



*A partnership committed to keeping children safe and working together to achieve the best possible outcomes for Children and Families*

## New Arrangements 2019

(Revised 2 October 2019)



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## Foreword

Safeguarding the children and young people across South Tees is our duty and should be treated with the gravity it deserves. In this document, we outline the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements that will be adopted from 1st July 2019. It explains how, we as the Safeguarding Partners in the region, will fulfil our duties under the Children Act 2004 (as amended by the Children and Social Work Act 2017) and adhere to the guidance in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018.

Our multi-agency safeguarding arrangements will be known as the South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership and are built on the solid foundation of the substantial improvements already made to the function, structure and effectiveness of both the Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland Local Safeguarding Children Boards.

The Safeguarding Statutory Partners are:

- Middlesbrough Council
- Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
- South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group
- Cleveland Police.

As the Safeguarding Statutory Partners, we will share equal responsibility for execution and oversight of the South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership, enabling a common purpose and agreed behavioural values to reinforce shared priorities. We recognise that to be strong and effective, the Partnership must engage the right people and have worked collaboratively across South Tees to identify the organisations and agencies which need to be involved to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people across the South Tees.

The South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership will promote appropriate support and challenge between partners; ensuring that leaders and staff within every organisation are held to account. We will also create the conditions to develop a transparent learning culture, driving best collaborative practice for good and outstanding outcomes for children and young people.

All our work will be underpinned by a consideration of the views and experiences of the children and young people across South Tees. We acknowledge that the new arrangements will only be effective if they make a difference to the wellbeing of children and young people and ask for help from professional partners and the community to make this a reality.

(Signature)




Tony Parkinson

Chief Executive

Middlesbrough Council

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Amanda Skelton

Chief Executive

Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council

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Nicola Bailey

Chief Officer

South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group

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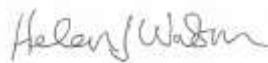


Steve Graham (on behalf of Chief Constable Richard Lewis)

Assistant Chief Constable

Cleveland Police

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Executive Director, Children's Services

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Barbara Shaw

Corporate Director for Children and Families

Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council

## 1. Introduction and Context

Following the Wood Review (2017) into the role and functions of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs), the Government has introduced legislation through the Children and Social Work Act 2017 to reshape the way in which local agencies work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. This sees LSCBs ceasing to be the mechanism for multi-agency safeguarding, and instead sets out 'safeguarding partner' arrangements, which will comprise three key agencies (local authorities, health and police).

This plan sets out the new safeguarding partnership arrangements which have been developed and agreed by the Statutory Safeguarding Partners (SSPs) across the South Tees area.

The arrangements have been developed to meet the statutory duty to:

- Set out how the SSPs will work together to identify and respond to the needs of children in our area.
- How we will commission and publish Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs).
- How we will ensure the effectiveness of our arrangements are subject to robust and independent scrutiny.

Organisations, agencies and practitioners should be aware of and comply with this plan which has been agreed by the SSPs. These requirements are set out in "Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)", which highlights in particular that:

*'there is a shared responsibility between organisations and agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area.'*

## 2. Shared Vision and Values

Partners across South Tees have agreed the following vision:

***A partnership committed to keeping children safe and working together to achieve the best possible outcomes for children and families.***

This local arrangement 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

### **3. Geographical Boundaries**

The South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership will cover the two local authority areas of Redcar & Cleveland and Middlesbrough Councils. The local authorities are already closely aligned with a strong willingness and commitment to working together including the newly developed South Tees Multi-Agency Children's Hub which is the 'front door' to children's services across the South Tees and includes a number of partners identified as 'relevant agencies'.

The South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group shares this boundary and Cleveland Police covers the whole of this area within its boundary (which also includes the whole of the Tees footprint).

It is also of note that the four Local Safeguarding Children Boards which previously existed within the Tees geographical footprint have for some time worked together in a number of areas. These arrangements will continue with the South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Hartlepool and Stockton-On-Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership working together. Section 7 provides further detail in respect of this continued Tees wide approach.

## 4. Relevant Agencies

Relevant Agencies are those organisations and agencies whose involvement the SSPs consider is required to safeguard and promote the welfare of children across the South Tees.

