

**NHS Croydon
Clinical Commissioning Group**

**Safeguarding Strategy 2013 -16
(Refreshed 2015)**

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Foreword

Patients and the quality of the care they receive are of paramount importance to the work of Croydon CCG.

The CCG is committed in taking all reasonable steps to promote safe practice and to protect children and adults at risk within Croydon from harm, abuse and exploitation. It recognises the strength in working collaboratively to address this safeguarding agenda with our providers and in partnership with our Local Authority & Croydon Safeguarding Children and Adult Boards.

This strategy sets out how Croydon CCG will work with others to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and adults at risk of harm.

For NHS Croydon CCG

Signed: 

Paula Swann, Chief Officer Croydon CCG

Date: 

1. Introduction

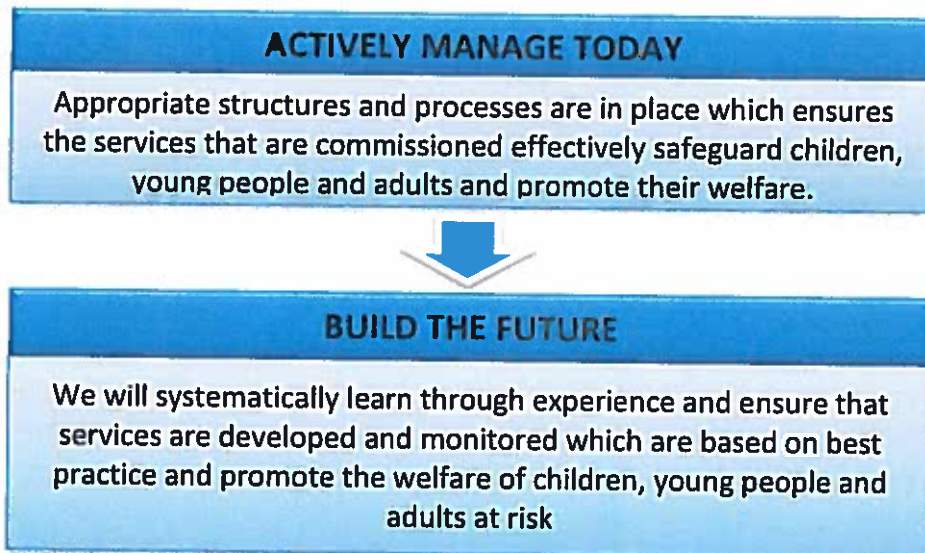
This safeguarding strategy sets out Croydon Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) priorities for the next 3 years and aims to improve the quality of care provided to our vulnerable population who are at risk of harm. Croydon CCG will work in partnership with statutory and voluntary agencies to safeguard children and adults, enhancing health and well-being and protecting the rights of those in the most vulnerable situations.

Croydon CCG will ensure that commissioned services can demonstrate the quality of care they deliver which includes robust safeguarding children and adult arrangements

In addition to promoting on-going quality improvement, commissioners must assure themselves that existing services meet acceptable standards. Whilst regulators play a key role in this arena, commissioners must still actively monitor the quality of services delivered by our providers.

Where we are not assured about the compliance of any of the services we commission, detect early warnings of a potential decline in quality or suspect a breach of unacceptable standards we have a responsibility to intervene.

To deliver this, we need to:



The Croydon CCG Safeguarding Team Annual Work Plan will operationalise the principles of this strategy.

1. **Croydon CCG** has a statutory responsibility to safeguard children, young people and adults who are at risk or in need of care and support. Safeguarding is embedded within the infrastructure of the CCG including governance and quality assurance processes. It is able to fulfil its obligations with the support of an expert safeguarding team. The safeguarding team seek to improve outcomes across the local health economy by working with multiagency partners, providing expert advice support and guidance and developing innovative practice.

1.1 Chief Officer

The Chief Officer holds the overall accountability for the safeguarding of children, young people and adults at risk, or in need of care and support in the CCGs arrangements.

1.2 Director for Quality and Governance

The Director for Quality and Governance has delegated responsibility for the safeguarding of children and young people and adults at risk and the delivery of the CCG safeguarding children and adult strategies including compliance with legislation and standards and governance arrangements.

