

SC401685

Aspris Children's Services Limited

Monitoring visit

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is owned by a private organisation. The home is registered to provide care for up to 23 children with learning disabilities. There are currently nine children living at the home.

Children who live in the home all attend the school that is operated by the same organisation, which is not on the same site. The inspectors only inspected the social care provision.

There is a permanent registered manager at the home, who is experienced and qualified.

Inspection date: 25 April 2024

This monitoring visit

This monitoring visit took place due to concerns raised by health professionals in relation to the care of children at this home.

The provider has informed Ofsted that they intend to close this children's home on 10 July 2024. This is due to prolonged recruitment challenges and environment concerns. Managers at the home also recognise that the children are no longer well suited to live together. Some children who are living closely alongside one another, have opposing and competing needs.

The home environment needs constant refurbishment and repair due to the age of the property and the damage caused by behaviours of the children. While the home is clean and tidy, and there have been some areas of refurbishment, there continues to be areas that are worn, tired, and in need of updating. One child is unable to access his kitchen as it is locked. There are no assessed risks around this. Therefore, this is an unnecessary restriction.

There has been a significant change in staffing at the home. This has impacted on the consistency of children's care. This has also affected the ability of children to build and sustain trusted relationships with staff. The home is sufficiently staffed because staff work overtime, and there are regular bank and agency staff. Action has been taken to address poor performance for some staff. Supervision meetings for staff and training continue to take place. Temporary and casual staff are provided with suitable induction and support.

Poor planning has led to a delay in securing healthcare and treatment for children, on occasions. As a result, it has taken longer to access medical attention and resolve health concerns.

There are a high number of occasions when staff physically intervene to manage children's behaviour. Overall, these are necessary and are only carried out by staff who are trained in the home's approach. Children do not always have the opportunity to discuss this experience and, when they do, their feedback is not explored further. For example, there was a lack of curiosity when a child said that they were sad.

Children enjoy a range of activities at the home. They benefit from the outdoor space. For example, they use their bikes and scooters and the trampoline.

There is a commitment by managers to continue to provide quality care and keep children safe for the remainder of their time living at the home. Managers and staff are working in partnership with families and professionals to support children's plans for moving on from the home.

The manager has met some of the previous requirements and recommendations. One requirement has been restated, and a new requirement and two recommendations have been made.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
19/09/2023	Full	Good
22/11/2022	Full	Good
22/02/2022	Full	Outstanding
04/12/2019	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 with 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 the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed and furnished so as to— meet the needs of each child; and enable each child to participate in the daily life of the home. (Regulation 6 (1)(a)(b) (2)(c)(i)(ii)) This specifically relates to ensuring that the home is a welcoming and homely environment. This also relates to ongoing monitoring to ensure that the home is kept clean and well maintained.	10 July 2024
The health and well-being standard is that— the health and well-being needs of children are met; children receive advice, services and support in relation to their health and well-being; and children are helped to lead healthy lifestyles. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to ensure that staff help each child to—	10 July 2024

achieve the health and well-being outcomes that are recorded in the child's relevant plans;

understand the child's health and well-being needs and the options that are available in relation to the child's health and well-being, in a way that is appropriate to the child's age and understanding;

take part in activities, and attend any appointments, for the purpose of meeting the child's health and well-being needs. (Regulation 10 (1)(a)(b)(c) (2)(a)(i)(ii)(iii))

This specifically relates to ensuring that children receive healthcare without delay.

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that children can access all shared areas of their home unless there are specific reasons why this would not meet a child's needs. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 15, paragraph 3.10)
- The registered person should ensure that any child who has been restrained has the opportunity to express their feelings about their experience of the restraint as soon as is practicable, ideally within 24 hours of the restraint incident, taking the age of the child and the circumstances of the restraint into account. In some cases, children may need longer to work through their feelings. Staff should be curious and respond to children's feelings accordingly. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 50, paragraph 9.60)

Information about this inspection

The purpose of this visit was to monitor the action taken and the progress made by the children's home since its last Ofsted inspection.

This inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000.

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC401685

Provision sub-type: Residential special school

Registered provider: Aspris Children's Services Limited

Registered provider address: The Forge, Church Street West, Woking, Surrey
GU21 6HT

Responsible individual: Laura Rider

Registered manager: Taranjit Longdon

Inspectors

Alison Snell, Social Care Inspector

Sonia Sullivan, Social Care Inspector

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