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1229766

Registered provider: Aurora Care and Education Opco Limited

Full inspection

Inspected under the social care common inspection framework

Information about this children's home

A private organisation runs this home. The organisation has a school and accommodation in the grounds for adults who have learning disabilities and complex needs. The home provides care for up to 15 children who have complex health needs, including autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, physical disabilities and/or sensory and learning disabilities.

At the time of this inspection, there were 14 children living at the home.

There is a linked independent day school on the site. The inspectors only inspected the social care provision.

The manager registered with Ofsted in June 2023.

Inspection dates: 14 and 15 October 2024

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people, taking into account	**good**
How well children and young people are helped and protected	good
The effectiveness of leaders and managers	good

The children's home provides effective services that meet the requirements for good.

Date of last inspection: 30 May 2023

Overall judgement at last inspection: good

Enforcement action since last inspection: none

Recent inspection history

Inspection date	Inspection type	Inspection judgement
30/05/2023	Full	Good
21/06/2022	Full	Good
17/11/2021	Interim	Sustained effectiveness
04/05/2021	Full	Good

Inspection judgements

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: good

At the time of the inspection, 14 children were living at the home and the inspectors spent time with all those present. One child was taken to hospital on the first day of the inspection and remained there throughout the inspection.

The home operates across four flats where the children live. The largest flat supports children who are reliant on equipment to aid their mobility. The staff have created areas for the children to socialise, with furniture adapted to help children to live comfortably in the home.

The children's rooms are nicely decorated. Staff make sure that they create a homely environment with thoughtful decor. The children's names are displayed on their doors in calligraphy. Staff keep the home clean and tidy throughout. Managers have put in measures for the children to be able to regulate the air temperature by having air conditioning fitted in each room.

The children have taken part in lots of activities, inside and outside of the home. Staff take photos showing children's experiences. Children have enjoyed trips to the beach, wildlife parks, zoos, cinema and pantomimes, barbecues and holidays away from the home. Children have access to sensory equipment, such as a music garden, forest school, and more physio-led experiences with rebound therapy and a hydro pool.

Staff encourage the children to be independent. Children are supported to do their laundry and take active roles in cooking, baking and keeping areas clean and tidy.

Children attend the school on site and have good attendance, as well as opportunities to achieve awards and to do gardening programmes.

Children are supported with their health. Staff keep plans updated. Managers and health professionals make instructions clear for staff to ensure that they are carrying out healthcare tasks in line with their training.

Children have made progress. Two children have moved from requiring safe space beds to now having nice large double beds in their rooms. Outside of the home, in the grounds, is a recently installed gym with a host of equipment to help children to keep fit and healthy.

One child was displaying out-of-character behaviour. Because the manager and staff know the child so well, they recognised that the child may not be accessing the correct medication. The manager worked directly with in-house nurses. The medication was changed. Because of this intervention, the child's behaviour has significantly improved and he is not distressed because he is now on suitable medication.

Staff have devised a folder highlighting the children's journeys. This shows the progress that the children have made since living at the home. Children are more independent using facilities and require less support with their personal care and their mobility and are more willing to share living spaces with their peers.

Staff are helping a child to celebrate their religion by splitting the rooms into half Halloween, half Diwali with a tunnel of lights between the two areas.

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

There have been no physical interventions or missing-from-home incidents since the last inspection. The staff have excellent relationships with children and children benefit from high staff ratios and close supervision. One child was very proud to communicate with the inspector how safe he felt living at the home.

A social worker said that they are very impressed with safeguarding. She said that staff have exceptional knowledge of safe practices for their child's significant healthcare needs. The child has been able to live at the home and this has prevented the need for hospice care.

Children's individual and creative care plans include behaviour support guidance with strategies for staff to help children to safely manage their emotions. Children have had a significant reduction in unwanted behaviours. One social worker said that their child has made remarkable progress. The staff have taught him strategies to self-soothe and his anxiety has significantly reduced.

Staff ensure that any marks and bruising are recorded and regularly reviewed. A record of all marks and bruising caused through accidents is sent promptly to social workers. There is good monitoring of children and records are made of any bruises or injuries. However, records of bruises from known behaviours are sent to social workers in a monthly report rather than when they occur. This could reduce the timeliness of the social worker's oversight.

The effectiveness of leaders and managers: good

The manager is very experienced, has a wealth of knowledge and holds a relevant managerial qualification. She is an excellent role model to the staff. She provides excellent care for children. She is supported by four competent care managers. Staff are enthusiastic and caring and provide excellent child-centred care.

Staff are provided with good training that meets the children's individual needs. Staff have specific training from health specialists. The staff are confident and capable in supporting children with complex needs. Staff are well skilled and knowledgeable and meet children's health needs.

Three social workers were spoken with during the inspection. They spoke positively about the relationships and communication that they have with the manager and staff. Social workers said that staff have positive relationships with the children and that children are happy and safe at the home.

The manager is an excellent advocate for children. On one occasion, she professionally challenged another professional body. The outcome was positive for the child, who was supported by an independent advocate and given the specialist equipment that she needed.

There is a stable and consistent staff team. The manager has worked hard to reduce the need to use agency staff. Agency staff are appropriately trained, supervised and inducted. The agency staff are always supported by core staff, ensuring consistency for children.

The manager has effective monitoring tools and understands the strengths and weaknesses of the home. These tools are used to review the home's progress regularly. Good oversight of the home ensures that continual improvements are made.

Staff have regular, effective and good-quality supervision sessions. Staff said that managers are nurturing, supportive and easy to approach. However, the care managers' supervision is inconsistent and opportunities for reflection and development could be missed.

What does the children's home need to do to improve?

Recommendations

- The registered person should ensure that any marks or bruising found on a child are reported promptly to the child's social worker in all circumstances. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 43, paragraph 9.10)
- The registered person should ensure that all staff receive supervision at appropriate intervals. ('Guide to the Children's Homes Regulations, including the quality standards', page 61, paragraph 13.3)

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: 1229766

Provision sub-type: Children's home

Registered provider: Aurora Care and Education Opco Limited

Registered provider address: Unit 13, Twigworth Court Business Centre, Tewkesbury Road, Gloucester, Gloucestershire GL2 9PG

Responsible individual: Philip Jonas

Registered manager: Denise Grayston

Inspectors

Amy Miles, Social Care Inspector
Dan Williams, Social Care Inspector

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