1.3 Safeguarding Team

Safeguarding Team Structure:-

- Designated Doctor for Safeguarding Children
- Head of Safeguarding/Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children
- Deputy Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children
- Named GP for Safeguarding Children
- Lead Nurse for Safeguarding Adults at Risk.
- Safeguarding Adults Nurse Practitioner
- Designated Nurse Looked After Children (Arrangement between provider and commissioner to work 1 day per week in the CCG)

Designated Doctor Looked After Children (Available to CCG for expert advice)

(Appendix 1: Safeguarding Relationships Chart (Croydon CCG & Croydon Safeguarding Boards))

1.4 GP Safeguarding Leads

Following a review completed for the government in July 2009, the CQC undertook a review of arrangements in the NHS for safeguarding children. The report recognised that, 'GPs are at the heart of an effective child protection system' and that, 'it is important that GPs and all staff working within a practice, including administrative and reception staff, are familiar with the principles of child protection and with their own role in safeguarding children. Each practice should have a nominated lead and deputy lead to promote this work'. In response to this GP safeguarding leads have

been identified in each practice across the CCG. The role at present is to provide specialist safeguarding knowledge, education and support to their practice.

1.5 Designated LAC Doctor and Nurse

The expertise of the Designated LAC Doctor and Nurse is secured through Croydon Health Services. The Designated LAC Nurse currently works for one day a week in the CCG under an honorary contract. This arrangement is currently under review in order to ensure that local requirements are met.

Designated LAC professionals are able to advise Croydon CCG of its statutory responsibilities towards Looked After Children and influence commissioning in order to improve health outcomes.

1.6 Designated Doctor for Child Deaths

The Designated Doctor for Safeguarding Children also fulfils the role of Designated Doctor for Child Deaths.

1.7 Integrated commissioning Unit

The safeguarding team work closely with commissioners, providing expert advice in order to influence commissioning processes and decisions, ensuring that the CCG is able to fulfil its statutory safeguarding functions.

2 Health and Social Care Act 2012 - responsibility for safeguarding children and adults

2.1 The Director of Nursing for each Local Area Team holds responsibility for supporting and providing assurance on the safeguarding of children and adults at risk of abuse and/or neglect.

2.2 As statutory bodies, CCGs have a responsibility for improvements in the quality of primary medical care and safeguarding services across the local health economy.

2.3 NHS England and CCGs will work closely together, and, in turn, will work closely with local authorities, Local Safeguarding Children & Adult Boards to ensure there are effective NHS safeguarding arrangements across local health communities, whilst at the same time, ensuring absolute clarity about the underlying statutory responsibilities that each commissioner has for the services that they commission, together with a clear leadership and oversight role for NHS England in line with the Safeguarding Vulnerable People in the NHS – Accountability and Assurance Framework 2015.

2.4 CCGs that contract with Commissioning Support Units for support with patient specific services such as continuing care or the management of serious incidents must ensure they have access to the appropriate safeguarding expertise.

3 Active membership role of Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB)

3.1 Croydon Safeguarding Children Board (CSCB) is the key statutory mechanism for agreeing how the relevant organisations in Croydon will work in partnership to safeguard and promote the welfare of its children. The Executive Board lead (Director for Quality and Governance) Designated Doctor and Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children are Croydon CCGs representatives at the CSCB. The Director for Quality and Governance and the Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children both attend the CSCB Executive meetings. It is through this representation that Croydon CCG discharges its statutory responsibility to be a member of the CSCB.

3.2 Members of the safeguarding team represent Croydon CCG on the CSCB sub-groups, making an active contribution to the decision making process of the CSCB. The Designated Nurse chairs the CSCB health sub group.

3.3 Active membership of the Croydon Safeguarding Adult Board (CSAB)

3.4 The Croydon Safeguarding Adult Board (CSAB) is a key statutory mechanism for agreeing how relevant organisations in Croydon will work in partnership to safeguard and promote adults at risk. The Director for Governance and Quality and Lead Nurse for Safeguarding Adults at Risk represent Croydon CCG at the CSAB and Leadership Executive Group of the CSAB. It is through this representation that Croydon CCG discharges its statutory responsibility to be a member of the CSAB.

3.5 Members of the safeguarding team represent Croydon CCG on the CSAB sub-groups, making an active contribution to the decision making process of the CSAB.

4 National Policy Context and statutory requirements.

NHS commissioners have statutory obligations to uphold people's fundamental rights and protect patients who are unable to do this for themselves.

The CCG ensures that it considers statutory requirements by responding to legislation in all its activities.

