

**Safeguarding Assurance Strategy
For Children and Adults
Up-dated June 2017**

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Safeguarding in Context

‘Safeguarding is the Business of Us All’

Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group (WCCG) understands its commissioning responsibilities as afforded by legislation and national frameworks in the Safeguarding interests of children and adults. The organisation is highly committed to supporting and reacting to the local needs of children and adults where vulnerability, harm, abuse or neglect feature in their lives as both actual and potential concerns and to engaging with others in the field of care provision in order to minimise risk of harm and to optimise safety and well-being.

This strategy takes account of the absolute necessity for effective engagement with others involved in the design and delivery of service provision to children, adults, families and communities and acknowledges the significance of promoting and maintaining strong working arrangements with key stakeholders and with particular reference to the functioning of WCCG in collaboration with:

- Local children and adults as service-users and members of the community,
- Local healthcare service providers,
- Local partner agencies,
- Local and regional commissioning and governing bodies.

Via the application of this Strategy WCCG will continue to support the recommendations from public inquiries, such as contained within the Francis Report (2013), the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham (2014) and the Lampard Report (2015), working to uphold openness, transparency, duty of candour and leadership as integral features of overall service delivery across the local health economy.

Aims, Vision and the Route to Success

What we are aiming for in the Interests of Safeguarding Children and Adults

WCCG's commitment to safeguarding children and adults is reflected in a strategic approach with overarching aims that serve to steer and inform on-going programmes of work and day-day Safeguarding business and as such are those that enable WCCG:

- To effectively fulfil the statutory Safeguarding responsibilities afforded to the commissioning body and the expectations of national directives, ensuring that responsibilities relating to the specific healthcare needs of looked after children and the management of childhood deaths are given due attention.
- To enable the governing body to fully apply its statutory responsibilities that came into effect April 2015 as a result of the statutory framework for safeguarding adults within the Care Act 2014.
- To appropriately commission services that serve to most ably protect and promote the safety and well-being of children and adults.
- To adeptly steer and influence local healthcare service planning and delivery for the promotion of good health, positive life experience and minimisation of the likelihood of harm.
- To rigorously seek assurance that vulnerabilities and risks of harm to children and adults are minimised and where apparent that they are effectively managed.
- To actively facilitate and support the application of learning across the health economy from the findings of enquiry, audit, inspection and review in order that safe practice and professional competency can be continuously enhanced.
- To fully engage in work activities with partner agencies and organisations as those serving the Safeguarding interests of local children, adults and communities.

What we need to see in operation across healthcare services

The vision of WCCG as reflected by its Safeguarding business is to enable:

- Maintenance of robust structures and processes that effectively identify, understand and manage needs as both individual and corporate safeguarding concerns.
- Appropriate healthcare services that work successfully together to minimise risk of harm and neglect of children and adults and that serve children and adults well when concerns arise.
- Evidence that assures that children and adults who are vulnerable, are actively engaged in care planning and delivery and that their views and experiences inform the direction and development of services.
- Clear understanding that local healthcare service provision to children and adults with regard to safety and welfare is strengthened by the exercising of robust training programmes and the application of learning from the findings of reviews, research, audit and inspection.

- Effective 'Working Together' systems, processes and practices that operate between organisations and services and as those that continuously strive to keep children and adults safe from harm, abuse and neglect.

How WCCG is going to achieve its aims and uphold the vision

The success of the strategic aims and the vision of Safeguarding in operation are to be determined:

