

1234621

Registered provider: Aspris Children's Services Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This privately owned home provides care for up to five children with social and emotional difficulties aged between eight and 18 years old. One child currently lives at the home.

The manager registered with Ofsted in April 2023.

Inspection dates: 13 and 14 August 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: 27 February 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
27/02/2024	Full	Good
05/07/2022	Full	Good
22/03/2022	Interim	Improved effectiveness
26/07/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

At the time of the inspection, there was one child living at the home. The child was spoken to during the inspection. Since the last inspection, one child has moved in and three children have moved on. When one child moved in, staff and managers ensured they received a well-planned, warm welcome. When one child recently experienced a sudden move, managers worked hard to manage this sensitively.

The child living at the home is making good all-round progress and has positive experiences. They receive individualised care from staff who meet their needs.

Staff support the child to build important life skills through detailed and well-implemented plans. The child has written a curriculum vitae and applied for part-time work as a lifeguard. Staff's previous work with children has enabled two children to successfully move on to a less supported home. This support from staff has meant that children are more prepared for adulthood.

Staff understand the importance of education and regular routines for the child. The child has improved attendance and is making good progress at school. They have recently been able to sit their GCSEs exams. Staff use a personalised rewards system to assist the child to set achievable goals. This has been instrumental for the child to successfully complete revision tasks to help them prepare for their recent school exams. Managers recently arranged for the child to visit a university taster day. This has encouraged the child to be ambitious about their future.

Staff link with the local and wider community to ensure that the child has fun and enjoyable experiences. The child regularly attends a local gym and has recently enjoyed a caravan holiday. The child's views are actively sought and considered by staff to help plan their day-to-day activities. This has increased the child's well-being and sense of community.

The child knows how to complain. When there have been previous conflicts between the child and other children, staff took quick action to help resolve children's differences. Staff's reflective discussions with the child have helped the child move forward from their concern and has supported their social development.

Photo memorabilia and the child's artwork is displayed throughout the home, creating a family feel. This helps the child to feel proud of their accomplishments.

The home requires maintenance work. The roof guttering is full of debris and the garden contains weeds throughout the patio area. This detracts from what is otherwise a well-decorated home.

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

Staff understand the individual needs and risks for the child. The child's risk management plan is detailed and is followed by staff. This has provided staff with a range of personalised strategies to support the child when they are distressed.

Staff speak to the child about online safety and healthy relationships. The child said that they can confidently speak to staff about their identity and their personal relationships. Staff's monitoring of the child's electronic devices is proportionate and is regularly reviewed with the child.

There have been two incidents of restraint. This was used by staff as a last resort to keep the child safe. Records are clear and managers have monitored these interventions with staff. The child has been actively encouraged to share their views following these incidents. This has assisted in identifying learning points and future support strategies for staff to use.

On one occasion the child left the home for two hours, staff took appropriate action to ensure their safety and welcomed them back to the home warmly. Return home interviews were arranged. Staff also encouraged the child to share their reasons for leaving the home, to ensure they can learn from the child's experiences.

Staff do not always follow agreed safeguarding procedures. On one occasion, an allegation of harm raised by the child was not reported by staff immediately. Managers took prompt action to respond to this concern once they were alerted. However, this meant that protective measures for the child were delayed.

The manager has compiled an appropriate risk assessment to reduce the risks related to a personal relationship between two staff members. However, the staff are not all aware of this guidance. If left unaddressed, there is potential for staff to use incorrect routes to report safeguarding concerns. This does not support an open culture of honesty and disclosure with regard to practice and protocol within the home.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager is appropriately qualified and has the skills to manage the home. She is supported by a deputy manager and a group of senior support staff. An experienced responsible individual provides oversight of the management team.

Managers and staff ensure that collaborative working with other professionals is strong. Social workers and a health practitioner provided positive feedback about their experiences of working with managers and the care that staff provide to children. Professionals said that managers communicate well.

Managers are proactive in advocating for children. When there have been previous barriers to children's participation at school, managers have been proactive in organising alternative educational activities. Managers have challenged external professionals to explore children's full reintroduction to school at the earliest opportunity.

Staff turnover is low. Most of the staff have completed a relevant level 3 qualification. Managers ensure that staff attend a good range of training based on the individual needs of the child. This ensures that the child receives care from a stable and qualified staff team.

Generally, staff feel well supported by managers. Managers offer guidance through reflective team meetings and supervision sessions. Most staff receive regular supervision from the manager. However, there is a large gap in these sessions for one staff member. Additionally, some staff have not received an annual appraisal of their performance within required timescales. This means opportunities to develop these staff members' practice could be missed.

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 protection of children standard is that children are protected from harm and enabled to keep themselves safe. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that staff— understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person; and are familiar with, and act in accordance with, the home's child protection policies. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(v)(vii)) In particular, ensure that all staff understand the arrangements for reporting safeguarding concerns without delay.	30 September 2024
The registered person must ensure that all employees— receive practice-related supervision by a person with appropriate experience; and have their performance and fitness to perform their roles appraised at least once every year. (Regulation 33 (4)(b)(c))	30 September 2024

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that all areas of the home are well maintained. In particular, ensure that the garden, guttering and surrounding gardens are cleared of weeds and debris. ('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: 1234621

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: Michelle Batchelor

Registered manager: Mica Lee

Inspectors

Natalie Day, Social Care Inspector
Mark Anderton, Social Care Inspector

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