

ISSUE

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QUARTERLY LEARNING &
DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER FOR
ADULT SUPPORT & PROTECTION
PROFESSIONALS IN GRAMPIAN

GrASP Insights



Welcome to GrASP Insights!

Welcome to the first ever issue of the Grampian Adult Support & Protection Learning & Development Newsletter, brought to you on behalf of the Grampian ASP L&D Group.

We plan to bring you a fresh issue 4 times a year to keep our ASP workforce in Grampian aware and informed of the latest ASP developments, locally and nationally.

Who are 'we'? The Grampian ASP Learning & Development Group report to the Multi-agency Grampian Adult Support & Protection Group which is a permanent sub-group of the Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray Adult Protection Committees. The group consists of representatives from the statutory ASP partners and is chaired by the Joint L&D Coordinator for Grampian.

Our role is to ascertain local ASP training needs, ensure that appropriate training is provided, maintain awareness of local and national legislative and political changes, and identify and disseminate learning from ASP learning reviews, inspections or any other relevant research or review. Ultimately we are here to assist you, our ASP workforce, to feel suitably informed and effective so that we can ensure improved outcomes for adults who may be at risk across Grampian. We hope this newsletter is a positive addition to what we do.

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Why 'GrASP'? As well as being a snappy abbreviation for 'Grampian Adult Support & Protection', one of the definitions of the word grasp is 'to have an understanding of a subject or difficult facts'. We hope this newsletter will support all of our workforce to 'grasp' the most up to date information about Adult Support & Protection and where to go to access training to develop your 'grasp' even further.

In each issue we will share any learning from recent ASP Learning Reviews carried out within Grampian or further afield. Each quarter we will also include our Grampian ASP Training Calendar as well as details of other related training or events that might be of interest to you.

We hope our 'Time to Reflect' section gets some good discussions going in your teams or even just gives you an opportunity to think about the themes presented.

Of course we want this newsletter to be meaningful to you so please get in touch with any suggestions or topics you would like us to consider for future issues. Do you have any really good practice examples of a time when you have been able to implement your ASP knowledge and skills to help achieve safe and positive outcomes for a vulnerable adult you want to share with us? If so we want to hear about it. If you have anything you would like to share please email yvonne.davidson7@nhs.scot

Time to Reflect

Every issue we will use this section to provide you with some thought provoking or inspiring content that we hope will encourage professional reflection or peer or multi-agency discussions. This might be in the form of a scenario, a question or simply a short quote.

For our first issue we are going to bring a festive edge to it.

For those of you familiar with the Dr Seuss story 'How The Grinch Stole Christmas', think about this statement; 'Mr Grinch has chosen to live an isolated lifestyle and has completely disengaged from his community. He lives in squalid conditions amongst piles of rubbish and rotting food stuff. He demonstrates anti-social behaviour, is hostile and at times aggressive.'

What do we know about Mr Grinch's history that might help us make sense of how he lives?

What trauma responses does he demonstrate?

What begins to make a difference to Mr Grinch? Which characters, approaches or acts?

There are no right or wrong answers this is just to get the old cogs whirring!

And one final thought from the Grinch himself:

'What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more.'

However you choose to celebrate the season. Here's hoping yours is full of love and peace.

What's New?



This is where we will keep you up to date with all that is up and coming in the world of ASP Learning & Development.

ASPIre Hub

Back in August this year Iriss (The Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services) launched ASPIre – the ASP Resource Hub. The Hub is a national repository for sharing ASP resources and good practice. At the time of the launch Brenda Walker, National Adult Support and Protection Coordinator, said

“This amazing resource should have something of interest to staff at all levels, across agencies – you can search under categories or do a general search. Currently, the ASPIre Hub houses more than 100 ASP resources and more are being added every day.”

This is an exciting development and the first time there has been such a resource for the Adult Support & Protection workforce. The Hub can be accessed by searching for ASPIre Hub on your web browser or via [this link](#).

*****STOP PRESS*****

The Grampian Interagency Procedures for Adult Support and Protection have been updated – we will bring more information in our next edition but meanwhile you can find the new version [here](#). (or alternatively [here](#))

Pathway for Capacity Assessments for Protection Based Decisions

The 2nd of September saw the launch of the brand new Pathway for Capacity Assessments for Protection Based Decisions alongside a revised version of the Decision Specific Capacity Screening Tool. Kenny O'Brien, NHS Grampian's Associate Director for Public Protection chaired the multi-agency group responsible for developing and implementing the pathway. He said:

"This is the first time that all the multiagency partners have come together to agree how capacity assessments should happen in Grampian when someone is at risk. This is our first try at this, so we'll be listening and learning from everyone to make sure we can keep improving it!"

The pathway is the first of its kind in Scotland and can be found [here](#) along with a [short video](#) explaining how it is used.

Core ASP Training

Since the introduction of the Adult Support & Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 core training has been delivered to a range of individuals/professionals/agencies across Grampian. Initially, this training was developed as a national programme before being tailored to the workforces in individual areas. Across Grampian the core training programme has evolved and changed in a piecemeal fashion but has not been formally reviewed in recent years. In the intervening period much has changed including the publication of the revised Code of Practice for ASP as well as the findings from the National Programme of Joint Inspections for ASP.