Strong, effective multi-agency arrangements are ones that are responsive to local circumstances and engage the right people. For local arrangements to be effective, they should engage organisations and agencies that can work in a collaborative way to provide targeted support to children and families as appropriate.

Although not defined as a statutory safeguarding partner, Relevant Agencies are subject to the Safeguarding Partnership Arrangements as set out in Working Together 2018.

The local Relevant Agencies have been identified as:

- **Adoption Tees Valley**
- **British Transport Police**
- **Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS)**
- **Cleveland Fire and Rescue Service**
- **Community/Voluntary Sector Organisations**
- **Durham Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC)**
- **Education Establishments - Schools, Colleges, Training Providers and Early Years**
- **Faith Groups/Organisations**
- **Health Providers of Commissioned Services**
- **Local Housing Providers**
- **NHS England**
- **NHS Trusts/Foundation Trusts**
- **National Probation Service (NPS)**
- **North East Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust**
- **Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner**
- **Port Authority**
- **Public Health**
- **Residential Homes for Children (within the area)**
- **South Tees Youth Offending Service**

The list of locally selected relevant agencies may change over time to reflect those present in the South Tees footprint.

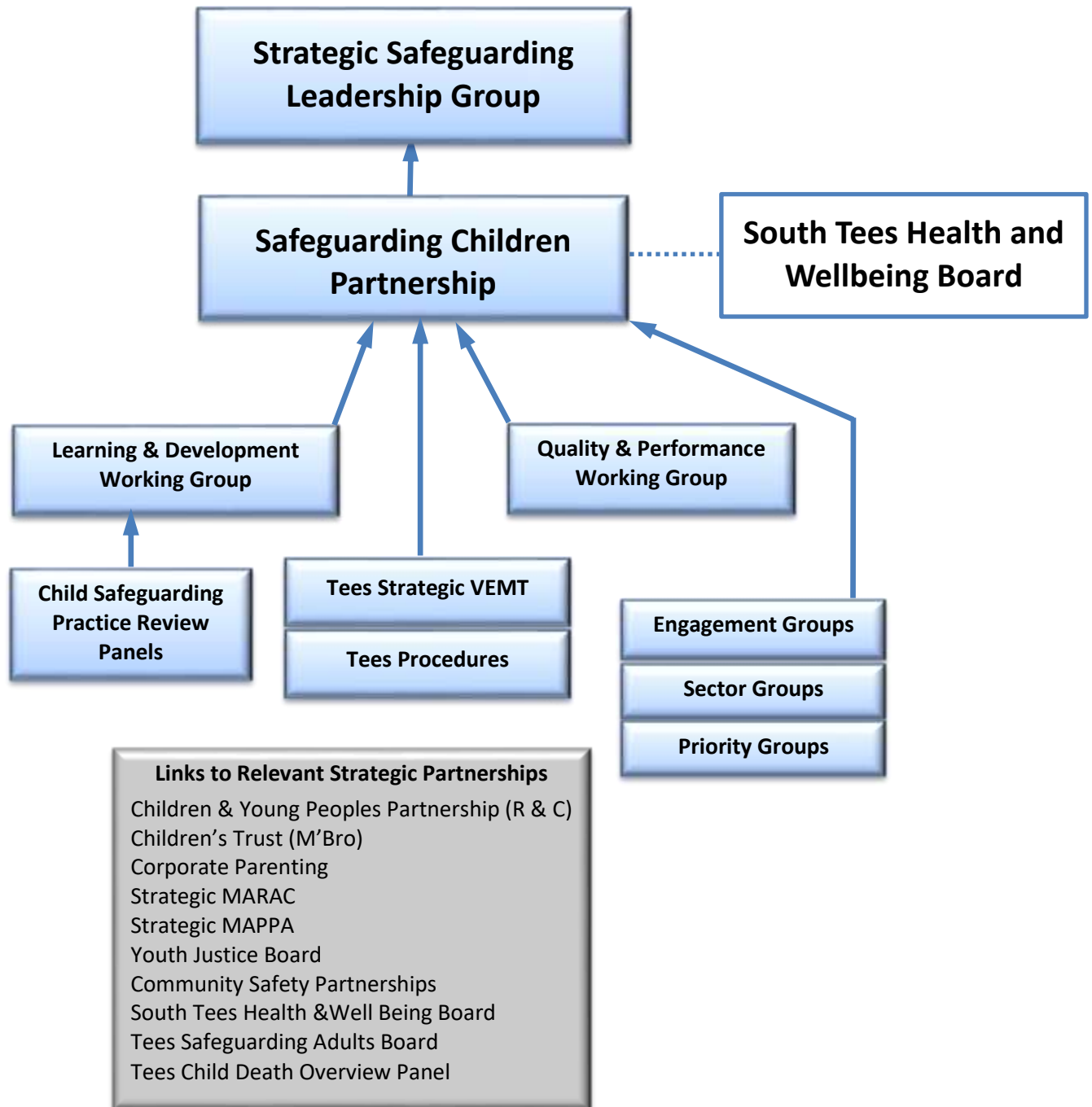


## 5. Partnership Structure and Governance

The South Tees Safeguarding Partnership structure has a strong focus on Learning & Development and Quality & Performance, as demonstrated below.

It has been developed to support the Learning and Improving Practice framework (See appendix 1) which aims to ensure a continuous cycle of:

- Improving Practice
- Enhancing Outcomes for Children and Their Families



The partnership will be supported by a dedicated Business Unit.

### **Strategic Safeguarding Leadership Group**

Functional responsibility for the Strategic Safeguarding Leadership Group is shared by the SSPs. All SSPs have equal and joint responsibility for the arrangements and will meet formally each quarter to review how the safeguarding arrangements are progressing. Chairing arrangements will be agreed amongst SSPs.

Membership includes:

- Executive representative from Middlesbrough Council
- Executive representative from Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
- Executive Representative from South Tees CCG
- Executive Representative from Cleveland Police
- Director of Public Health (South Tees)
- Chair of the Safeguarding Children Partnership

The Strategic Safeguarding Leadership Group will:

- Provide strategic leadership and set priorities for the partnership.
- Scrutinise quarterly reports on partnership activity presented by the Safeguarding Partnership.
- Demonstrate and promote professional challenge.
- Seek assurance in respect of improved practice and enhanced outcomes.
