

2592242

Registered provider: Aspris Children's Services Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This children's home was registered on 18 September 2020. The manager also registered with Ofsted at the same time.

The home is registered to care for up to three children. At the time of this inspection, two children were living in the home.

Inspection dates: 11 and 12 October 2022

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	requires improvement to be good
---	--

How well children and young people are helped and protected	requires improvement to be good
---	---------------------------------

The effectiveness of leaders and managers	requires improvement to be good
---	---------------------------------

The children's home is not yet delivering good help and care for children and young people. However, there are no serious or widespread failures that result in their welfare not being safeguarded or promoted.

Date of last inspection: 11 August 2021

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
11/08/2021	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: requires improvement to be good

Both children have lived in the home for nearly two years. Staff invest time in them, and a family environment has been created that promotes their sense of belonging. They enjoy different activities in the home and in the community. Many positive experiences are captured in photos that are included in meaningful memory books. This includes time spent with their family and with staff.

Children attend school suitable to meet their specific needs. Their educational needs are reviewed regularly. Staff encourage children with their learning. This includes exploring their interests with them and their options to move on to further education. One child is enjoying work experience and both have achieved a qualification.

Children are supported to develop skills needed for independence. However, some independence skills target presenting issues and fail to address children's underlying needs. This affects children making progress in some areas. For example, one child is struggling to maintain a clean and tidy bedroom because the target focuses on the child's skills and does not encompass care and support to help them overcome past experiences.

Records provide very limited detail about children's daily lives. This is not helpful for their life story, to help them understand how they have been helped and cared for. Records do not demonstrate staff responding to children in line with their plans, nor was this reflected in observations of the children's care.

Children are encouraged to express their views. For example, children's views have informed decision-making relating to medication changes, activities and meal choices. They meet with an independent advocate. However, direct feedback from children about their day-to-day care and how this improves care and support is less apparent.

How well children and young people are helped and protected: requires improvement to be good

Recruitment processes help to prevent unsuitable people from being recruited. Children know staff well because care is provided by a stable and permanent staff team. There have been no allegations or complaints made by children against staff.

There are safe arrangements in place for medication administered to children, and no medication errors have been reported.

Staff make attempts to locate children when they go missing. They are supported to return home and return home interviews have been completed after each incident.

When staff maintain phone contact with children, they do not always report them missing to the police. At times, this has led to a child being out of sight for lengthy periods of time and, on one occasion, into the early hours of the morning. This strategy cannot ensure the safety of children and the manager has raised this issue with staff.

Staff respond to incidents when they occur and family members are informed. However, the quality of interventions cannot be fully measured because they are not detailed in records. Interventions are often in response to presenting risk factors and do not always address underlying issues. This is needed to ensure children's safety is continually increased and managed effectively.

For a child who previously lived in the home, restraint was used to keep them and others safe. On one occasion when this was not used effectively, the police were called to intervene, and they restrained the child. The use of restraint is not sufficiently detailed in records, including the description and duration of the restraint used.

When children self-harm, staff respond promptly and appropriately. There is a joined-up approach to guide staff to respond to self-harm effectively. Children are provided with specialist help and their plans are reviewed to ensure that strategies and any restrictions in the home are proportionate to the risk posed.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: requires improvement to be good

The home is sufficiently staffed to care for two children. There is a current recruitment drive to recruit more staff to allow another child to move into the home.

Leaders and managers have completed a review relating to difficulties that occurred when three children lived in the home previously. The manager told the inspector that learning from this will be used to inform future matching processes. This aims to reduce conflict between children, incidents and unplanned endings.

In the main, staff have completed training so that they know how to care for children safely. While staff know children well, feedback from staff to the inspector did not demonstrate the consistent in-depth knowledge that is needed to meet children's more complex needs.

Records did not demonstrate the manager's oversight of children's needs and the care that was evident in discussions with the inspector. There is limited analysis across records to review the quality of care provided to children to ensure that their care is consistent, effective and continually improved.

The manager has forged effective links with education, health and local authority services. External support is provided to children. There is good communication between the home, agencies and children's family members, who provided positive feedback about the home.

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.

Requirement	Due date
The quality and purpose of care standard is that children receive care from staff who— understand the children's home's overall aims and the outcomes it seeks to achieve for children; use this understanding to deliver care that meets children's needs and supports them to fulfil their potential. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that staff— protect and promote each child's welfare; provide personalised care that meets each child's needs, as recorded in the child's relevant plans, taking account of the child's background; help each child to understand and manage the impact of any experience of abuse or neglect; make decisions about the day-to-day arrangements for each child, in accordance with the child's relevant plans, which give the child an appropriate degree of freedom and choice. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b) (2)(b)(ii)(iv)(v)(ix))	27 January 2023
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—	27 January 2023

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; demonstrate that practice in the home is informed and improved by taking into account and acting on— research and developments in relation to the ways in which the needs of children are best met; and feedback on the experiences of children, including complaints received; 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)(a)(c)(f)(g)(i)(ii)(h))	
The registered person must ensure that— restraint in relation to a child is only permitted for the purpose of preventing— injury to any person (including the child); serious damage to the property of any person (including the child); or a child who is accommodated in a secure children's home from absconding from the home. restraint in relation to a child must be necessary and proportionate. (Regulation 20 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)) This specifically relates to leaders and managers ensuring that staff have the skills to de-escalate and manage children's behaviour.	27 January 2023
The registered person must ensure that—	11 November 2022

within 24 hours of the use of a measure of control, discipline or restraint in relation to a child in the home, a record is made which includes—

a description of the measure and its duration;

a description of any injury to the child or any other person, and any medical treatment administered, as a result of the measure;

within 5 days of the use of the measure, the registered person or the authorised person adds to the record confirmation that they have spoken to the child about the measure. (Regulation 35 (3)(a)(iv)(viii)(c))

This specifically relates to leaders and managers ensuring that incident records provide a detailed account of what happened, interventions used, the duration of interventions and the child's views.

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: 2592242

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: Robert Court

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 2022