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

GrASP Insights

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FEEDBACK

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Spotlight on: The National Trauma Transformation Programme

In this issue of GrASP Insights we are taking a closer look at the National Trauma Transformation Programme (NTTP) and its relevance and importance to Adult Support & Protection.

The NTTP has been funded by the Scottish Government and delivered in partnership with COSLA, NHS Education for Scotland (NES), the Improvement Services and the Resilience Learning Partnership. The vision for the programme is to ensure all sectors of the workforce are equipped to recognise when someone may be affected by trauma, respond in ways that prevent further harm, support recovery, and ultimately improve life chances.

The importance of relationships and resilience are key components of the programme which fosters a culture of trauma informed practice that ensures a supportive environment and resists re-traumatisation.

The 2019 Scottish Health Survey tells us that 71% of adults in Scotland have experienced at least one adverse childhood experience (ACE), which could include abuse, neglect and other forms of adversity, with 15% reporting to have experienced four or more ACEs.

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In the field of Adult Support and Protection it is likely that this is even more prevalent therefore a trauma informed approach will help to engage effectively with individuals and tailor interventions appropriately.

The training framework for the NTTP is broken down into practice levels to help identify the appropriate modules depending on your role.

1. Trauma Informed Practice Level – All members of the workforce, whether paid or unpaid
2. Trauma Skilled Practice Level – Workers who are likely to be coming into contact with people who may have been affected by trauma.
3. Trauma Enhanced Practice Level – Workers who have a specific remit to respond to people known to be affected by trauma AND are required to provide advocacy support or interventions OR are required to adapt the way they work to take into account trauma reactions to do their job well and reduce risk of re-traumatisation.
4. Specialist Practice Level – Workers who have a specific remit to provide specialist interventions or therapies for people with complex needs, known to be affected by trauma.

If you are working in the field of ASP the Informed, Skilled and Enhanced levels might be most appropriate for you but all the resources can be accessed [here](#).

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.

In our daily interactions, we often encounter individuals who are struggling with substance use. These individuals are often not just battling addiction; they are often vulnerable and face a myriad of challenges that compound their situation. Let's think about how we engage with people in this situation? The use of language and our own unconscious biases can both significantly influence our thinking, actions and decisions.

So what are your unconscious biases when it comes to people who use substances? Do we respond differently to risk because substances are involved? Is there a tendency to think of these issues as 'self inflicted'?

Have you heard other professionals or have you yourself used the term 'addict' or 'user'. What about terms like 'clean' or 'dirty' when talking about whether someone is actively using substances or not? Does this type of language support empathetic and non-judgemental thinking?

Does this language and these unconscious biases support you in looking at the whole person or just their struggle with addiction?

What's New?

In this issue we are taking a closer look at the revised Grampian Interagency Procedures for Adult Support & Protection

What is the Grampian Interagency Procedures for Adult Support & Protection and why have they been revised?

Our 'Stop Press' article in the last issue was making you aware of the newly revised Grampian Procedures for ASP. This time we want to delve into this a bit deeper to highlight what this means for you and how the procedures should be considered in practice.

Since the introduction of the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 there has been a commitment from partner agencies across Grampian to strive for consistency and best practice in how we approach ASP matters. To support this a multi agency document has existed, under a variety of different names. Following the 2022 rewrite of the Code of Practice (CoP) which accompanies the legislation there was agreement that the Grampian-wide document should have it's biggest facelift to date.

So what's changed?

The review group agreed that the document needed to address key areas that had been strengthened in the revised CoP. This included greater clarity about the 3 point criteria, particularly how we should be considering the impact of trauma and a greater emphasis on physical and mental infirmity as a vulnerability, without the need for a label or diagnosis. In order to make it more user friendly the document has been streamlined to avoid repetition of the CoP. Instead it provides key information and Grampian specific elements while directing the reader to appropriate sections of the CoP for the broader national legislative context.

The appendices in the document have also had an overhaul and, in order to ensure the document remains relevant for all, any appendices relating to a single agency have been removed. Some new appendices have been included such as the revised Thresholds Guidance,



Grampian-wide Escalation Process and the IRD (Interagency Referral Discussion) Protocol.