- By maintaining robust accountability and governance structures across the organisation that are explicitly understood by local healthcare and partner agency organisations and that are well utilised.
- By commissioning and monitoring healthcare services that must demonstrate that appropriate safeguarding arrangements are in place by which to serve children and adults across their organisations.
- By working closely with healthcare provider organisations to influence, support and monitor their ability to most effectively safeguard children and adults from harm, abuse and neglect and by taking action when concerns regarding an ability to do so arise.
- By engendering strong 'Working Together' arrangements with partner agencies in order that children and adults can be most ably supported with their safeguarding needs.
- By engaging with other commissioning sites at local, regional and national levels to attend to the Safeguarding agenda relating to children and adults as afforded to the commissioning bodies.
- By liaising and networking with neighbouring healthcare organisations in order to gauge local progress and to encourage innovation in practice.
- By embracing external and internal review of healthcare service provision for assurance of safe system and practice and to influence positive outcomes in response to any local findings for improvement and development.
- By working with neighbouring CCGs and Safeguarding Boards within the STP (Sustainability and Transformation Plan) footprint and beyond to maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of the Safeguarding agenda that serves to support vulnerable children and adults.

Priorities for 2017 – 2018

WCCG is to complete a programme of work that is informed by the annual review of progress, national imperatives, the demands of locally-emerging needs, and with due regard for existing business priorities of Walsall Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) and Walsall Safeguarding Adults Board (WSAB).

Areas for priority comprise the following:

Safeguarding Children: Features for priority 2017 / 2018

- 1 Re-establish the Health MASH Management Review Group to steer and strengthen health economy contribution to MASH activities.
- 2 Re-establish the Safeguarding Children/Children Looked After specialist leads forum and integrate in the Care Quality Commission Information Group business to steer and influence local Safeguarding Children and Children Looked After work programmes.
- 3 Review the WCCG Safeguarding Assurance Strategy to ensure appropriate reflection of WCCG ambition for 2017 – 2018.
- 4 Engage in the Children Looked After reduction agenda as led by the Local Authority to ensure healthy economy contribution is applicable and effective.
- 5 Ensure the readiness of the health economy to effectively support the health needs of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children on arrival into area.
- 6 Re-instate the Children Looked After Health work stream in accordance with the requirements of the revised Corporate Parenting Strategy.
- 7 Broaden GP engagement in and accrue outcomes from the business of the Safeguarding GP Leads Network Forum; produce the 2017 – 18 work programme.
- 8 Review and report on the findings of the GP Practice Safeguarding Children Self-Assessment exercise with subsequent influence on the local work programme.
- 9 Establish performance framework Safeguarding Children / Children Looked After features for reporting by Primary Care sites and Unscheduled Access Sites.
- 10 Contribute to the Child Death Overview Panel Annual Report WSCB which is to reflect health economy contribution to the agenda.
- 11 Steer and influence a Child Sexual Exploitation health-specific targeted item of Child Sexual Exploitation work with providers to steer and influence local work programmes.
- 12 Oversee the application of learning across the health economy with reference to the local Serious Case Review findings to assure effectiveness.

Safeguarding Adults

The Care Act 2014 provides a statutory framework for safeguarding adults that promotes a shared approach across all agencies to work together to keep adults safe who present as vulnerable and at risk from harm and abuse.

The Care Act 2014 promotes a fundamental shift in the provision of the adult safeguarding process; emphasis is firmly placed upon promoting the well-being of the victim through *Making Safeguarding Personal*. The shift in safeguarding practice is from process to personalisation.

The legislation expands the categories of abuse, adding organisational abuse, domestic abuse, modern slavery and self-neglect as features. It operates in tandem with the Human Rights Act 1998, Mental Capacity Act 2005, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards 2009 and the Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004, which serve also to protect the rights, freedoms and well-being of children during transition into adult services.

Safeguarding Adults: Features for priority 2017 / 2018

- 1 Develop and roll out the IRIS Project around Domestic Violence. First phase of 15-20 GP practices to be trained and Advocate supporting them. Work collaboratively with other members to bring this project under the footprint of the Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STP).
- 2 Maintain position as a core Member of Walsall SAB, fully committed to working with to deliver their responsibilities. To attend and play a strong role in the sub groups in order to help support the work required in order to make Walsall Safeguarding Board and safeguarding in Walsall a success. WCCG will continue to give its full support when required to participating in SARs, DHRs and providing good quality Chronologies and producing IMRs in a timely manner.
- 3 Walsall CCG will continue to work with the Local Authority and other partners where there is a safeguarding concern that needs investigation where a Health organisation is better placed to investigate. We will undertake investigations in a timely manner and report any findings as required. Where there are lessons to be learnt the CCG will then monitor the organisation against any action plans.
- 4 Over the next year Walsall CCG will continue to work closely with Nursing Homes to achieve a high standard of care. The re-modelling of the Dashboard to gain information and a schedule of quality assurance visits both announced and unannounced will be used to measure their performance. Support to Nursing Homes will continue through the quarterly forum meetings where a range of topics will be scheduled and chosen by the Homes managers. Improve safety with the support of the Quality Improvement Lead.