The Grampian L&D Group held a workshop in May 2024 to develop a revised programme which will be coming your way in 2025 (details on Page 3). The biggest change to the programme is the introduction of a Multi-Agency module, bringing together staff from across our partners agencies to learn together.

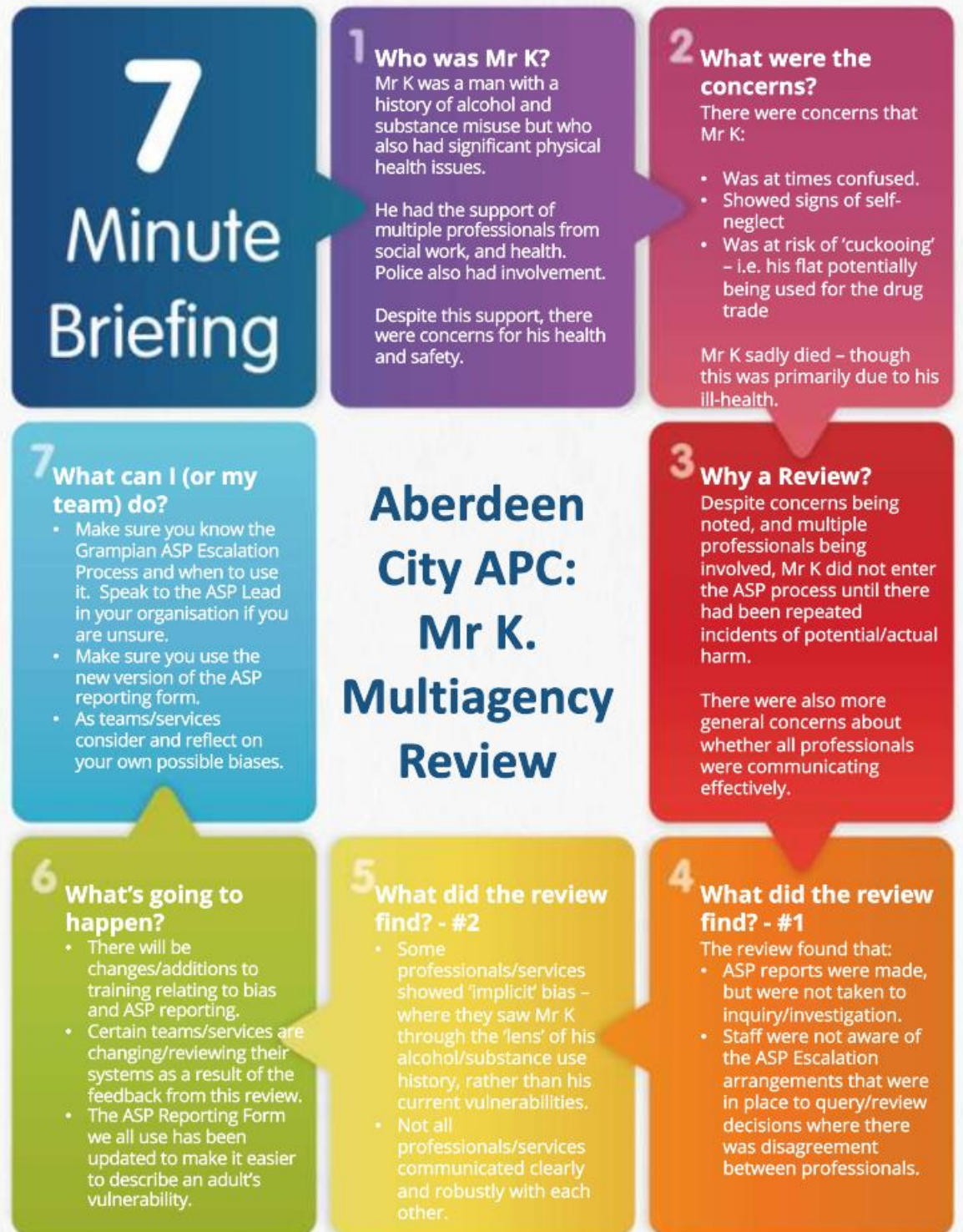
Recent ASP Learning Reviews

An Adult Support and Protection Learning Review is a means for public bodies and office holders with responsibilities relating to the protection of adults at risk of harm to learn lessons by considering the circumstances where an adult at risk has died or been significantly harmed.

In Grampian the learning from these reviews is often what drives our Learning & Development agenda. Therefore, in every edition of GrASP Insights we plan to bring you a summary of some recent learning reviews along with the links to read any published reports.

For this edition we bring you a local learning review carried out by our Aberdeen City colleagues in relation to 'Mr K'. A 7 minute briefing can be seen on this page.

On page 4 we also bring you a 7 minute briefing for an external learning review from our colleagues in Highlands in relation to the McCulloch brothers. The published report can be read [here](#).



November 2024

7 Minute Briefing

1 Who were the McCullochs?
3 unmarried brothers who lived and worked together on their family farm. They had no children and their nearest relatives were second cousins. Records suggest David may have had a learning disability.