Ann-marie Bruce, Chair of the review group said about the update:

'I am immensely proud of the collaborative effort that has gone into producing the new version of our procedures. This truly multi-agency endeavour has placed the well-being of adults at risk at its core. I am confident that all staff involved in supporting adults at risk will find this document invaluable in their vital work to enhance safety and protection. I extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who tirelessly supports and safeguards those in need. Your commitment positively impacts the lives of many across Grampian, and for that, I am deeply grateful'

The new Grampian Procedures can be found [here](#).

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.

In this issue we are sharing a 7 minute briefing about the 'Significant Case Review on Behalf of Ms L' which was commissioned by the Dundee Adult Support & Protection Committee and published in November 2023. The redacted report highlights the work that has been done to address the findings and can be read [here](#).

When learning reviews outwith Grampian are published they are discussed by a multi-agency group to consider the recommendations of the review in a Grampian context. This review was considered by the group and we have tried to reflect the Grampian position in this 7 minute briefing. There was confidence within the group that the Grampian position was strong in relation to the recommendations but also recognised the need for ongoing reinforcement of the key messages.

7 Minute Briefing

7
Grampian position: Core ASP training has been revised including a new multi-agency element which emphasises the importance of collaborative working. Multi-agency training in Risk Assessment and Professional Curiosity is available. Grampian Interagency ASP Procedures have been revised and relaunched to promote good practice around ASP, particularly reporting, info sharing and communication.

6
Grampian position: Improvement activity underway to ensure clear links between trauma informed practice and ASP practice. Mandatory training and awareness raising activity is supporting statutory partners to understand their role in ASP, further work required to reach non-statutory partners e.g. housing, third sector. Robust Inter-agency Referral Discussion Procedures embedded. Supervision policies in place.

1
Who was Ms L? A 29 year old woman who moved from England to Scotland in December 2018 to escape an abusive relationship. She had a complex history of domestic abuse, homelessness, substance use. She had a diagnosis of paranoid schizophrenia and was also diabetic. She had a young child who was cared for by her family due to her circumstances. Ms L died tragically in October 2020.

2
Why was there a case review? The Adult Protection Committee wanted to better understand: to what extent did services hear the voice of Ms L? To what extent was her care person centered? Was there a systematic and holistic approach to identification and management of risk? To what extent was there evidence of cultural competence? How did leadership and management oversight support practice?

Significant Case Review on Behalf of Ms L Dundee Adult Protection Committee

3
What were the findings? The review found an absence of multi-agency coordination, lack of person centered or trauma informed approaches and lack of professional curiosity and robust communication, which may have prevented the identification of adult protection concerns and referral to appropriate ASP services. There was a lack of clarity around risk assessment and management mechanisms.

5
What were the findings? The lack of a lead professional to coordinate Ms L's care and support needs meant the accumulation of risk was not identified as no one had the full picture nor the knowledge required to escalate to ASP. Appropriate information was not shared with family who may have been able to help. Supervision of staff involved was minimal, process led and task focused.

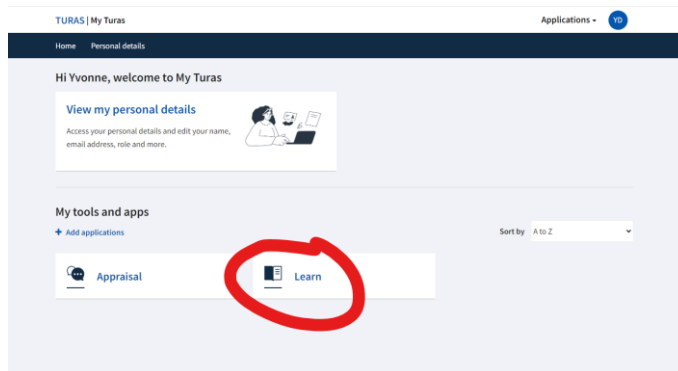
4
What were the findings? There was evidence to suggest that most partners appeared to view Ms L through a service specific lens and did not consider how variable compliance with both her diabetes treatment and antipsychotic medication combined with her trauma history might impact on her concentration, motivation, mood and ability to engage. There were missed opportunities to integrate Ms L into new communities.

TURAS Support

As our readers should by now be aware, most of the Grampian Multi-agency Training curriculum is available to book via TURAS Learn. Since we launched the curriculum, via this newsletter in December, we have had a number of requests for support getting started on TURAS Learn or navigating the vast array of training courses available. We thought this short guide might therefore be of benefit. Don't forget that TURAS Learn is a national platform and hosts many more training opportunities, including the trauma training mentioned earlier. Any training you book via TURAS will be logged in your account for your own reference and training record.