- 5 WCCG will continue to embed Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty in practice with the continued support of the MCA Project to raise compliance and implementation across providers.
Monitor provider compliance and take action as necessary if they fail to reach the agreed standards.
- 6 Support Primary care with Safeguarding Adults and deliver a training plan in line with their needs, improving on that of last year.
Support with Safeguarding concerns and investigations where required.

Monitoring and Measuring Performance and Quality

How achievement is to be monitored and measured

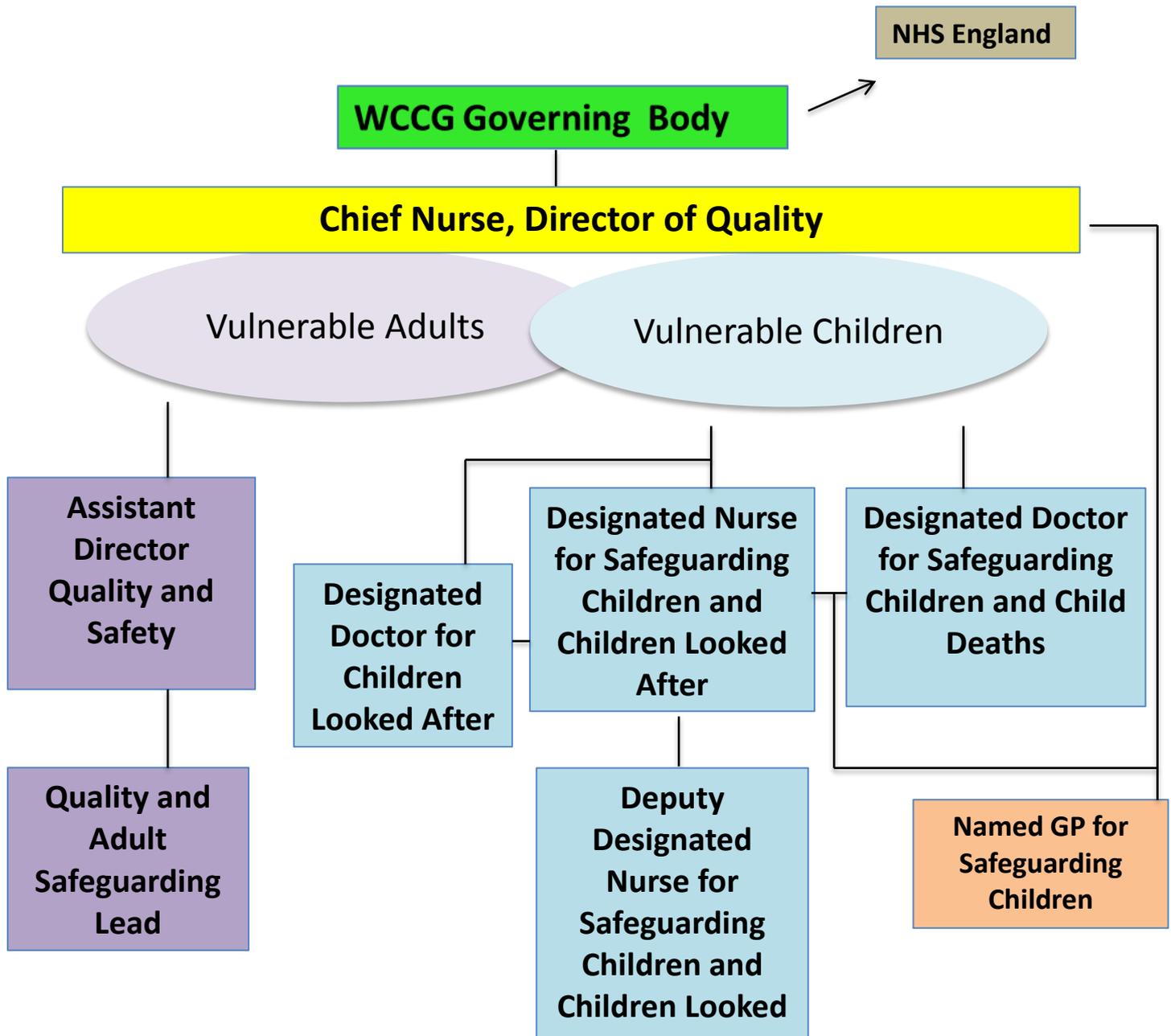
The full range of systems, processes and practice are to be utilised by which to influence, monitor and assure Safeguarding arrangements and activities in the interests of children and adults and as key are to include:

