

2691525

Registered provider: Aspiration House Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home registered with Ofsted in March 2023 and is owned by a private company. It provides care for up to 6 children with learning disabilities.

The home has 2 houses on the site. One can accommodate 2 children and the other can accommodate 4 children.

The home also has a school on the same site, which children living at the home can attend. The inspector only inspected the social care provision.

Since the last inspection, no children have moved in or out of the home. At the time of this inspection, 3 children were living at the home. These children have remained living at the home since the last inspection. Two children spoke with the inspector.

The registered manager post has been vacant since September 2025.

Inspection date: 14 January 2026

Date of last inspection: 19 August 2025

Judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Information about this inspection

At these inspections, 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.

This inspection was undertaken due to concerns about the care of children and the management arrangements being shared with the regulator.

Children living in the home are making good progress. They attend the on-site school every day and are supported in school by familiar staff. One child is being supported to develop practical life skills to support their independence in line with their plan.

The interim manager and staff know the children and their needs well, including their communication and health needs. Regular meetings have been introduced to bring together staff, the in-house clinical team and specialist mental health services to ensure that children's evolving needs are considered and supported. This has led to one child receiving specialist help promptly. There has also been a change in medication to support the child's ongoing emotional wellbeing.

The home is well presented. The communal areas are spacious and comfortable for children to spend time in. However, there are some areas that need attention due to damage. Leaders and managers have a plan around this and some of the work was being addressed during the inspection.

The risks to the children and their vulnerabilities are understood by staff, leaders and managers. However, there has been an increase in the number of incidents since the last inspection for one child who has struggled to manage their emotions. During some incidents, there has been damage to the home and staff have been hurt when they have tried to de-escalate and manage situations. Staff have needed to use physical intervention to keep children safe. Records of incidents are timely and contain relevant details. However, the interim manager does not always record their conversations with children following incidents.

Leaders and managers acknowledge that some incidents have not been managed well, although there has been no significant harm to children. They also recognise that some staff have not consistently demonstrated professional curiosity. As a result, staff have completed additional training. This has included safeguarding, physical intervention, recording, report writing, fire safety and medication training. Learning from incidents is shared in regular team meetings and focused one-to-one meetings. Staff benefit from ongoing development opportunities and to help ensure that practice promotes the care and safety of children.

The deputy manager has been leading the home, supported by an interim responsible individual. These interim arrangements have meant some uncertainty for children and staff regarding the leadership and management of the home. Leaders

and managers have not always been robust in their monitoring of the operation of the home and staff have not always received regular supervision. This has impacted staff morale and their sense of feeling supported. This has been acknowledged by senior leaders, and additional support has been given to managers to help them provide adequate support and guidance for staff. A new manager is due to commence in post, as is a permanent responsible individual from within the organisation.

Professionals are positive about the home. One child's social worker commented that they are not worried about the child. They felt that the changes in the home have been managed well and that there has been no negative impact on the child's care and safety.

The interim manager has made progress in meeting one previous requirement. Two requirements remain unmet. One is in relation to regular supervision for the staff and the manager. The other is in relation to staff having the appropriate qualification by the relevant date. These will be restated. Further to this, 2 new requirements have been raised.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
19/08/2025	Full	Good
14/01/2025	Full	Good
20/09/2023	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— assess whether each child is at risk of harm, taking into account information in the child's relevant plans, and if necessary, make arrangements to reduce the risk of any harm to the child; have the skills to identify and act upon signs that a child is at risk of harm; understand the roles and responsibilities in relation to protecting children that are assigned to them by the registered person; take effective action whenever there is a serious concern about a child's welfare; and that the home's day-to-day care is arranged and delivered so as to keep each child safe and to protect each child effectively from harm. In particular that managers and staff consistently exercise professional curiosity and that staff adhere to the required levels of supervision as set out in children's plans. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(a)(i)(iii)(v)(vi)(b))	9 March 2026
The registered person must prepare and implement a policy ("the behaviour management policy") which sets out— how appropriate behaviour is to be promoted in the children's home; and	9 March 2026

the measures of control, discipline and restraint which may be used in relation to children in the home. The registered person must ensure that— 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 (1)(a)(b) (3)(c))	
The registered person must recruit staff using recruitment procedures that are designed to ensure children's safety. The registered person may only— employ an individual to work at the children's home; if the individual satisfies the requirements in paragraph (3). The requirements are that— the individual has the appropriate experience, qualification and skills for the work that the individual is to perform; for the purposes of paragraph (3)(b), an individual who works in the home in a care role has the appropriate qualification if, by the relevant date, the individual has attained— the Level 3 Diploma for Residential Childcare (England) ("the Level 3 Diploma"); or a qualification which the registered person considers to be equivalent to the Level 3 Diploma. The relevant date is— in the case of an individual who starts working in a care role in a home after 1st April 2014, the date which falls 2 years after the date on which the individual started working in a care role in a home. (Regulation 32 (1) (2)(a) (3)(b) (4)(a)(b) (5)(a)) This requirement was raised at the last inspection and is restated.	9 March 2026
The registered person must ensure that all employees—	9 March 2026

undertake appropriate continuing professional development; and

receive practice-related supervision by a person with appropriate experience. (Regulation 33 (4)(a)(b))

In particular, ensure that the manager and staff receive regular, practice related supervision and are provided adequate opportunities for professional development.

This requirement was raised at the last inspection and is restated.

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that staff are familiar with the home's policies on record-keeping, and understand the importance of careful, objective and clear recording. Staff should record information on individual children in a non-stigmatising way that distinguishes between fact, opinion and third-party information. Information about the child must always be recorded in a way that will be helpful to the child. In particular, ensure that there is effective oversight of the quality and consistency of record-keeping. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards,' page 62, paragraph 14.4)

Children's home details

Unique reference number: 2691525

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Aspiration House Limited

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

Responsible individual: Post vacant

Registered manager: Post vacant

Inspector

Nurul Kabir, Social Care Inspector

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