

Inspection report for children's home

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Inspection date	25/03/2013
Inspector	Seka Graovac
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	15/11/2012
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Service information

Brief description of the service

This home is registered to provide residential care and support for up to five young people, aged between 11 and 17 years, with emotional or behavioural difficulties. The home is owned and operated by a private organisation and was registered in 2005.

The inspection judgements and what they mean

Good progress	The children's home has demonstrated continued improvement in quality of care and outcomes for children and young people and where appropriate has addressed all requirements and the large majority of recommendations that were raised at the previous inspection.
Satisfactory progress	The children's home has maintained quality of care and outcomes for children and young people and where appropriate has addressed all requirements and the majority of recommendations that were raised at the previous inspection.
Inadequate progress	The children's home has failed to address one or more requirements and/or has not met the majority of recommendations and/or the quality of care and outcomes for children and young people have declined since the last full inspection.

Progress

Since their previous inspection the service is judged to be making **good progress**.

At the full inspection that was carried out in November 2012, the overall effectiveness of the service was judged to be good. The outcomes for children, the quality of care and the safeguarding were judged to be good. Some areas for improvement relating to management were identified and this aspect of the service was judged to be adequate. These weaknesses did not have an observable negative impact of on young people.

Requirements were raised relating to the accuracy of the Statement of Purpose and the staff duty roster. The management was asked to ensure that Ofsted is notified of any incidents of suspected involvement of a young person in sexual exploitation. The management was also asked to ensure that all staff receive appropriate appraisal of their work performance.

The management has taken appropriate steps to secure improvement. All four requirements that were identified at the full inspection have been met. The service has demonstrated capacity to improve. The home's Statement of Purpose has been

reviewed and amended to reflect the service more accurately. All permanent staff have had their performance appraised by their line manager.

The staff duty roster has been amended to show when the responsible individual, who was also the Registered Manager, was on duty. An experienced and able deputy manager who is passionate about her work has now become the Registered Manager for the home.

Ofsted has received appropriate notifications from the home, as required. The management has worked very closely with the children's social services and other partner agencies including the Local Safeguarding Children Board to promote welfare of young people, when professionals suspected the risk of sexual exploitation. There have been no other child protection inquiries or complaints. No physical interventions have been used in the home.

Young people have continued to receive good quality support that focuses on their individual needs. They have continued to develop positive relationships with staff and amongst themselves. They describe their experience of living in this home in the most positive terms. They have continued to make good progress in many aspects of their lives. They say that the biggest achievements they have made in the last few months relate to being able to manage their emotions and behaviour better.

Their educational attendance and achievements have been more variable. However, the staff have continued to explore different ways to help young people to address any barriers to their learning and engagement with formal education. The home has continued to strengthen effective partnership working with other professionals, including those involved in education. An example of this is when a young person was expelled from the college and a number of short-term courses and work-experience projects were made available to foster their interest in fashion.

Staff are creative in finding ways to secure young people's participation and contribution. As often young people have engaged better in more informal situations, the staff have tightened the recording of these informal conversations. This means that the home can demonstrate better the support given to young people.

In consultation with young people, the main lounge has been fully refurbished. The home's environment has been improved and young people are very happy about this. They enjoy being in the home and value highly their relationships with staff.

About this inspection

The purpose of this inspection is to assure children and young people, parents, the public, local authorities and government of the quality and standard of the service provided. The inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service and to consider how well it complies with the relevant regulations and meets the national minimum standards.

The report details the progress made by the provider since the last full inspection, identifies any further strengths, any areas for improvement and makes judgements as outlined in the *Inspection of children's homes – framework for inspection*.