Legislation relevant to safeguarding includes:

- Care Act 2014
- Children Act 1989 and 2004
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010
- Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Deprivation of Liberties Safeguards 2009
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Mental Health Act 2007
- NHS Act 2006
- Disability Discrimination Act 2010

- Supreme Court Decision Recommendations 2014
- Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015
- FGM Act 1985,2003 & 2015
- Serious Crime Act 2015
- Sexual Offences Act 2003

4.1 Safeguarding Children. NHS bodies have a statutory duty to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004. They are statutory members of the Local Safeguarding Children Board under Section 13 of the Children Act.

4.2 Looked After Children (LAC)

Most children are accommodated following a history of abuse and neglect. Although looked after children have many of the same health issues as their peers, these are often to a greater extent due to their life journey. Under the Children Act 1989 and amended legislation in 2004 and the Statutory guidance on Promoting the health and well-being of looked-after children (March 2015), CCGs have a duty to cooperate with the local authority to provide support and services for looked-after children. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 also places a legal duty on CCGs to work with local authorities to promote the integration of health, social care and education to support and safeguard looked-after children.

4.3 Safeguarding Adults. NHS bodies have a statutory duty to safeguard adults in need of care and support under section 14 of the Care Act 2014. The CCG alongside the local authority and the Police are the statutory bodies accountable for the work of the safeguarding adult board.

Croydon CCG will follow the 6 principles for safeguarding adults as outlined by the Department of Health (2011) ensuring that the safeguarding of adults at risk is embedded in the commissioning of services :-

- Empowerment
- Protection
- Prevention
- Proportionality
- Partnership
- Accountability

4.4 Mental Capacity Act (2005). The Mental Capacity Act (MCA) 2005 provides a statutory framework to empower and protect people who may lack capacity to make decisions for themselves and establishes a framework for making decisions on their behalf. This applies whether the decisions are life-changing events or everyday matters. All decisions taken in the Safeguarding Adults process must comply with the Act. Young people of 16 and 17 years also come within the remit of MCA (2005) Consideration must be given to their needs in order to ensure that there is compliance with statute.

4.5 Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) 2009 and Supreme Court Decision 2014

DoLS apply to people who have a mental disorder for example a person with dementia or a learning disability and who do not have mental capacity to decide whether or not they should be accommodated in the relevant care home or hospital to be given care or treatment. Young people of 16 and 17 years also come within the remit of DoLS (2009 and the Supreme Court Decision 2014). Consideration must be given to their needs in order to ensure that there is compliance with statute.

These safeguards provide protection to people in hospitals and care homes and the local authority leads on assessment and authorisation of safeguards. All decisions on care and treatment must comply with the Mental Capacity Act and the Mental Capacity Act Code and providers policies.

More recently the Supreme Court Decision recommendations (2014) regards DoLS and authorization have introduced the 'acid test' regarding people who are deemed to lack capacity requiring constant supervision and control and not the right to leave their usual place of residence.

4.6 Prevent and Channel Duty under the Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015

CONTEST is the U.K.'s counterterrorism strategy that aims to reduce the risk we face from international terrorism so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence. PREVENT is part of the Government counter-terrorism strategy which focuses on stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting violent extremism.

Health has been identified as a key strategic partner in supporting this strategy.

Healthcare professionals may meet and treat people who are vulnerable to radicalisation. People with mental health issues or learning disabilities may become more easily drawn into terrorism. We also know that people connected to the healthcare sector have taken part in terrorist acts. The key challenge for the healthcare sector is to ensure that, where there are signs that someone has been or is being drawn into terrorism, healthcare workers can interpret those signs correctly, are aware of the support which is available and are confident in referring the person for further support. Young people also come within the Prevent and Channel Duty. Consideration must also be given to their needs in order to ensure that there is compliance with statute.

The Lead Nurse for Safeguarding Adults at Risk is the nominated Prevent lead for the CCG.

4.7 FGM ACT 2015 sets out the statutory requirements of NHS bodies in terms of fulfilling their statutory duties to protect women and girls from the harmful practice of FGM and be compliant in completing statutory and mandatory reports and referrals to social care. The CCG has recognised the need to improve outcomes for women and girls affected by FGM by investing in an innovative project which will take this agenda forward a health perspective and by working with statutory and voluntary partners and the local community.

