provider states in its statement of purpose that it will meet the needs of children with autistic spectrum disorders and complex associated difficulties.

The manager registered with Ofsted on 29 May 2020.

Inspection dates: 9 and 10 May 2022

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	good
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How well children and young people are helped and protected	good
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The effectiveness of leaders and managers	good
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The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 15 December 2021

Overall judgement at last inspection: sustained effectiveness

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
15/12/2021	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
12/05/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good
29/11/2018	Full	Inadequate
10/10/2018	Full	Inadequate

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children's day-to-day needs are met. The home environment feels homely and children's bedrooms are personalised. Children have adequate privacy and personal space in the home, including their own bathrooms. There are nutritious home-cooked meals prepared by staff for children.

Children's medical needs and educational needs are reviewed regularly. One child is receiving specialist help to support their psychological well-being. Both children are achieving in their learning. They are ambitious. One child is preparing for an interview for voluntary work in the community. There is regular liaison between the home and education provisions, which supports children's needs effectively.

The registered manager and staff spoke to the inspector about the children's progress with pride. Children's achievements are celebrated and their successes are evident in the home. There were lots of relaxed and fun interactions observed between managers, staff and children. Children enjoy a range of activities in and out of the home. However, children's memory books are not updated with photos and memorabilia that reflect their experiences and achievements.

Children's views are captured in different ways and recorded. However, discussions and records did not clearly demonstrate how children's views are acted on. As a result, one child told the inspector that they do not always feel listened to. Some records are written in first-person narrative from the child's perspective. However, children have not always viewed these records or agreed to what has been written.

Both children enjoy time with significant family members. One family member told the inspector that they are happy with the care delivered in the home. They said that family time is supported and arranged well by the staff team.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: good

Since the previous inspection, managers have driven consistent approaches across practice. When children are distressed, staff provide calm and measured interventions that reduce harm. This is informed by training. In addition, management oversight reviews care in the home effectively. As a result, incidents have reduced in frequency and severity.

Staff were confident and knowledgeable in discussion with the inspector about the care they deliver. This included providing clear and measured examples of strategies used at times of challenge. Staff demonstrate emotional resilience in challenging situations. The inspector found that debriefs for children are meaningful. Debriefs for staff are carried out but do not fully consider the emotional impact on adults involved in incidents.

The inspector found that risk management plans do not consistently reflect the skills demonstrated by staff in discussions. They do not provide clear and concise direction for staff. Different plans have been created that do not correlate effectively. In addition, records do not always use language that helps children's understanding.

The registered manager has forged effective links with relevant agencies. This includes robust information-sharing processes and effective safety planning. For example, a multi-agency plan has been established to ensure that one child's relationship with a peer is safe and healthy. For the other child, strong partnership working has significantly reduced placement instability.

Since the previous inspection, no new staff have started at the home. No agency staff are used. The registered manager is informed about necessary recruitment processes. This will ensure that the risk of unsuitable people being recruited is reduced.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

Since the previous inspection, leadership in the home has strengthened. This has been supported by the deputy manager developing in their role. Management tasks are completed in a timely way. In addition, managers have carefully considered previous inspection findings and have taken effective steps to improve experiences for children.

Managers have a clear understanding of children's needs, their progress and areas of support required. When children require additional support or services, the registered manager challenges partner agencies effectively.

Management oversight is recorded across children's records. Managers review care that is delivered in the home and identify areas for development. Following one care review, the registered manager developed new guidance for staff to ensure that physical contact with children is safe and healthy. This has been shared and agreed with relevant agencies.

Recruitment has not been successful. This means that current staff work additional hours to ensure that there is sufficient staffing in the home. However, the inspector did not find that staff shortages impact children's care. Staff provided feedback to the inspector that indicates staff morale is good and that they feel supported by their managers.

Staff receive regular supervision. In addition, appraisals for all staff team members are carried out. This has helped staff to feel invested in the home and its development.

The independent person provides challenge during visits to the home. Strengths and areas for development identified during this inspection are reflected in reports received by Ofsted. This means that the home is monitored effectively and will ensure that progress continues.

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 care planning standard is that children receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home. (Regulation 14 (1)(a))</p> <p>This relates to leaders and managers ensuring that care planning records are clear, concise and kept up to date.</p>	9 August 2022

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that children's life-story records are collated in a way that is meaningful for children and are kept up to date. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 16, paragraph 3.14)
- The registered person should ensure that children who are consulted regularly about their care are able to see the results of their views being listened to and acted on. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 22, paragraph 4.11)
- The registered person should ensure that staff understand the importance of careful, objective and clear recording. Information about children must always be recorded in a way that will be helpful to them. In addition, the registered person should consider the appropriateness of recording children's information using first-person narrative. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.4)

Information about this 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: 1236278

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: Nancy O'Regan

Registered manager: Hannah-Marie Bennetts

Inspector

Louise Bacon, Social Care Inspector

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