- Promote effective multi-agency working aimed at improving practice and improving outcomes for children and their families.
- Oversee the core safeguarding functions of the partnership arrangement ensuring all statutory functions and requirements are met.
- Develop and drive the priorities of the partnership.
- Publish a threshold document, in conjunction with the South Tees Multi-Agency Children's Hub, which sets out the local criteria for action required to safeguard and promote a child's welfare in a way that is transparent, accessible and easily understood.
- Agree a programme of robust Independent Scrutiny activities.

### **Safeguarding Children Partnership**

The Safeguarding Children Partnership will report to the Strategic Safeguarding Leadership Group. Meetings will take place every two months.

Membership includes:

- Senior representatives from the SSPs
- Elected Members
- Chair of Learning and Development Working Group
- Chair of Quality and Performance Working Group
- Chair of Tees Strategic VEMT
- Chair of Tees Procedures
- Chairs of Engagement Groups
- Chairs of Sector Groups

- Chairs of Priority Groups
- Representative from Tees Safeguarding Adults Board
- Other representatives as may be identified by the Strategic Safeguarding Leadership Group

The Safeguarding Children Partnership will:

- Receive reports from the Tees Strategic VEMT, Tees Procedures Group and the Partnership Working, Engagement, Sector and Priority Groups.
- Monitor partnership activity.
- Identify themes for learning and development activities.
- Identify themes for quality and performance activities.
- Establish and implement a Communication Strategy across both the public and wider safeguarding partners.
- Report to the Strategic Safeguarding Leadership Group on the effectiveness of the arrangements highlighting both areas of good practice and areas for improvement.
- Develop and monitor a Partnership Challenge Register.
- Monitors and reports on activity in respect of independent scrutiny.

The work of the partnership will be supported by both the South Tees Specific Groups and the Tees wide Sub Groups.

### **South Tees Specific Groups**

- ***Learning & Development Working Group***
  - Considers Serious Incident Notifications via Rapid Review Process and Liaises with National Panel
  - Commissions Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs)
  - Sets TOR and oversees CSPRs
  - Ensures that lessons learnt from CSPRs are taken forward.
  - Considers learning from Local/National CSPRs
  - Develops Learning and Development Programme
  - Monitors Learning and Development Programme
  - Meeting Frequency - every 2 months
  - Supported by a dedicated officer from the Business Support Unit
- ***Quality & Performance Working Group***
  - Development and delivery of Multi Agency Audit Programme taking into account local priorities and Joint Targeted Agency Inspection (JTAI) themes
  - Contribute to the Tees wide Performance Management Framework
  - Development of agreed local data set in respect of key priority areas
  - Respond to and prepare for potential thematic multi-agency JTAI's.
  - Respond to CSPR findings.