5 Assurance and governance arrangements

5.1 Provider organisations report their safeguarding children and adult arrangements to the Croydon CCG safeguarding team by means of a safeguarding monitoring report. The report provides the safeguarding team with assurance that providers are able to fulfil their responsibilities to safeguard children, young people and adults at risk. It also allows early recognition of areas which may require additional support and areas of high concern which need to be escalated urgently to the CCG senior management team. There is a strong relationship with commissioning and contract managers in order to ensure that safeguarding is considered in all aspects of the commissioning cycle including contract management and monitoring.

5.2 Provider organisations report their arrangements for MCA and DoLS and Prevent duties to the safeguarding team by means of a monitoring report. This includes covers arrangements for adults and children.

5.3 The Croydon Safeguarding Children and Adults Governance Group receive reports on all matters relating to the safeguarding children and adults at risk including Prevent, MCA and DoLS.

5.4 The Croydon CCG Governing Body will receive safeguarding reports quarterly via the agreed process

(Appendix 2: Reporting Framework for CCG)

6. Strategic Framework

Aim

To work in partnership with statutory and other agencies to continuously develop and improve our ability to safeguard children and adults at risk and improve safeguarding outcomes across the Croydon CCG area.

Strategic Objectives

- Provide safeguarding leadership across the Croydon health economy in order to provide support and advice in the on-going development of safeguarding practice and processes.
- Respond to new statutory and mandatory requirements in a timely fashion in order to ensure that the CCG is compliant with all requirements and continuously seeking to improve outcomes for children, young people and adults.

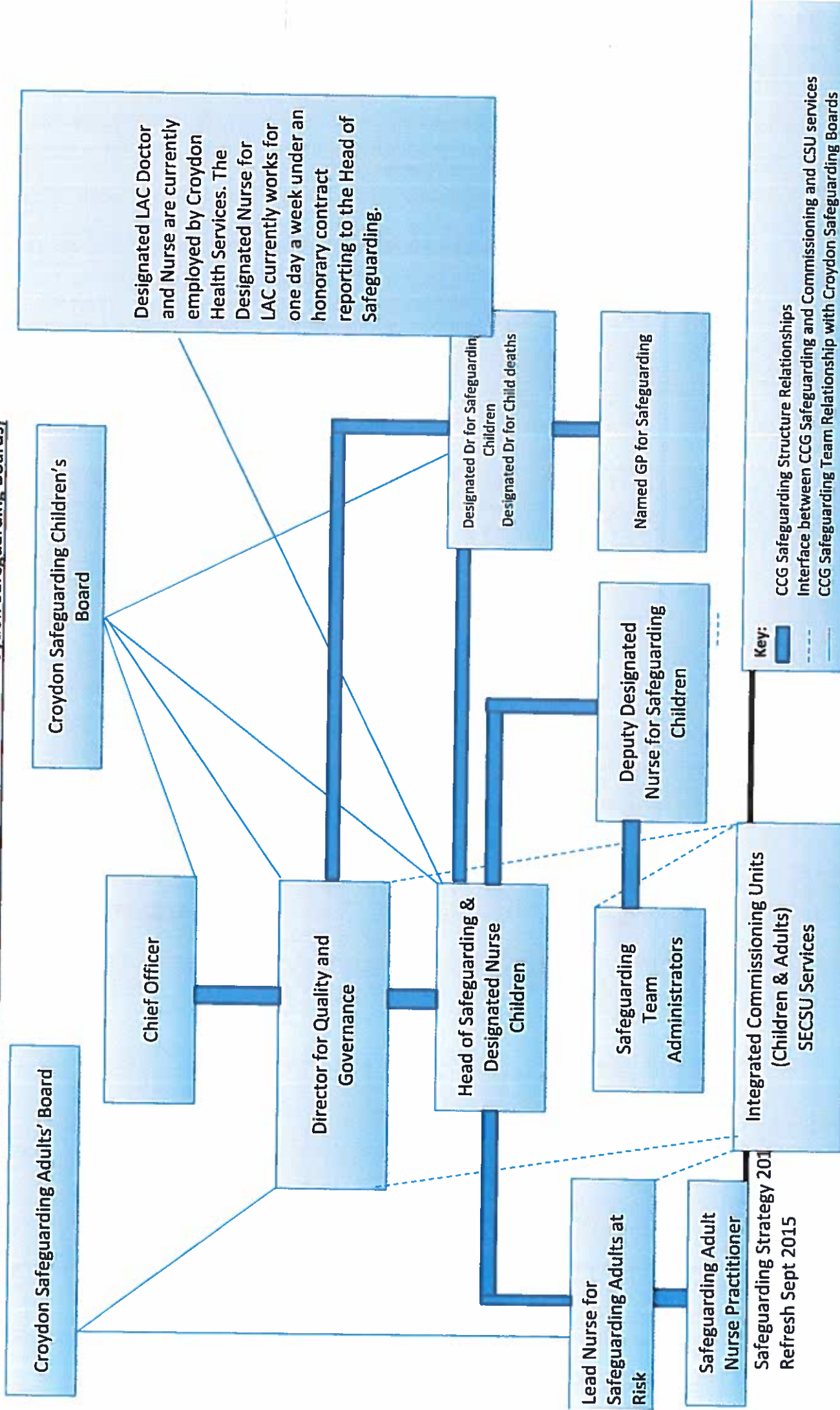
- Further develop a framework for communications, safeguarding support and advice across the Croydon health economy and services commissioned by Croydon CCG.
- Be an active partner in the multi-agency child and adult safeguarding arena.
- Further development of processes which ensure that all contracts contain appropriate reference to safeguarding arrangements, working in partnership with procurement and contract managers and commissioners.
- Further development in the already established monitoring processes of safeguarding arrangements in the delivery of commissioned services, to include all providers.
- The safeguarding team together with commissioning and contract managers will hold services to account when there is a shortfall in the delivery of adequate safeguarding arrangements.
- Ensure that there are robust governance processes for reporting safeguarding activity including identified risks within Croydon CCG.
- Promote collaborative working with relevant colleagues in order to ensure that safeguarding concerns are explored in all Serious Incidents that are notified to the CCG and appropriate actions are taken, monitored and recorded.