2 Why was there a learning review?
To explore how concerns about the actions of individuals who were granted Power of Attorney (PoA) were handled by partner agencies, specifically Social Work, Police and The Office of the Public Guardian.

7 Key messages
The existence of PoA does not change the duties of partner agencies to investigate harm. Exclusion of family members was a fundamental error. Duty of Candour should be initiated as soon as possible in such situations.

Highland Adult Support and Protection Committee

Learning Review – McCulloch Case

3 What were the concerns?
Money and assets totalling over £1million were transferred to the PoAs in suspicious circumstances. PoAs did not always appear to be acting in the best interests of the brothers and their past and present wishes were ignored.

6 Recommendations
SW and Police should offer joint apology to the family. Criminal prosecution of PoAs should be reconsidered. SW, Police and OPG should improve joint working for such complex situations. The OPG should better promote their complaints system.

5 What were the findings?
There was a failure by Police to identify coercive control and evidence of bias. The OPG held a rigid position in terms of their remit and did not provide anything meaningful to the investigations. Duty of Candour was not initiated.

4 What were the findings?
ASP concerns were viewed in isolation. Family members were excluded from discussions. A single solicitor represented the brothers and the PoAs. Agencies worked in silos and did not take ownership of investigations.

National Events & Learning Opportunities

ASPIre events – as well as hosting the ASPIre Hub, IRISS also run regular ASPIre events in conjunction with the National ASP Coordinator (NASPC). We will keep you posted of upcoming events but you can subscribe directly to the NASPC newsletter by clicking [here](#). From this link you will also be able to access recordings of previous ASPIre events.

ASP Day – By the time our next edition is published Adult Support and Protection Day, will have come and gone. Held on 20th February this year's theme, identified nationally, will be financial harm. Locally in Grampian partner agencies will use this as an opportunity to raise awareness of financial harm so keep an eye on Social Media channels. Previous themes have included sextortion, neglect and self-neglect.

5 Nations Adult Support Protection & Safeguarding Seminar series – This series of seminars include top level speakers, experts and attendees from the Five Nations of the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales. To view previous seminars and find out more about seminars for 2025 you can visit [5 Nations - Safeguarding Ireland](#)

Grampian ASP Training Catalogue

The TURAS links below will only work once you are signed into TURAS. Don't have a TURAS Learn account? Don't worry anyone can sign up and it's easy to do. You can access all of our Grampian wide training on TURAS Learn alongside a host of other resources, including access to the National Trauma Training Programme – more about that in the next edition. To learn how to sign up for an account, you can visit [Introduction to Turas Learn on Vimeo](#) or for existing users you can log in [here](#).

Core ASP Training:

The Core ASP Training is delivered via modules. Which modules you should complete is dependant on your role.

Module/Level 1 – ASP General Workforce. For dates and booking information please contact your organisation's ASP contact or Training Team.

Module/Level 2 – ASP Specific Workforce. For dates and booking information please contact your organisation's ASP contact or Training Team.

Module/Level 3 – ASP Specialist Multi-Agency Workforce. Book via TURAS [here](#).

Thursday 6th March 2025 09:30-12:30 via MS Teams.

Thursday 12th June 2025 09:30-12:30 via MS Teams.

Thursday 28th August 2025 09:30-12:30 via MS Teams.

Tuesday 11th November 2025 09:30-12:30 via MS Teams.

Module/Level 3 – ASP Specialist Lead Agency Workforce (attendees should have attended the above Multi-agency Level 3) – Book via TURAS [here](#).

Thursday 6th March 2025 13:30-16:30 via MS Teams.

Thursday 12th June 2025 13:30-16:30 via MS Teams.

Thursday 28th August 2025 13:30-16:30 via MS Teams.

Tuesday 11th November 2025 13:30-16:30 via MS Teams.

Module/Level 4 – ASP Specialist Council Officer (attendees should have attended the above Multi-agency and Lead Agency Level 3). For dates and booking information please contact your organisation's ASP contact or Training Team.

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Training – Book via TURAS [here](#).

Tuesday 4th February 2025 09:30-12:30 via MS Teams.

Tuesday 6th May 2025 13:00-16:00 via MS Teams.

Thursday 14th August 2025 09:30-12:30 via MS Teams.

Tuesday 25th November 2025 09:30-12:30 via MS Teams.

Professional Curiosity Training – Book via TURAS [here](#).

Tuesday 28th January 2025 09:30-12:00 via MS Teams.

Tuesday 15th April 2025 13:00-15:30 via MS Teams.

Thursday 11th September 2025 09:30-12:00 via MS Teams.

Thursday 11th December 2025 13:00-15:30 via MS Teams.

Bite-sized e-learning

We will be adding to our library of bite-sized learning over the next few months so watch this space, in the meantime we currently have the following available:

Grampian Capacity Pathway for Protection Based Decisions, available [here](#).

Introduction to ASP Interagency (or Initial) Referral Discussions (IRDs), available [here](#). (although created for NHS staff, the advice and guidance in this video is relevant to anyone attending an IRD.