

Report of:	<i>Councillor Barrie Cooper - Executive Member for Children’s Services Helen Watson - Executive Director of Children’s Services</i>
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Submitted to:	<i>Executive - 19 November 2019</i>
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Subject:	<i>South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership</i>
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Summary

Proposed decision(s)
<i>Information only</i>

Report for:	Key decision:	Confidential:	Is the report urgent?¹
<i>Information</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>

Contribution to delivery of the 2018-22 Strategic Plan		
Business Imperatives	Physical Regeneration	Social Regeneration
<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Delivery of the strategic objectives to create new multi-agency safeguarding children arrangements in line with statutory requirements.</i>

Ward(s) affected
<i>All</i>

What is the purpose of this report?

1. To provide an update on the development and delivery of the South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership (STSCP).
2. The partnership arrangements have been developed in line with legislation which was included in the Children and Social Work Act 2017. The Act removed the statutory functions of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) and introduced the requirement for ‘Safeguarding Partners’ to work together within a local area to protect and safeguard children. These arrangements must identify and respond to the needs of children in the area and also identify and review serious child safeguarding cases.

¹ Remove for non-Executive reports

3. The requirements were set out in more detail in an Executive report in June 2019, that paper set a deadline for the commencement of the arrangements on 29th September 2019.

Why does this report require a Member decision?

4. No Decision required - for information only.

Report Background

5. On 28th June 2019 the Safeguarding Partners published the new arrangements which are referred to as the 'South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership' and which became operational on 29th September 2019.
6. These published arrangements were submitted to the Secretary of State and have been accepted as meeting the requirements as set out in 'Working Together' 2018.
7. The statutory safeguarding partners for the STSCP are:
 - Middlesbrough Council
 - Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
 - South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group
 - Cleveland Police
8. The partners share equal responsibility for the execution and oversight of the partnership and have agreed the following vision:
9. *'A partnership committed to keeping children safe and working together to achieve the best possible outcomes for children and families.'*
10. The STSCP will support and enable local organisations and agencies to work together in a system which places the child at the heart of the process and aims to ensure that:
 - Children are safeguarded and their welfare promoted;
 - Partner organisations and agencies collaborate, share and co-own the vision for how to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children;
 - Organisations and agencies challenge appropriately and hold one another to account effectively;
 - There is early identification and analysis of new safeguarding issues and emerging threats;
 - Learning is promoted and embedded in a way that local services for children and families can become more reflective and implement changes to practice; and
 - Information is shared effectively to facilitate more accurate and timely decision making for children and families.
11. The arrangements aim to ensure a continuous cycle of:
 - Improving Practice
 - Enhancing Outcomes
12. In addition to the statutory partners it is recognised that there are a number of organisations and agencies whose involvement is required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children across the South Tees. These are referred to as 'relevant agencies' and as such are included within the published arrangements.