(Appendix 3)

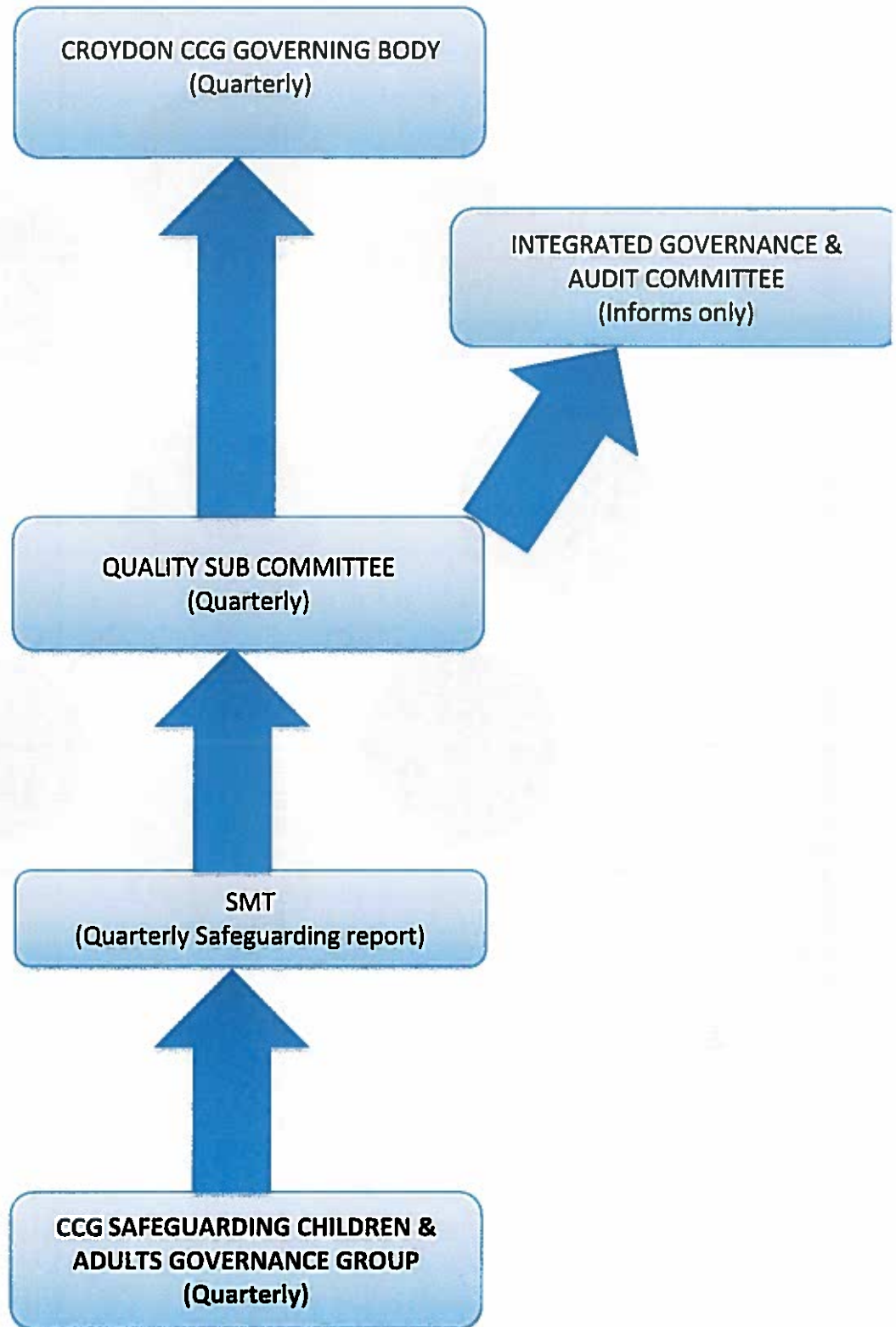
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