- Meeting Frequency - Every 2 Months
- Supported by a dedicated officer from the Business Support Unit
- **Engagement Groups** – examples include:
  - Children and Families
  - Faith Groups
  - Voluntary and Community Sector including sporting groups
- **Sector Groups (practitioner focussed)** – examples include:
  - Criminal Justice
  - Health
  - Social Care
  - Education including Early Years settings
- **Priority Groups** – established when required and could include:
  - Neglect
  - Early Help
  - Domestic Abuse
  - Mental Health

## Tees Wide Groups

### **Tees Strategic VEMT**

A Tees wide approach to tackling issues of Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing or Trafficked (VEMT) children and young people has been developed in recent years, which will continue within the new Safeguarding Partnership arrangements. This includes those children and young people at risk of or experiencing criminal exploitation and modern slavery.

### **Tees Procedures**

This Tees wide group has been in place for a number of years and will continue within the new arrangements. The group has responsibility for coordinating the development of local procedures, protocols and guidance for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

## Links with Other Strategic Partnerships

The South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership will forge strong strategic links with other relevant partnerships including:

- Children & Young Peoples Partnership (R & C)
- Children’s Trust (M’Bro)
- Corporate Parenting Boards
- Strategic MARAC
- Strategic MAPPA
- Youth Justice Board
- Community Safety Partnerships
- South Tees Health & Well Being Board
- Tees Safeguarding Adults Board

- Tees Child Death Overview Panel

## 6. Independent Scrutiny

Working Together 2018 sets out that arrangements for independent scrutiny of the effectiveness of the partnership arrangements must be in place and highlights that the role of independent scrutiny is to provide assurance in judging the effectiveness of multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in a local area, including arrangements to identify and review serious child safeguarding cases.

SSPs should also agree arrangements for independent scrutiny of the annual report.

Within the South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership the role of this independent scrutiny will be part of a wider system which includes the independent inspectorates' single assessment of the individual safeguarding partners and the Joint Targeted Area Inspections.

The South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership will use a variety of forms of independent scrutiny including:

- Peer Review
- Reciprocal arrangements with other partnerships
- LGA type review
- Independent Advisors/Subject Experts/Lay People
- Partners in Practice
- Critical Friends
- Feedback from Children and Families

The decision on what element of independent scrutiny is used will be dependent upon the specific issue.

## 7. Engagement

### Engagement with Children, Young People and Families

The voice of children, young people and families is at the heart of all partnership activity.

The partnership structure includes provision for actively engaging with and seeking feedback from children, young people and their families. This will be done using participation groups already in existence across agencies and establishing bespoke groups.

Particular focus will be given to:

- Children with Disabilities
- Children in Our Care and Care Leavers
- Children Subject to Child Protection Plans
- Young Carers

Where possible we will involve families in child safeguarding practice/learning reviews, audit activity and events.

Agencies will also be expected to provide evidence of how they ensure that they have captured the voices of children, young people and their families in their work.

Information from such engagement will be used to inform and develop practice across the partnerships and will also help to set the priorities and agree audit and performance activity.

### Wider Engagement

As highlighted in the partnership structure at Section 6 there will also be engagement groups in respect of Faith Groups and the Voluntary and Community Sector which will be facilitated by the Business Support Unit.

Engagement with practitioners from all agencies is embedded within the partnership arrangements and practitioners will be provided with regular opportunities to participate in multi-agency learning and development activities which will seek to gain their views on safeguarding practice and developments.

Educational settings are an important part of the safeguarding arrangements in the South Tees given their responsibility to identify concerns early, provide support to children and prevent concerns from escalating. All Designated Safeguarding Leads will continue to meet regularly to discuss local issues. This will be in the form of Local Authority Specific Safeguarding in Education Networks which will be facilitated by the Business Support Unit with feedback arrangements in place both to and from the Safeguarding Children Partnership.