- Defining and monitoring Safeguarding standards as set within contracts and service level agreements.
- Ensuring that annual assessments are completed by healthcare providers in relation to Safeguarding arrangements, with particular reference to section 11 Children Act 2004 requirements.
- Programming Safeguarding reports into WCCG governance forums as standardised and regular business items and in the context of provider and commissioning activities.
- Administering and leading a system of reporting and governance when serious incidents relating to local Safeguarding concerns arise.
- Engaging in associated performance and quality business forums and work streams of the respective local Safeguarding Children Board and Safeguarding Adult Board, ensuring that healthcare service performance and activity inform multi-agency undertakings.
- Overseeing the review activities relating to Serious Case Reviews, Safeguarding Adult Reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews and monitoring the progress and success of ensuing action plans from enquiry findings and recommendations.
- Engaging in the work programme of the Child Death Overview Panel and ensuring that local responses fittingly attend to emerging findings and recommendations.
- Producing and enabling the delivery of a programme of audit and enquiry that serves the Safeguarding interests of children and adults and that informs service and practice direction.
- Leading the local programmes of work associated with external inspection and scrutiny of Safeguarding arrangements and practices across the health economy, ensuring that any identified areas for improvement and development receive due attention.
- Compiling Annual Safeguarding Reports which reflect the outcomes and achievements from local activities and which assure that local Safeguarding responsibilities in relation to children and adults are being suitably met.

The WCCG Safeguarding governance arrangements, whilst robust, are to be further strengthened via extension of the existing Safeguarding Performance Frameworks that operate across local healthcare provider sites and in order to enhance overall quality assurance on Safeguarding matters. The Performance Frameworks are to take account of the areas for priority as set for 2017 – 2018 and afford due attention to any emerging needs as national or local Safeguarding children or adult concerns.

