

1228191

Registered provider: Aspireone Care Ltd

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned and run by a private company. The home provides care for up to three children who may experience social and emotional difficulties.

At the time of the inspection, two children were living at the home. Both children were present and were spoken to during the inspection.

The manager registered with Ofsted in October 2024 and is suitably qualified and experienced.

Inspection dates: 11 and 12 December 2024

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: 19 March 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
19/03/2024	Full	Good
14/02/2023	Full	Good
16/08/2021	Full	Outstanding
03/12/2019	Full	Outstanding

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Since the last inspection, three children have moved out of the home. Two of them had lived at the home for a short time. For one child, their placing authority did not share all relevant information at the time of the referral, and another child quickly returned to their family. The third child had reached independence and moved on to semi-independent living. Despite an unsettled period in the home, children continue to receive good-quality care.

Children make progress from their starting points and establish trusting relationships with staff. Warm and positive interactions and relationships have aided children's progression and enabled them to feel valued.

Education is a clear priority in the home. Staff work effectively with education providers to promote children's engagement with school. Before living in the home, one child had never successfully completed a full term in school, did not take part in any extra-curricular activities, lacked positive interaction with peers and did not have experience of safe and consistent parenting. This child now has excellent school attendance and has made friends and local connections. After moving into the home, another child did not have a school place. The manager advocated on behalf of the child, who now has a school place due to start imminently.

Children are encouraged to take part in different activities and to have a range of different experiences tailored to their interests, including football and board games. This encouragement enables children to thrive.

Children experience positive moves from the home to independent living. Children who have moved out of the home continue to value their relationships with staff and remain in close contact for ongoing support and to share their achievements since moving on.

Staff help children to maintain relationships with people who are important to them. Parents say they feel important and feel like they are continuing to participate in their children's lives. Staff respond to children and act on their requests. Children's expectations are managed so that they understand how they will achieve goals.

Despite improvements to the home environment, there are areas that look tired and where repairs and cleaning are needed. This includes a broken window in a child's bedroom. This detracts from a nurturing and comfortable environment, which will impact on children's sense of worth and their ability to respect their environment.

Door alarms have been appropriately risk assessed to reduce specific risks in the home. However, bedroom door alarms are being used to monitor children's whereabouts in the day when the risk is not present. This blanket approach is intrusive and does not have regard to children's right to privacy.

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

The home is a safe place for children to live. Staff know the children and their associated risks well. The use of physical intervention is rare. This indicates staff's ability to use their skills to de-escalate situations effectively. When physical intervention has been used, it is proportionate and well managed. There are, however, shortfalls in the recording of physical interventions. While records are detailed in some areas, information detailing the hold used is missing, and discussions with staff and children after the event are not consistently recorded.

Since the last inspection, there have been two missing-from-home episodes relating to a child who no longer lives in the home. There is a clear policy and procedure in place for such incidents and records clearly demonstrate the well-coordinated response from staff. Episodes of children going missing are recorded in detail.

Appropriate decisions were made for two children to move on from the home. It was quickly recognised that staff were unable to keep these children safe and provide the level of specific care that they required. The manager had many questions about the appropriateness of one child's placement, but crucial information was withheld from the provider by the placing authority. The manager has made a formal complaint on behalf of the child.

Disclosures made by children are taken seriously. These are acted on promptly by the manager through the necessary channels and in line with the home's safeguarding policy. The wider network around the child is accessed for support. As a result, children feel listened to and safe.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager is new to the role. She has taken the leadership role in her stride and has begun to make her mark on the development of the home. The manager is committed and passionate about improving the care children receive. She knows the children well and celebrates their progress, however small.

Children, staff and professionals speak highly of the manager. Effective systems are in place to seek children's views. However, there are limited systems to seek feedback from others, such as professionals and parents. The manager has a strategy in place to improve this.

The manager has employed an experienced team of staff, who work cohesively together. While there have been challenges in the home, the staff team has remained stable, providing consistency of care to children.

The home's internal recording systems have been updated. The manager and staff say there are benefits to the streamlined system, with less duplication. However, there are

still difficulties in navigating the system to locate key documents linked to recorded incidents.

The manager is aware of the home's strengths and areas for development. She is receptive of feedback to improve the care provided to children, to achieve better outcomes. However, The manager has failed to use audit tools and there are shortfalls in the recording and review of information.

The manager has a training plan for the year for the team. However, the staff training record does not reflect the training that has taken place. Staff have not received training relevant to the specific care needs of the children in the home. This means that the care provided may not be in line with the home's statement of purpose.

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
The leadership and management standard is that the registered person enables, inspires and leads a culture in relation to the children's home that— helps children aspire to fulfil their potential; and promotes their welfare. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that staff have the experience, qualifications, and skills to meet the needs of each child; and use monitoring and review systems to make continuous improvements in the quality of care provided in the home. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c)(h)) In particular, the manager must ensure that staff complete the organisation's mandatory and home-specific training. The manager must also have robust quality assurance and monitoring systems in place, particularly of physical intervention records. They must also have effective oversight of the home to improve the quality of care provided.	7 February 2024

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that the children's home provides a nurturing, supportive and homely environment that meets the needs of the children. This specifically relates to ensuring that the home is clean and updated so as to not appear tired and worn and that repairs are carried out quickly. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.9)
- The registered person should ensure that when using monitoring or surveillance equipment, they have a written policy describing how this will support the safeguarding and well-being of those living and working in the home, in accordance with regulation 24. This specifically relates to not using bedroom door alarms as a

blanket approach and reviewing the reasons for the use of bedroom door alarms at regular intervals. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 16, paragraph 3.16)

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: 1228191

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Aspireone Care Ltd

Registered provider address: 4 Lyme Drive, Lyme Vale Court, Parklands, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire ST4 6NW

Responsible individual: Kalvinder Bains

Registered manager: Louise Bailey

Inspector

Tonia Dubidat, Social Care Inspector

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