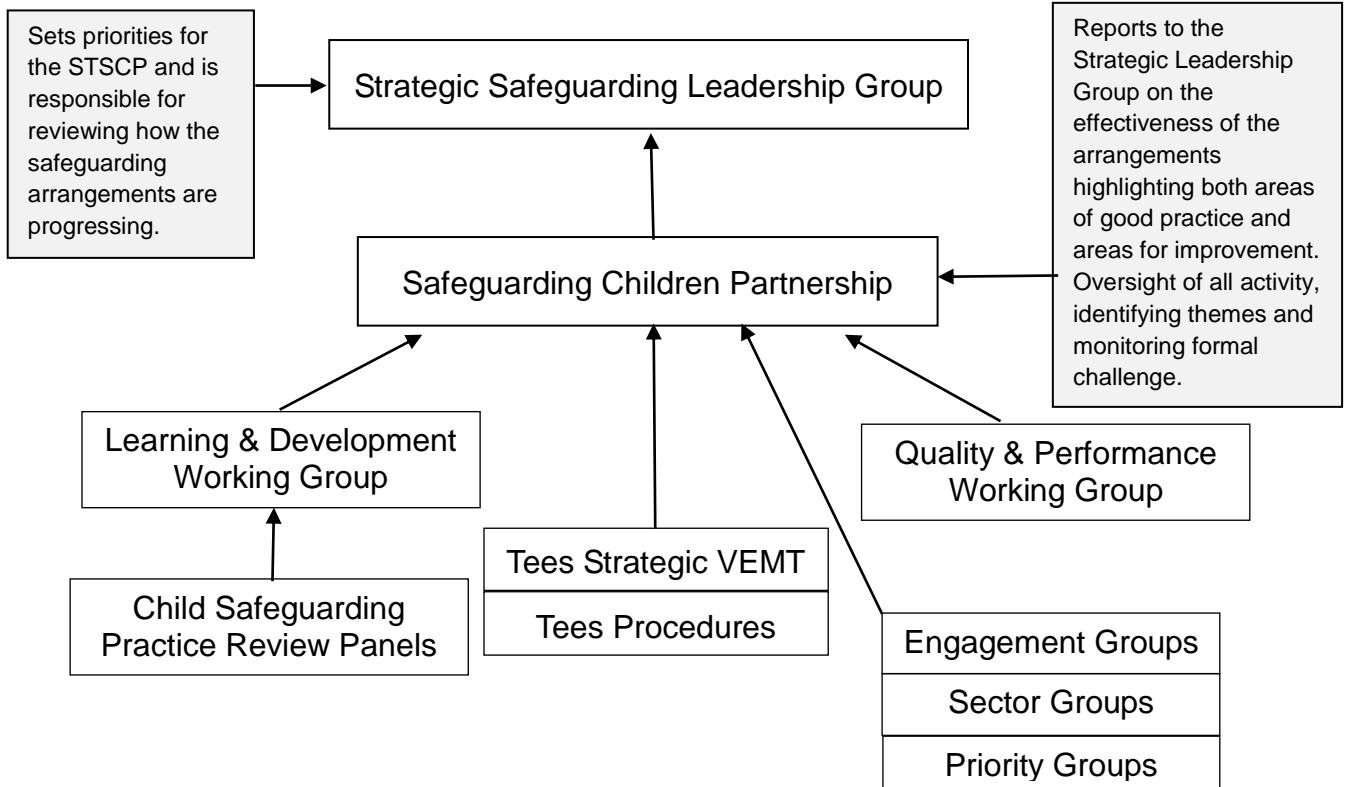
They include educational establishments, local housing providers, public health, voluntary/community groups, faith groups and probation service.

Structure and Governance of the New Arrangements

13. The newly formed partnership has a strong focus on Learning & Development and Quality & Performance and the partnership structure (diagram 1) has been developed to reflect this.

14. Strong links will be developed with other relevant strategic partnerships ensuring joined up working and best use of resources.

Diagram 1.



15. The work of the partnership is supported by both South Tees Specific Groups and the Tees wide sub groups.

16. The new partnership structure has removed a number of duplicate meetings which were taking place across both Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland freeing up valuable staff time.

17. This has resulted in consistency of processes for those partner agencies who work across the South Tees and ensures that lessons learnt are shared widely, having a greater impact on the outcomes for children and their families.

Safeguarding Practice Reviews

18. The responsibility for how lessons are learnt from any serious child safeguarding incident lies at a national level with the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and at a local level with the STSCP. The Learning & Development Working group will be responsible for managing this process locally in line with national guidance and will monitor improvement plans arising from such reviews.

Funding

19. The work of the STSCP is now funded through a pooled budget to which both statutory partners and a number of relevant agencies will contribute. The budget will meet the running costs for the STSCP which includes a dedicated business support unit.

Lead Authority Arrangement

20. Middlesbrough Council is the lead authority for these arrangements and legal agreements are in place with statutory partners to facilitate this arrangement.

Recognition of Risks

21. The STSCP has been implemented in line with the relevant legislation and ensures that the governance processes are in place for partnership working which is shared equally amongst the partners. The Safeguarding Partners will ensure that there are robust safeguarding arrangements in place to ensure that children, young people and vulnerable families are supported and the risk of harm is mitigated.

Progress to Date

22. An Acting Partnership Manager is in post and is driving forward the development of the Partnership and its Working Groups, liaising with statutory partners and relevant agencies as appropriate.

23. Processes are in place to respond to Serious Incident Notifications ensuring compliance with statutory requirements.

What decision(s) are being asked for?

24. That the Executive note the content of the report.

Appendices

25. Appendix 1 - South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership - New Arrangements 2019

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
HMG	Children and Social Work Act 2017	April 2017
HMG	Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)	July 2018
HMG	Working Together: Transitional Guidance 2018	July 2018
MBC	Local Safeguarding Arrangements for Children – Executive Report	June 2019

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