

1236278

Registered provider: Aspris Children's Services Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home provides care for up to three children. The provider states in its statement of purpose that it will meet the needs of children with a diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorder.

Inspection dates: 11 and 12 May 2023

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	good
---	-------------

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

The effectiveness of leaders and managers	good
---	------

The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 9 May 2022

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
09/05/2022	Full	Good
15/12/2021	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
12/05/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good
29/11/2018	Full	Inadequate

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

The children build trusting relationships with the staff. These relationships form the basis from which children settle at the home, feel safe and make progress. Children report that they feel they are living in a family home and the staff feel like their family.

The staff understand and meet the needs of the children well. They regularly use social stories to help the children understand events, for example when a child reaches 18 years old and are moving on to their adult home. Children are allowed to keep small pets and their photographs are displayed throughout the home. This helps children to gain a sense of belonging. In addition, their families and friends are welcome to visit the home.

The children are carefully matched and report that they all get on well. Moves in and out of the home are sensitively undertaken. Children are encouraged to visit the home prior to moving in and choose the decoration of their bedroom. One child recently moved to the home and is settling well. One child left the home when it was appropriately recognised that the home was not the right place for them. This child's move out of the home was undertaken carefully, went smoothly and the child is now settled in another home and is making progress.

The staff understand the importance of equipping children with the independent living skills that they will need when they reach 18 years old and leave the home. Children learn how to budget, shop and cook, and learn essential personal care skills. The staff ensure that children benefit from obtaining a passport, bank account and provisional driving licence. Staff support children to gain part-time jobs so that they gain a positive work ethic.

All children benefit from an appropriate educational placement. One child is now making progress at school after being out of education for two years prior to arriving at the home. Another young person has gained a college placement that will commence when he leaves school this summer.

Care plans are informative and do provide the staff with the information they need to care for the children. However, the care plans do not contain clear aims and objectives that are regularly reviewed so that each child's progress can be clearly evaluated.

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

Children feel safe living at the home. The children are encouraged and supported effectively to learn from their mistakes and keep themselves safe. Positive behaviour is rewarded. This behaviour management strategy is effective because the staff are consistent in their approach, which is individualised for each child. For example, one

child is encouraged to earn items featuring their favourite cartoon character for achieving their targets, such as regularly cleaning their teeth.

There was an increase in incidents due to the anxiety of one child who is moving soon from the home to an adult provision. The staff safely managed the incidents and demonstrated strong working links with other safeguarding professionals and agencies. Incidents have now reduced and are minimal, as the child is now clear about their future plans and has settled.

Comprehensive assessments of risk and associated control measures are in place to help promote the safety of the children. Staff report that they feel confident to use the home's safeguarding policies and procedures.

The staff are rigorously checked to ensure that they are suitable people to be working with children. The children have trusting relationships with them and report that they can speak to all the staff if they feel worried or upset.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The previous registered manager left the home four months ago. A new manager has been appointed and is now ready to submit his application for registration. He is child focused and is promoting a good standard of parenting to children. There is evidence of a management footprint in documents and records and management oversight of any incidents. The staff report that the manager has their respect and trust and is providing good leadership to them.

Feedback received from professionals and families is positive. They comment on the progress that their child has made since arriving at the home, how the staff go above and beyond and are committed to achieving positive outcomes for children.

The team of staff are experienced and stable. They benefit from receiving reflective supervision. They are trained in all topics they need, such as safeguarding and first aid, so that they are equipped with the skills and knowledge that they need to provide good-quality care. This training also includes specialist training, for example how best to work with children who are diagnosed with autistic spectrum disorder. Staff report high morale in the home and that the home is a positive place to work.

The home provides children with a generally homely and well-decorated environment. However, the institutional appearance of the window restrictors, and photocopied pictures of the children displayed on the walls, detract from the otherwise homely environment.

The manager has devised a development plan that is informed by a quality assurance system. The manager is aware of the strengths and areas for improvement in the home and these are documented in the home's development plan.

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.

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that the relevant care plans form the basis of a child's care. This particularly refers to the need to ensure that each child has a placement plan that contains clear aims and objectives that are regularly reviewed and document a child's progress. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 14, paragraph 3.1)
- The registered person should ensure that for children's homes to be nurturing and supportive environments that meet the needs of their children, they will, in most cases, be homely, domestic environments. Children's homes must comply with relevant health and safety legislations (alarms, food hygiene etc;) however, in doing so, homes should seek as far as possible to maintain a domestic rather than 'institutional' impression. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.9)

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: Paul Collins

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Tina Maddison, Social Care Inspector

The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) regulates and inspects to achieve excellence in the care of children and young people, and in education and skills for learners of all ages. It regulates and inspects childcare and children's social care, and inspects the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass), schools, colleges, initial teacher training, further education and skills, adult and community learning, and education and training in prisons and other secure establishments. It assesses council children's services, and inspects services for looked after children, safeguarding and child protection.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format, such as large print or Braille, please telephone 0300 123 1231, or email enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk.

You may reuse this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence, write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is available at <http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/>.

Interested in our work? You can subscribe to our monthly newsletter for more information and updates: <http://eepurl.com/iTrDn>.

Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

T: 0300 123 1231
Textphone: 0161 618 8524
E: enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/ofsted

© Crown copyright 2023