

SC453726

Registered provider: Aston Children's Care Limited

Assurance inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

This home is privately owned and provides care for up to four children with complex behaviours due to childhood trauma.

The manager registered with Ofsted in June 2022.

Inspection date: 28 March 2023

Date of last inspection: 30 May 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

Three children live in the home. Since the last inspection, three children have moved into the home and one child has moved out of the home, in line with their plans. Children live in a home that provides them with homely comforts.

Children have positive relationships with staff, who know them well. Children's religious and dietary requirements are known and supported. Staff support children to attend places of worship. One child told the inspector that staff know not to put her photos on the wall because this is considered as bad luck in her religion. Instead, this child's photos are displayed on tables in the home.

Staff support children to explore their individual identity and characteristics that make them unique. For one child, this has meant her brother, who speaks her birth language, has been to the home and cooked cultural foods and supported staff to understand their heritage.

The home has commissioned a clinical therapist to support children with their behaviours and emotions related to their experiences. Children also attend specialist physical and mental health appointments for their individual care needs.

The safety of children

Staff understand risks that individual children may face. Staff are supported to prevent and respond to risks through clear risk management plans and training they have received.

Children infrequently go missing from the home. When children do go missing, staff respond immediately. They look for children and action procedures swiftly. One child, who was known to go missing before moving into the home, has not been missing while living in this home. She has built trust with staff and now has independent time out of the home and returns at the agreed time.

When children make allegations and complaints about the care they receive, the manager is diligent in her response. The local authority designated officer is consulted, and relevant professionals are informed. Children are spoken with, which reinforces that their views are important and taken seriously.

Sometimes, children are restrained by staff to prevent them hurting themselves or others. Restraint is only used as a last resort and staff use a range of skills to try to de-escalate children's behaviour in the first instance. These incidents are well

recorded, and the manager carries out debriefs with children and staff to aid future learning.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers

The manager has grown in confidence since the last inspection. She knows the children and staff well. The manager recognises her own development in her leadership and management skills. She attributes this to the support she has received through newly appointed senior managers and the clinician who has been commissioned to work with the home.

Staff feel well supported in their role. They benefit from regular supervision and appraisals to help them further develop and acknowledge good practice. Staff recognise their personal development and how they now understand how children's behaviours are part of their communication, which is impacted on by their experiences. One member of staff said that the therapeutic training she has received has changed her 'whole practice' for the better.

The manager's and staff's hard work is demonstrated through meeting all the previous requirements made at the full inspection.

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
30/05/2022	Full	Requires improvement to be good
16/11/2021	Full	Requires improvement to be good
07/09/2021	Full	Inadequate
15/05/2019	Full	Requires improvement to be good

Children's home details

Unique reference number: SC453726

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Aston Children's Care Limited

Registered provider address: 181 Penn Road, Wolverhampton WV3 0EQ

Responsible individual: Mahesh Mehan

Registered manager: Sarah Phipps

Inspector

Jodie Lewis, Social Care Inspector

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