

SC408655

Registered provider: Aspris Children's Service

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This children's home is operated by a large national provider. It provides care for up to seven children who may have a learning difficulty and/or autism. There were five children living at the home at the time of this inspection.

The manager has been registered since August 2023.

In this report, staff are referred to as adults.

Inspection dates: 2 and 3 September 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: 15 January 2025

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
15/01/2025	Full	Good
25/01/2024	Full	Good
14/07/2022	Full	Good
07/09/2021	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

Children have emotionally warm and positive relationships with adults. This enables adults to develop a good understanding of children's needs, identity and lived experiences. As a result, children receive individualised care that supports them to make steady progress in their social, emotional and physical development.

Adults model respect, care and empathy in their interactions. Consequently, children enjoy spending time with adults and each other. This adds to their sense of connection and gives them the opportunity to navigate the complex emotions linked to friendships, with adults' support. For all children, this has strengthened their ability to access the wider community and, for two children, has underpinned the success of them accessing social clubs.

Plans for children's care are comprehensive and informed by local authority records and children's expressed wishes and feelings. As a result, children are cared for in line with their preferences. They can predict how adults will meet their needs and have a sense of agency over their care.

Adults hold education in high regard. All children attend school full time, and their success is celebrated. Adults liaise with education colleagues regularly and take part in all reviews to ensure that children have appropriate support and provision.

Children's health needs are well understood and met. Adults work closely with health professionals to ensure that children receive care that improves their well-being. For one child, this has included a creative solution to how their epilepsy is monitored. This has given the child a sense of ownership over their care and resolved some previous resistance to discussing their diagnosis.

In the main, children moving into the home benefit from well-thought-out and creative introductions. However, one child moved in an unplanned way. For reasons beyond the manager's control, this child could not be prepared for the move. However, several adults and the registered manager had an existing relationship with this child. This helped to reduce some of the child's anxieties and helped adults to meet his immediate care needs. After moving in, the registered manager was persistent in her efforts to speak with relevant professionals to secure all necessary information and raised concerns when this was not forthcoming. This child is now settled and content in the home.

The support that staff give to children to help them prepare for adulthood is a strength. Children benefit from regular, well-planned sessions with adults that focus on further developing their skills in personal care, domestic skills and accessing the community. This has had a positive impact on children's day-to-day lives, as well as improved their confidence in the wider community.

Children are cared for by a diverse team of adults, who share their experiences, culture and heritage. Children enjoy trying new foods, listening to new music and learning about

different countries or lifestyles. This promotes tolerance and encourages conversation about difference.

Children live in a home that is generally warm and welcoming. However, one of the children's bedrooms has a strong smell, linked to untreated mould in the en-suite, which is due to plumbing issues. Furthermore, damage in one of the shared bathrooms has not yet been addressed. Although this has been raised by the registered manager, the pace to rectify this by the wider organisation lacks urgency.

Children do not always have full access to all areas of the home. For instance, an internal door was locked. The need for this lock was not rationalised in any of the children's risk assessments or plans. The registered manager and responsible individual accept that this is not a proportionate restriction.

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

Children feel safe and are listened to. Adults encourage children to share their concerns during weekly children's meeting and regular key-work sessions. These are supported using children's preferred methods of communication. However, the children's guide is not accessible for all children. This means that not all children are clear on when, how or why they may want to complain.

Children's risk management plans, including risk assessments, are clear and describe children's needs. These are updated regularly and guide adults with clear strategies on how to keep children safe. When safeguarding concerns do arise, adults ensure that children understand what the concerns relate to and what action will be taken to mitigate any known risk. This is done thoughtfully using carefully created social stories and well-planned key-work sessions to support.

Safeguarding arrangements are effective in the main. However, the arrangements for assessing and mitigating online risks were ineffective for one child. This resulted in them being exposed to inappropriate adults online. While the initial response from leaders and managers was robust, the pace around subsequent actions linked to improved safety mechanisms and training for adults was slow. This also resulted in the child having no direct work about online risks and safety following the incident.

Children do not go missing from this home. However, there are strong protocols in place should this happen.

Physical intervention is only used when necessary and as a last resort. The registered manager has successfully embedded a culture where adults focus on de-escalation to help children manage and understand complex emotions. The quality of recording of these incidents is strong and includes conversations with children and adults to support repair and learning.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The home is led by a suitably qualified and experienced manager. She is supported by a committed and creative team of senior practitioners, who have played a significant part in

improving knowledge, skills and practice in the wider team. This means that children are cared for by well-informed adults who know how to meet their needs.

Systems to monitor the quality of care are effective, providing the registered manager with a good understanding of the home's strengths and areas for development. The registered manager has plans to improve this process further to enhance the children's voices, but these have not yet been actioned.

The adults who work in the home are entirely positive about the support and guidance they receive from leaders. Adult supervision sessions and appraisals are valuable and beneficial. Practice is reviewed, safeguarding matters are discussed, and professional development and well-being are explored during supervision.

The adults have access to a varied programme of training, which is monitored by managers for compliance. This includes specialised and relevant training that is aimed at meeting children's specific needs.

Parents and professionals are entirely positive about the communication and quality of care that children receive, as well as the progress they make. One parent said, 'The home is good. The best I could hope for.'

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 the premises used for the purposes of the home are designed, furnished and maintained so as to protect each child from avoidable hazards to the child's health. (Regulation 12 (1) (2)(d))	5 November 2025
The children's views, wishes and feelings standard is that children receive care from staff who— take their views, wishes and feelings into account in relation to matters affecting the children's care and welfare and their lives. In particular, the standard in paragraph (1) requires the registered person to— ensure that each child— has access to the home's children's guide, and the home's complaints procedure, when the child's placement in the home is agreed and throughout the child's stay in the home; and keep the children's guide and the home's complaints procedure under review and seek children's comments before revising either document. (Regulation 7 (1)(c) (2)(a)(b)(ii)(c))	5 November 2025
The registered person must ensure that— children can access all appropriate areas of the children's home's premises; and any limitation placed on a child's privacy or access to any area of the home's premises—	5 November 2025

is intended to safeguard each child accommodated in the home;
is necessary and proportionate;

is kept under review and, if necessary, revised; and

allows children as much freedom as is possible when balanced against the need to protect them and keep them safe.
(Regulation 21 (1)(b)(c)(i)(ii)(iii)(iv))

Recommendation

- The registered person should ensure that leaders, managers and adults continually and actively assess the risks to each child who has free access to the internet and the arrangements in place to protect them. Where there are safeguarding concerns for a child, their placement plan, agreed between the home and their placing authority, must include details of the steps the home will take to manage any assessed risks on a day-to-day basis. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 42 paragraph 9.5)

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: SC408655

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Aspris Children's Service

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

Responsible individual: Sarah Jones

Registered manager: Amy Sumner

Inspector

Becky Paradise, Social Care Inspector

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