

2555505

Registered provider: Aspiration House Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is privately operated and provides care for up to eight children with special educational needs, autism spectrum disorder and/or atypical autism, special educational needs/disabilities SEND.

At the time of the inspection, three children were living at the home, and they contributed to the inspection.

The home is led by a manager who is registered with Ofsted.

Inspection date: 18 November 2025

Date of last inspection: 19 August 2025

Judgement at last inspection: requires improvement to be good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At this inspection, the inspectors 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'.

Findings 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.

Following the last full inspection, the manager developed an action plan to address the shortfalls identified from that inspection. This plan outlined measures they would take to ensure the statutory requirements were met. In addition to the action plan, the leadership team has reviewed some internal working practices and processes and made changes to strengthen these.

The manager has recently resigned from their role. However, they have not yet ended their registration with Ofsted. Additionally, there is no suitable individual in post. The deputy manager is managing the home on a day-to-day basis. While she is committed to this role, there is a lack of experience and qualifications to draw on, particularly in relation to strategic decision-making at the home. The senior leadership team is visiting on a weekly basis. Through these visits, care of the children alongside procedures are being reviewed to ensure they are purposeful and appropriate and are focused on children being safeguarded. Despite these arrangements, there remain vulnerabilities within the management structure that still require strengthening.

During the period between the last full inspection and this inspection, two of the children had to be moved to another provision within the company due to a health and safety issue at the home. This matter was rectified, and they returned to the home. However, one of these children subsequently left.

There have been improvements to conditions at the home. Of note is the refurbishment of some bathroom areas. Regular health and safety checks are carried out by staff and the senior leadership team to ensure all issues are identified and resolved as soon as possible. There remain areas for improvement in the home, particularly to ensure that spaces feel welcoming and inviting for children.

Risk management assessments for all the children have been updated to reflect children's precise needs and how staff can respond to these needs. Senior leaders have identified areas requiring further development regarding these assessments to make them stronger and aid staff care practice in keeping children safe.

Senior leaders have introduced new documentation to improve the recording of any incidents involving children. This will help to ensure that all incidents are thoroughly recorded and shared with external professional agencies and parents. Leaders and managers have recognised that it is not appropriate to sanction children financially if they have caused damage during incidents, and this practice has now stopped.

Senior leaders have acknowledged the need for staff to enhance their understanding and competency regarding restrictive practices. Training has been provided to staff. However, some staff are yet to complete this training.

Medication errors have continued to be made. The medication administration policy has been updated. However, not all staff have received updated medication training, including the deputy manager. This has meant there have been occasions when children have been administered medication by staff who have not had their competency assessed to do this. In addition, when staff have made errors, they have not undertaken the necessary training to show their competency to keep children safe.

Time has been taken to update the children's guide. It has been adapted to reflect a format that children with additional communication needs would understand more easily.

Staff speak positively about the recent management and procedural changes. They stated that they can raise concerns with the deputy manager and that there is an open-door policy in operation to raise any issues they may have or receive support. They feel they are being consistent in their approach with the children and that continues to support their progression.

The members of the senior leadership team are proactive in their approach. They are reviewing some historical practice at the home to then strengthen safeguarding measures for children going forward. When concerns have arisen, they have been quick to respond, and they have shared relevant information with appropriate professionals. If necessary, staff have been suspended pending the outcome of investigations.

Of the requirements made at the full inspection, one has been met, and the others remain in place. Although there have been some improvements in practice, more time is required to fully embed these changes and demonstrate consistent practice.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
19/08/2025	Full	Requires improvement to be good
14/05/2024	Full	Good
02/05/2023	Full	Good
17/05/2022	Full	Good

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 that the premises used for the purpose of the home are designed, furnished and maintained so as to protect each child from avoidable hazards to the child's health. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(5)(d)) This specifically relates to the registered person ensuring that the home is maintained, actioning any outstanding repairs to the home and ensuring that the living accommodation is safe for the children. In addition, staff must record any instances of physical intervention.	5 January 2026
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;	5 January 2026

ensure that the home has sufficient staff to provide care for each child. (Regulation 13(1)(a)(b) (2)(c)(d)) This specifically refers to sufficient staff being on duty to manage the children's assessed needs and risks. In addition, the registered person needs to ensure that all staff are suitably trained and qualified to undertake physical interventions.	
The registered person must make arrangements for the handling, recording, safekeeping, safe administration and disposal of medicines received into the children's home. In particular the registered person must ensure that— medicine which is prescribed for a child is administered as prescribed to the child for whom it is prescribed and to no other child; and a record is kept of the administration of medicine to each child. (Regulation 23(1) (2)(b)(c)) This specifically relates to the registered person ensuring that all staff are competent in administering medication to ensure consistent practice and avoid errors being made, and for children to receive the right medication at the right time. In addition, the medication policy needs to reflect the range of potential medication errors.	5 Jan 2026
An individual may only carry on a children's home if the individual satisfies the requirements in paragraph (5). The requirements are that— the individual is of integrity and good character; full and satisfactory information is available in relation to the individual in respect of each of the matters in Schedule 2; the individual is mentally and physically fit to carry on the home; A responsible individual must— satisfy the requirements in paragraph (5)(a) to (c); and	5 Jan 2026

have the capacity, experience and skills to supervise the management of the home, or the homes, in respect of which the responsible individual is nominated.

(Regulation 26 (1) (5)(a)(b)(c)(d) (7)(a)(b))

This specifically relates to the responsible individual undertaking their role in accordance with regulation.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2555505

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Aspiration House Limited

Registered provider address: 2nd Floor, 9 Portland Street, Manchester M1 3BE

Responsible individual:

Registered manager: Emily Welling

Inspectors

Lizette Watts, Social Care Inspector

Louise Copping, Social Care Inspector

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