

1271467

Registered provider: Aspris Children's Services Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

The home is operated by a national private provider of education and social care. It is registered to provide care for up to three children. The provider states in the statement of purpose that the home provides care for children aged between seven and 18 who may have learning disabilities and complex associated difficulties.

At the time of this inspection, one child was living in the home.

The manager registered with Ofsted in April 2023.

Inspection date: 30 October 2023

Date of last inspection: 31 May 2023

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspector evaluated:

- the care of children
- the safety of children
- the effectiveness of leaders and managers.

Inspectors have looked closely at the experiences and progress of children, using the social care common inspection framework. This assurance 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'.

Outcome from the inspection

We did not identify any serious or widespread concerns in relation to the care or protection of children at this assurance inspection.

Findings from the inspection

Since the previous inspection, two children have moved on from the home. Following delayed care-planning, one child has moved on successfully and is attending college. Despite careful planning for another child to move into the home, full information about the extent of their specific needs was not provided and, subsequently, it was found that their needs could not be met.

When two children lived together, one child spoke out to staff about actions of the other child negatively impacting on them. The manager implemented safety measures in the home and staffing arrangements were increased to ensure that the children were safe. The child told their social worker that they were satisfied with the actions taken.

Senior managers have taken swift action in response to serious safeguarding concerns for the one child living in the home. They have implemented measures to increase the child's immediate safety and they have taken robust action to address practice concerns that they have identified.

Prior to these interventions, managers and staff did not take effective action to protect the child from harm in the community. Records lack detail, and staff have failed to record key events that have happened. This reduces oversight of the care provided to the child and staff actions cannot be monitored effectively. At times, child-protection procedures have not been followed.

The home's link with partner agencies has strengthened to inform safety-planning around the child. The child is responding to boundaries that have been implemented to increase their immediate safety. Further work with the child is needed to fully understand their experiences in the community, including time spent with unsafe adults, and to inform any additional actions.

The child is attending an education provision for short periods. When they are not attending education, their day is structured, and they are participating in different activities to promote their development. While photos are taken to help them build their life-story memories, they are not collated in a way that is meaningful to them.

While the home environment meets the child's needs, decoration of their bedroom in line with their wishes would create a more nurturing and personalised environment for them. The child describes being happy about living in the home. They enjoy friends coming to their home and spending time with them.

At all previous full inspections, shortfalls have been identified in the leadership and management of this home. Senior managers have taken action to address these concerns, and a senior manager is overseeing the day-to-day arrangements of the home effectively. The responsible individual said that there are no current plans to move another child into the home. This is because of the need to improve the quality of care and the experiences of the child currently living in the home.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
31/05/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
17/01/2023	Full	Requires improvement to be good
04/11/2021	Full	Good
05/11/2018	Interim	Declined in effectiveness

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, The 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;</p> <p>help each child to understand how to keep safe;</p> <p>have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm;</p> <p>understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person;</p> <p>take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare; and</p> <p>are familiar with, and act in accordance with, the home's child protection policies.</p> <p>that the home's day-to-day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe and to protect each child effectively from harm. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii)(v)(vi)(vii)(b))</p>	25 December 2023
<p>The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that—</p>	25 December 2023

helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and

promotes their welfare.

In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to—

lead and manage the home in a way that is consistent with the approach and ethos, and delivers the outcomes, set out in the home's statement of purpose;

ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications and skills to meet the needs of each child;

understand the impact that the quality of care provided in the home is having on the progress and experiences of each child and use this understanding to inform the development of the quality of care provided in the home;

use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home.
(Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a)(b)(c)(f)(h))

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that the home provides a nurturing and supportive environment that meets the needs of the children living there, and is a homely, domestic environment. In particular, the child's bedroom should be decorated to create a nurturing environment. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.9)
- The registered person should ensure that children's life-story records are collated in a way that is meaningful for children and kept up to date. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 16, paragraph 3.14)

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 1271467

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Aspris Children's Services Limited

Registered provider address: Aspris, The Forge, 43 Church Street West, Woking, Surrey GU21 6HT

Responsible individual: Michelle Garstang

Registered manager: Emma LLoyd

Inspector

Louise Bacon, 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 children looked after, 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