All residential homes for children within the South Tees footprint including those provided by the local authority and private sector organisations, are designated by the SSPs as relevant

agencies. Mechanisms will be put in place to engage residential homes in local arrangements for example through the Section 11 process and the local provider forum.

Whilst there are no youth custody facilities within the South Tees footprint the South Tees Youth Offending Service is identified as a relevant partner within the new arrangements and will be providing regular updates to the Safeguarding Children Partnership which will include evidence of engagement. In addition participation groups will include young offenders.



## 8. Learning and Development

As set out in Working Together 2018 the SSPs are responsible for considering what training is needed locally and for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of any training they commission. The Learning and Development group will analyse and identify learning and development needs arising from CSPRs and Audit/Performance Activity along with considering new and emerging themes. The Partnership Officer with responsibility for Learning and Improvement will explore delivery opportunities, facilitate the commissioning of trainers and monitor and evaluate the South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership learning and development programme, reporting back to the Learning and Improvement Working Group.

Provision of Level 3 Core Training and refresher Core Training will be available to all agencies. This training will be refreshed annually to ensure emerging themes and learning from CSPRs are taken into account. Regular thematic practitioner learning events will take place throughout the year highlighting developments in practice and learning from local and national CSPRs.

In conjunction with Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership and Tees Safeguarding Adult Board a suite of safeguarding E-Learning is available to all agencies across the Tees.

The learning and development programme will be reviewed annually.

## 9. Quality and Performance

The development and delivery of a robust quality and performance framework is a key priority for the partnership as it can influence and evidence Improvements in Practice and Enhanced Outcomes for children and their families.

The Quality and Performance Working Group will ensure a programme of outcome focussed multi-agency audits is in place which will be informed by local priorities, findings from CSPRs and JTAI themes.

Assurance will be sought from agencies that their own quality and performance frameworks are fit for purpose and inform practice.

Those agencies identified under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 will be required to provide an initial baseline self-assessment against the Section 11 Standards which will include an Action Plan for areas requiring further development. Thereafter an annual compliance statement will be required including evidence against identified actions.

The existing Tees Performance Management Framework will continue and there will be a dedicated officer within the Business Support Unit with responsibility for quality and performance will contribute to its development and utilise the data to inform local priorities ensuring a local dataset where appropriate.

## **10. Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews**

The responsibility for how the safeguarding system learns lessons from any serious child safeguarding incidents lies at a national level with the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and at a local level with the SSPs.

The Learning and Development Working Group will be responsible for undertaking Rapid Reviews of any serious notifiable incidents in respect of children, to consider whether a case meets the criteria for a local review. In accordance with requirements, they will report their decision to the National Panel about whether a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review is appropriate, or whether they think the case may raise issues which are complex or of national importance such that a national review may be appropriate.

Where they consider it appropriate for a local review to be undertaken they will commission the review ensuring that a Local Panel is established to oversee its completion.

The Learning and Development Working Group will monitor any improvement plans arising from such reviews reporting to the Safeguarding Children Partnership.

## 11. Funding

The work of the South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership will be funded through a pooled budget which both the SSPs and a number of Relevant Agencies will contribute to.

The budget will meet the costs of:

- Business Support Unit
- 2 CSPR's across South Tees per year
- Independent Scrutiny arrangements
- Contribution to the Tees Performance Management Framework
- Learning and Development Activities including the Tees Wide E-Learning Portal
- Other costs associated with the co-ordination of the partnership

The financial arrangements and any surplus in budget during the preceding year to be reviewed by the partnership annually.

## 12. Review of New Arrangements

The South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership will be reviewed after one year, and continue annually thereafter.

The initial review will include analysis and evaluation of the effectiveness of the new arrangements and structures. Consideration will be given as to whether the arrangements have:

- Improved Practice
- Enhanced Outcomes for Children and their Families

It is recognised that over the next two years the South Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership will work closely with the Hartlepool and Stockton-On-Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership both in relation to the continuation of the Tees wide arrangements already in place and with a view to determining whether the two partnerships should consider becoming a Tees Safeguarding Children Partnership in the future.