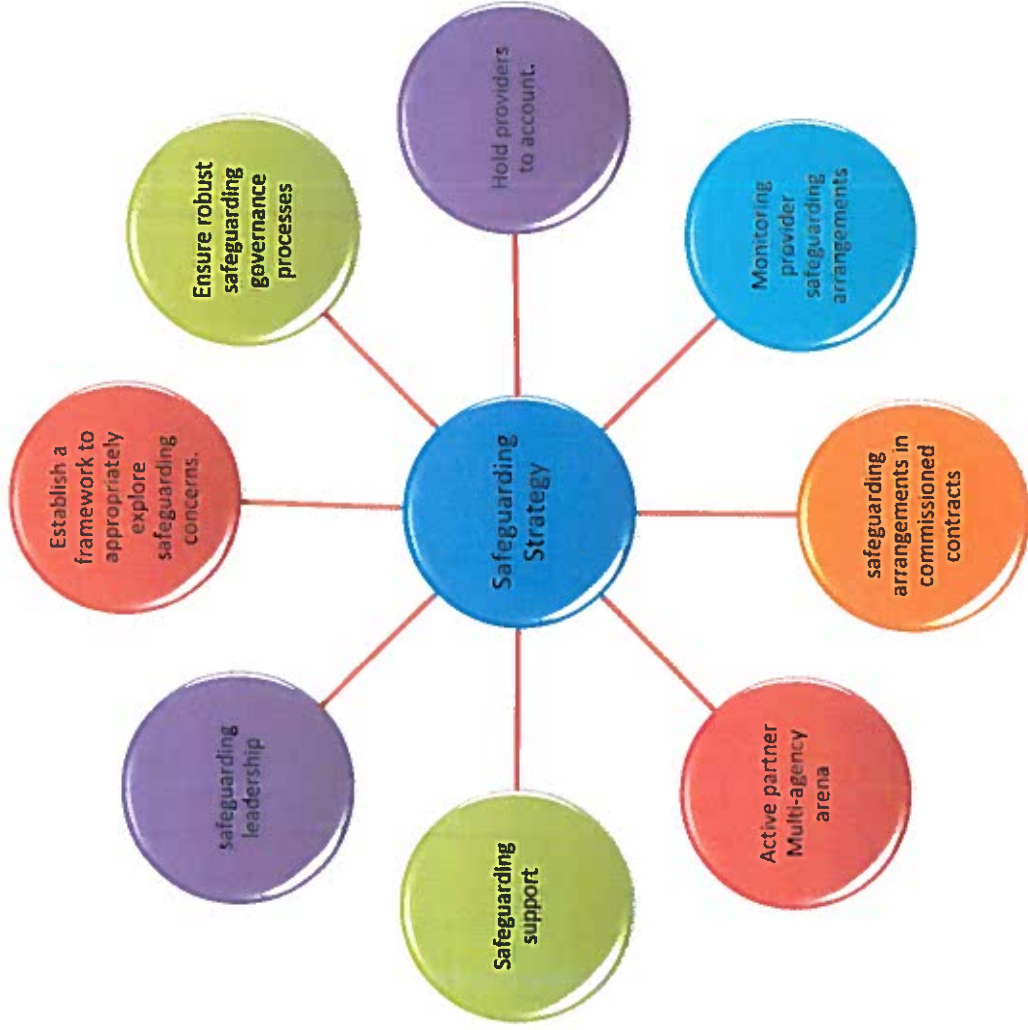
Appendix 1: Safeguarding Relationships Chart (Croydon CCG, commissioners & Croydon Safeguarding Boards)