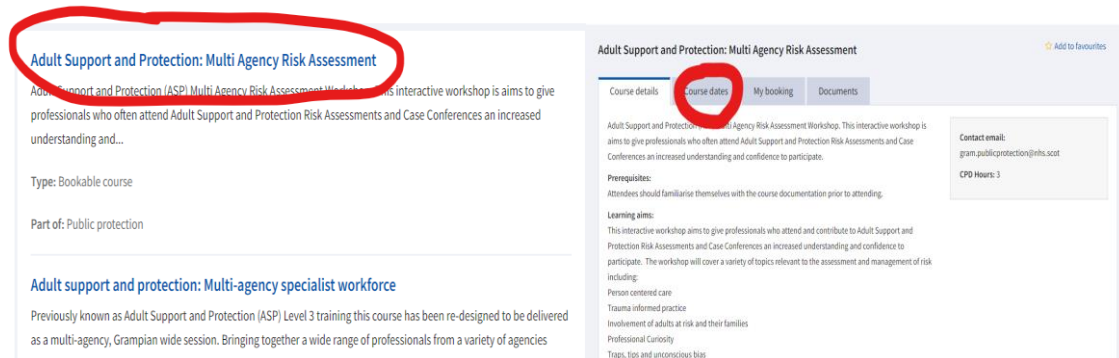
Getting Started

Don't have a TURAS Learn account? Don't worry anyone can sign up and it's easy to do. 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](#). Once you have logged in select TURAS Learn from the apps:

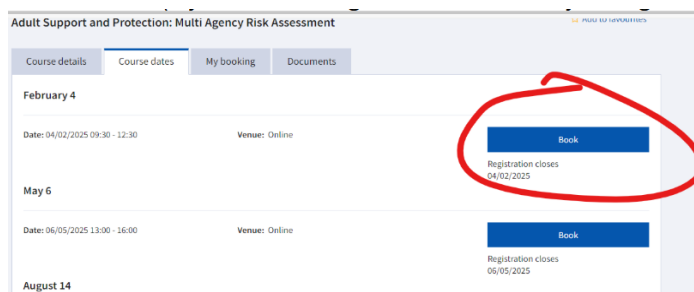


Booking a course

Once you have TURAS Learn running in the background you should be able to click on booking links from fliers or this newsletter to be taken straight to the relevant course. If not you can use the search function in TURAS Learn to find courses. Once you have found the course you want to book just click on the title of the course and on the next screen click on the Course Dates tab:



This should open up a list of dates to book. TOP TIP – if you can't see the 'book' button next to the date it could be due to the size of your computer screen, you should be able to scroll across to see it:



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). The most recent event was scheduled to coincide with National Adult Protection Day and followed the theme for the day which was Financial Harm. It was a jam packed programme including a presentation on the Highland Learning Review that we covered in our last issue, relating to the McCulloch brothers. There was also a fascinating presentation by Melanie Durowse from Dundee University. Melanie spoke about financial harm, decision making and adult protection which provided a great deal of food for thought and tied in neatly with our 'Time to Reflect' theme. Finally, we heard from Fiona Brown from the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG). In response to the findings of the McCulloch Learning Review the OPG are raising awareness about their role and specifically the role they play where there are concerns about financial abuse from a proxy e.g. Power of Attorney or Financial Guardian.

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 this and previous ASPIre events.

Grampian ASP Training Catalogue

The TURAS links below will only work once you are signed into TURAS.

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 12th June 2025 09:30-13:00 via MS Teams.

Thursday 28th August 2025 09:30-13:00 via MS Teams.

Tuesday 11th November 2025 09:30-13:00 via MS Teams.

Module/Level 3 – ASP Specialist Lead Agency Workforce (attendees must attend the above Multi-agency Level 3 prior to coming on this course) – Book via TURAS [here](#).

Tuesday 17th June 2025 09:30-13:00 via MS Teams.

Wednesday 3rd September 2025 09:30-13:00 via MS Teams.

Thursday 13th November 2025 09:30-13:00 via MS Teams.

Module/Level 4 – ASP Specialist Council Officer (attendees must attend the above Multi-agency and Lead Agency Level 3 priors to coming on this course). For dates, booking information and details of other support available for Council Officers please contact your organisation's ASP contact or Training Team.

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

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 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).

Please also check out the NHS Grampian Public Protection page on TURAS for details of other training available. Click [here](#).