### **13. Glossary**

SSP – Safeguarding Statutory Partners

MARAC – Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference

MAPPA – Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements

CCG – Clinical Commissioning Group

ST MACH – South Tees Multi Agency Children’s Hub

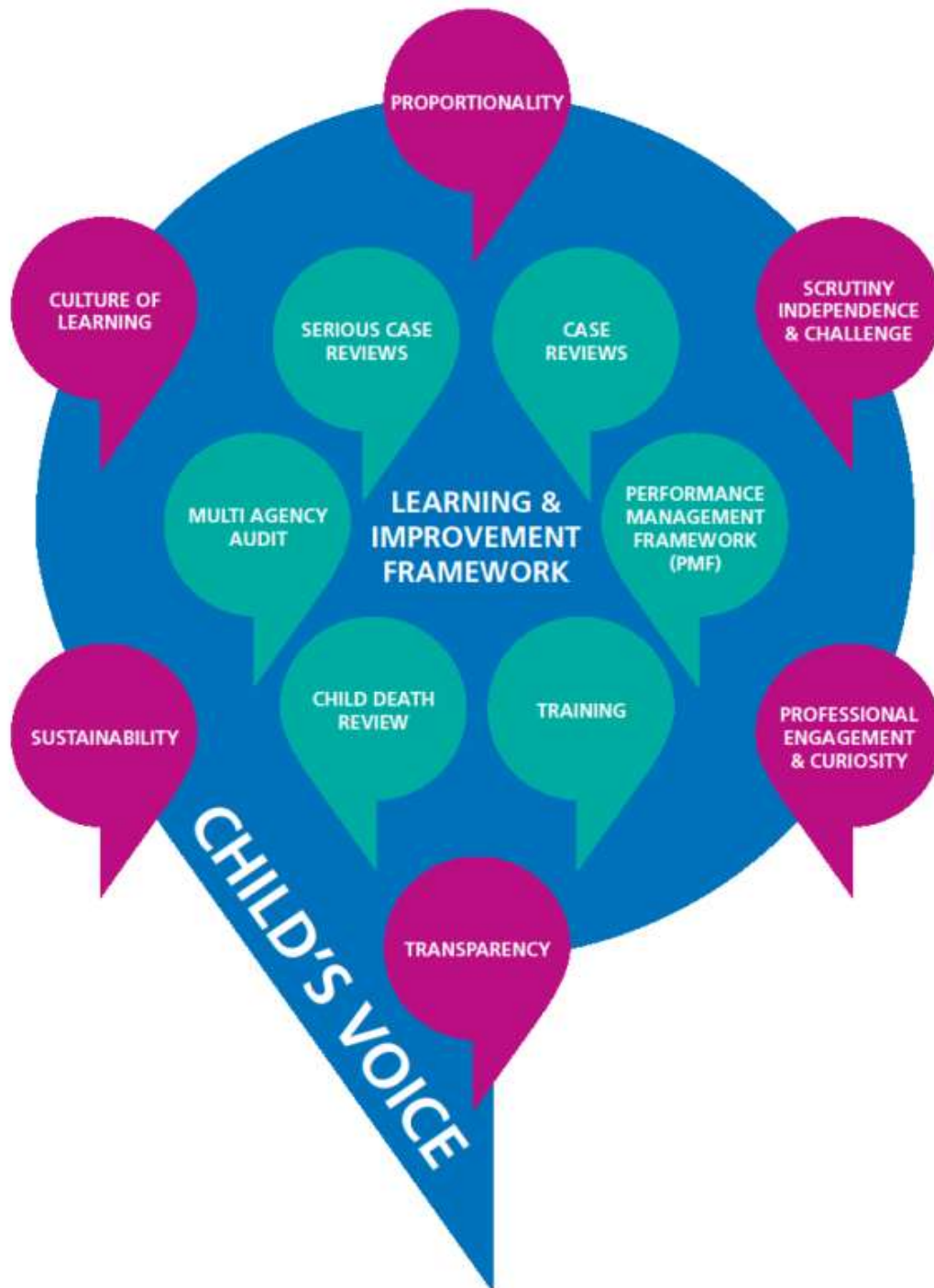
VEMT – Vulnerable, Exploited, Missing or Trafficked

CSPR – Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews

JTAI – Joint Targeted Agency Inspection

LGA – Local Government Association

## APPENDIX 1 - Learning and Improvement Framework



Enhancing Outcomes

Improving Practice