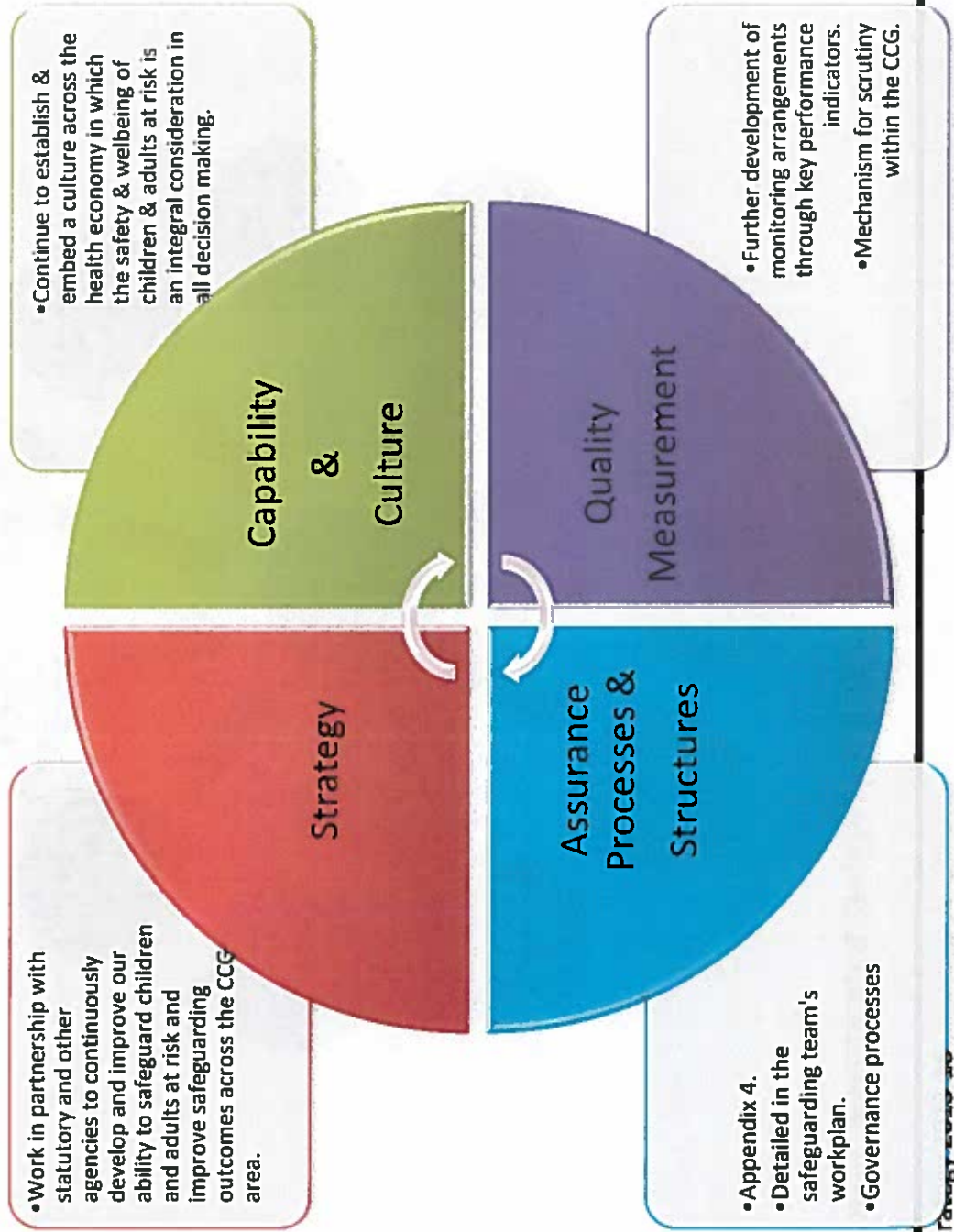
Appendix 2: Reporting Framework for CCG



Appendix 2: Safeguarding Team Strategic Objectives



Appendix 3; Safeguarding Team Model of Assurance;



Appendix 4: Providing Safeguarding Assurance To Croydon CCG