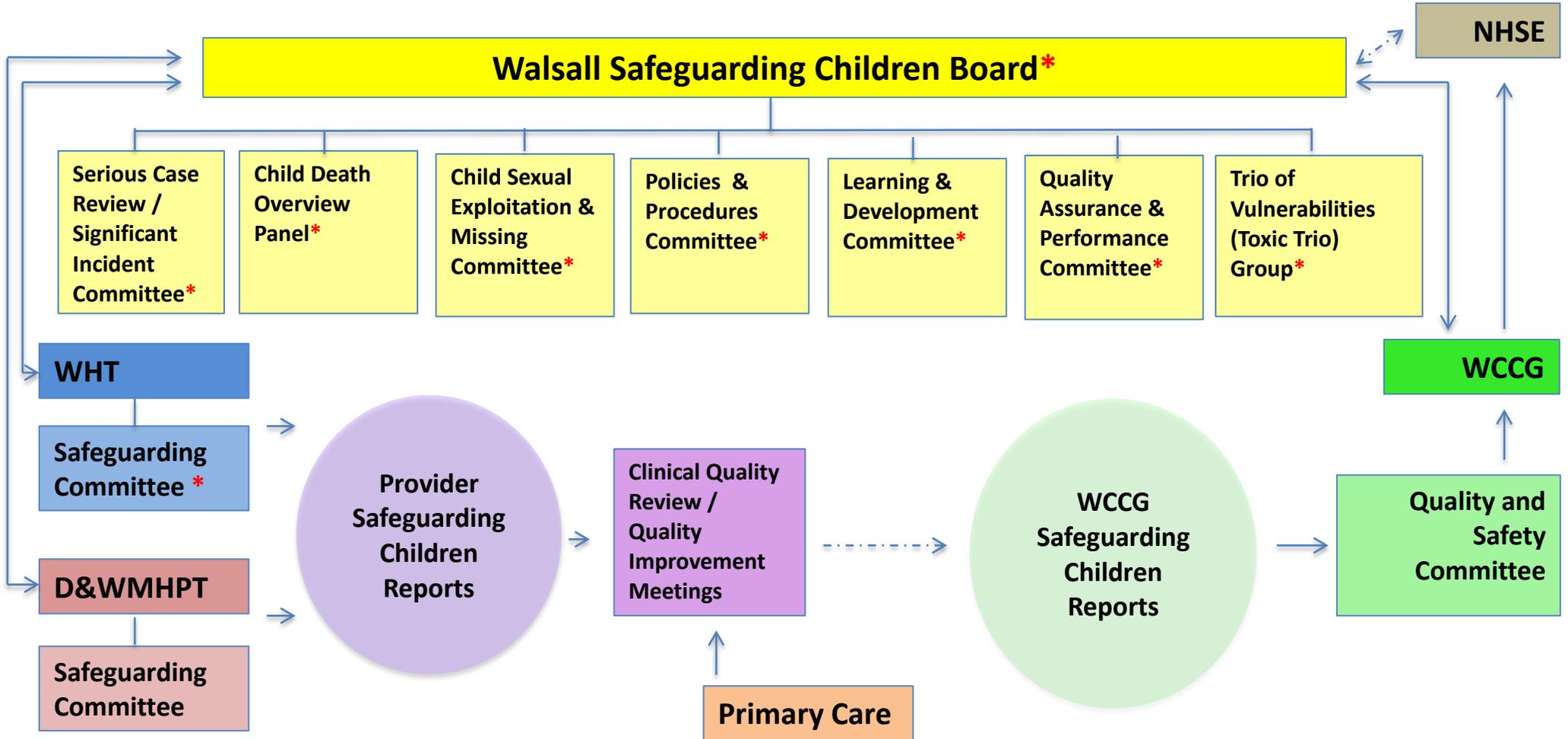
Appendix 1

WCCG Safeguarding Accountability Framework



Appendix 2

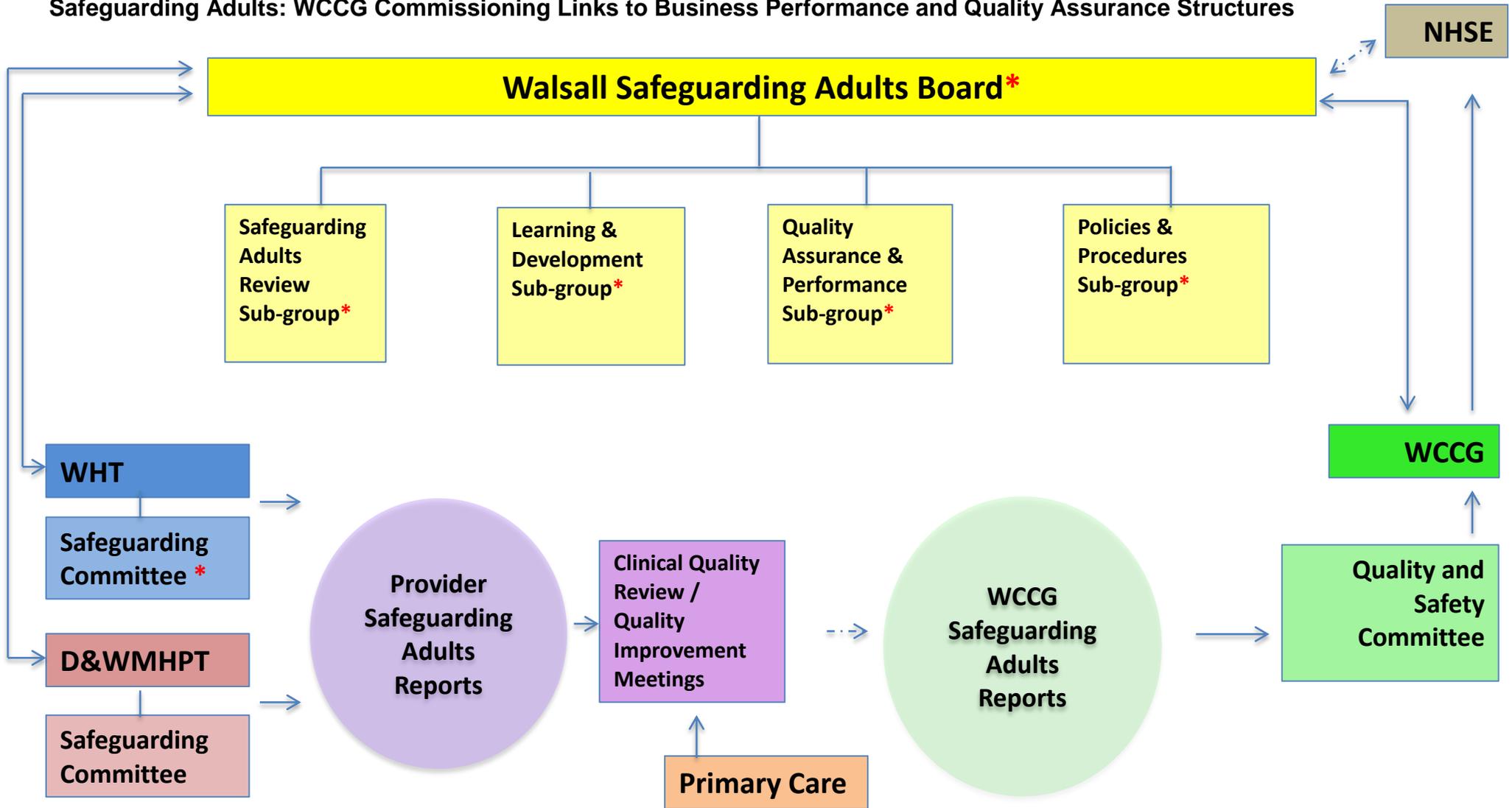
Safeguarding Children: WCCG Commissioning Links to Business Performance and Quality Assurance Structures



* WCCG representation

Appendix 3

Safeguarding Adults: WCCG Commissioning Links to Business Performance and Quality Assurance Structures



* WCCG representation

References

Department of Health (2000)	No Secrets: Guidance on developing and implementing multi-agency policies and procedures to protect vulnerable adults from abuse
DfE/Department of Health (2015)	Statutory Guidance on Promoting the Health and Well-being of Looked After Children
Francis R (2013)	The Francis Report
HM Government (2005)	Statutory Guidance on making arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under section 11 of the Children Act 2004
HM Government (2015)	Working Together to Safeguard Children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children
Jay, A (2014)	Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham 1997 - 2013
Lampard K and Marsden E (2015)	Themes and lessons learnt from NHS investigations into matters relating to Jimmy Savile: independent report for the Secretary of State of Health
NHS England (2015)	Safeguarding Vulnerable People in the NHS: Accountability and Assurance Framework
Key Legislation	Care Act 2014
	Children Act 1989
	Children Act 2004
	Children and Social Work Act 2017
	Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004
	Mental Capacity Act 2005
	Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberties 2009