

SC393567

Registered provider: Aspris Children's Services Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned by a private company. It provides care for up to five children aged between nine and 18 years.

The manager registered with Ofsted in March 2025.

Inspection dates: 4 and 5 March 2025

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: 23 January 2024

Overall judgement at last inspection: outstanding

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
23/01/2024	Full	Outstanding
14/03/2023	Full	Good
15/02/2022	Full	Outstanding
03/09/2019	Full	Outstanding

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children make progress because they are looked after by nurturing, dedicated staff who are attuned to their needs. Staff have built positive relationships with the children. The children identify staff as adults they trust and can approach with any worries or concerns. As a result, the children trust staff, feel safe and are happy living in the home.

Children live in a welcoming, well-furnished home. Staff involve the children in the decoration of their own rooms and, recently, in the redecoration of the lounge. The children have chosen decor for their bedrooms which reflects their interests. Each child's personal space reflects their individual needs and self-expression. The children have a pet cat that they look after well and have developed close attachments with.

There is effective partnership working between staff and network professionals. Staff ensure that the children's parents and professionals are kept well informed. Staff are keen for the right decisions to be made for the children. External professionals and the children's guardians are complimentary about the care staff provide to the children. One child's guardian said they are grateful for the care and dedication the team show every day.

Staff promote the importance of education and, as a result, all the children now attend school full-time. Staff have open communication with education professionals and ensure they are kept informed of updates about the children. The manager has recently challenged one child's school placement. The manager was concerned the child was not making progress and had a long journey to attend school. It has been agreed that the child will move to a more suitable local school.

Staff celebrate equality and diversity. The children have opportunities to learn about different cultures and the different heritages of the children they live with. The children have recently learned about neurodiversity, and are kept up to date with world news in weekly children's meetings. Staff diligently promote tolerance and acceptance with the children.

Staff have completed the organisation's core training and some bespoke courses. However, not all staff have completed the available training on communication aids and the associated needs of one child. Consequently, staff do not have the most current understanding of how to support this child's needs.

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

The manager and staff prioritise the safety of the children. Staff know the children well and understand how to manage children's known risks. Staff have supported one child to improve their road safety awareness and another to understand online safety. The children's plans clearly describe how to keep the children safe.

Children rarely go missing from home. However, when they do, staff diligently follow the agreed protocols and work well with the local police. Staff maintain detailed records of the incident and actions they have taken. They speak with the child afterwards to try to prevent a recurrence. Staff keep the children as safe as possible when they are missing from home.

Physical interventions are kept to a minimum and only used when they are necessary to keep the children safe. Staff reflect on incidents with the manager to understand if there are any lessons that can be learned. The children are given the opportunity to talk openly about their feelings after incidents and explore other ways to express their emotions. As a result of this work, the children can understand why they have been held by staff.

Any complaints and allegations are responded to promptly. The manager takes appropriate action to ensure that all concerns are investigated and reported to the correct authorities. The children are kept at the centre of the process and are supported well by the staff. The children are informed of the outcome of any concerns they raise. This reassures them that staff genuinely care for them and that they will listen to, and act on, any concerns.

The staff ensure that the children's health needs are well met. Appropriate action has been taken in response to a small number of medication errors and concerns regarding the handling of the children's medication. Learning from the investigations has led to practice improvements, with no further medication errors since.

Safer recruitment checks are thorough. The manager is committed to ensuring staff working with vulnerable children have been appropriately vetted and deemed suitable. All staff have attended safeguarding training and understand their responsibilities in raising and reporting any safeguarding concerns. This enhances the safety and well-being of the children.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager is unwavering in her efforts to be a trusted figure for the children and has high aspirations for what the children can achieve. This makes her a good role model for the staff. The manager has a sound understanding of the children's strengths and vulnerabilities and is committed to ensuring that they receive high-quality care.

The manager has effective monitoring systems and action plans in place that support the development of the home. These systems have helped her to identify areas of weakness and the actions she will take to improve these. For example, she is streamlining monitoring processes to ensure that information in children's records is not duplicated.

The morale in the staff team is positive and all staff speak highly of the support they receive from their colleagues and managers. Staff positively described the recent move to the home of staff from another home in the organisation that closed, and how well

the manager supported them through this process. Staff receive regular reflective supervision, and this provides a strong foundation to ensure the needs of the children are met to a high standard.

Senior leaders in the organisation are passionate about providing good the care and support for the children. After a recent challenging period in the home, the manager described how supportive and helpful senior leaders were with the children, as well as to her and the staff team.

Moves into and on from the home are generally well planned. However, the manager did not ensure the staff team was fully able to meet the needs of one child who moved in. The child needed to move out at short notice. The manager has reflected on the learning from this child's move and has made changes to improve the arrangements when children move in.

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 care planning standard is that children— receive effectively planned care in or through the children's home; and have a positive experience of arriving at or moving on from the home. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure— that children are admitted to the home only if their needs are within the range of needs of children for whom it is intended that the home is to provide care and accommodation, as set out in the home's statement of purpose. (Regulation 14 (1)(a)(b) (2)(a))	30 April 2025
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. (Regulation 13 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c)) In particular, the manager must ensure all staff complete training specific to the needs of the children.	30 April 2025

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: SC393567

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Aspris Children's Services Limited

Registered provider address: 2 Barton Close, Grove Park, Enderby, Leicester LE19 1SJ

Responsible individual: Michelle Garstang

Registered manager: Debbie Walton

Inspector

Louise Webling, Social Care Inspector

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