

2592242

Registered provider: Aspris Children's Services Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is registered to provide care for up to three children.

The manager registered with Ofsted in September 2020.

At the time of this inspection, two children were living in the home.

Inspection date: 27 March 2023

Date of last inspection: 11 October 2022

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'.

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.

The care of children

Both children have lived in this home for over two years. They have formed positive and trusting relationships with the caring staff who look after them. Many of the staff have worked in the home since the children moved in.

Children know what their care plan is until they reach adulthood, which helps them to feel secure about their future. Their education is prioritised, and careful thought is given to helping them to succeed. Children are given the best opportunity to reach their potential. Activities and positive experiences are encouraged. Children are supported to see their family and friends in and out of the home. Parents speak positively about communication with staff and the care given.

The safety of children

When children go missing from the home, staff take appropriate action to help them return home as soon as possible. Strategies to keep children safe are continually assessed in consultation with the local authority and other agencies. While the current protocol is regularly reviewed, due to changing circumstances, greater clarity is needed to guide staff in all scenarios where children might go missing, to ensure that they have a consistent response.

Some children receive regular individual therapy. This makes a positive difference in helping them to address their feelings and increase their emotional well-being. Physical intervention has not been used. Due to staff's knowledge of the children and the positive relationships they have, they have managed and diffused challenging situations well.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers

Since the full inspection, managers have addressed the requirements made. Management oversight and monitoring of the quality of care and recording have improved. More robust systems are in place, and records reflect children's day-to-day experiences well. When incidents happen, these are detailed carefully with clear management review and always include an in-depth and helpful conversation with the child. However, the absence of an analysis of these conversations makes it difficult to grasp the key issues and use the information to plan effective next steps.

The home is well maintained. Children have plenty of space to socialise, have fun and take quiet time. The removal of the staff office adds to the homely and

welcoming environment. Staff are well supported and receive training that equips them to meet children's needs.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
11/10/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
11/08/2021	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, 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 registered person must prepare and implement a policy ("the missing child policy") setting out— the procedures to be followed, and the roles and responsibilities of persons working at the home, in relation to a child who is, or has been, so absent. (Regulation 34 (4)(b)) In particular, ensure that the current missing-from-home protocol contains clear guidance for staff to follow should children go missing from the home at night.	1 April 2023

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that staff record information about individual children in a non-stigmatising way that distinguishes between fact, opinion and third-party information. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 62, paragraph 14.4)

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: Nancy O'Regan

Registered manager: Robert Court

Inspector

Sarah Canto, Social Care Inspector

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