

ISSUE

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

GrASP Insights

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FEEDBACK

We want your feedback, thoughts and ideas for future issues. Let us know by emailing

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What's New?

In this issue we are looking at a brand new training opportunity brought to you by The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland

Home Fire Safety Visits

Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs) are one of many tools you might want to think about when working with an adult at risk living in their own home. This is a free service, offered by The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), to help individuals and families stay safe from fire hazards in their homes. As a key ASP partner SFRS are keen to ensure that the right people are accessing this service at the right time in order to prevent harm from occurring. You and your organisations may have a crucial role in identifying a need for input from SFRS.

How can I access the service?

As part of ongoing efforts to improve partner referral processes, SFRS have introduced a new online portal, which is underpinned by a new Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) procedure.

Contact Details

If the majority of your service users are based in Aberdeen City, contact:

nabercity.hub@firescotland.gov.uk

If the majority of your service users are based in Aberdeenshire or Moray, contact:

n.abmpreventionandprotection@firescotland.gov.uk

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SFRS Station Commander, Richard Findlay told us:

'The referral process ensures that we are focussing our prevention activities on those that most need our help. From July we are offering updated training to all partner-agency operational staff. This training will include how to recognise risks to service users, how to make an online referral to us and explain the safety equipment we can offer.'

This training can be carried out over Microsoft Teams, or in person, whichever is most suitable for your organisation.

To arrange a training event for your organisation all you need to do is drop an email to the relevant address below, and someone will be in touch to organise it.

Exciting Announcement



Grampian Wide ASP Learning Event

The Grampian ASP Learning & Development Group are excited to announce a new series of Learning Events. These events will be available to anyone working in the field of Adult Support & Protection or likely to be in contact with vulnerable adults.

Our first event will take place on 17th September from 09:30 – 11:30. The event will take place virtually on MS Teams and we hope to be able to record it and make it available for those who are unable to attend.

The title of our first event is:

'Out of Sight - is everything alright? Are we doing enough?'

Through presentations from a variety of speakers we will explore some recent ASP learning reviews where there were identified challenges in safeguarding an individual because they were 'hard to reach', 'not engaging' or living a 'chaotic lifestyle'.

We will consider these situations in the context of capacity and executive dysfunction, relationship based working, discharge planning and unmet need and will discuss what the roles and responsibilities are of different professions in ensuring we have 'eyes on' these vulnerable individuals.

To register for this event please complete this short registration form:

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Closing date for registration will be 10th September.

Spotlight on: Advocacy

The importance of advocacy is acknowledged by the Scottish Government as it's provision is embedded in both ASP and Mental Health legislation. Furthermore, new national best practice guidance is now available and can be accessed [here](#).

Research has shown that, in Adult Protection cases, better outcomes are achieved for those individuals who have independent advocacy than those who don't.

This article, brought to you by our colleagues in Advocacy North East, explains what advocacy is and how it can support people through the ASP process.

Let's start by clarifying some common misconceptions about Advocacy. Advocacy is not about advice giving, personal opinion or decision making. It is not about monitoring services nor confrontation and neither is it bucking the system or stamping feet. Advocacy is not a magic wand and cannot promise or guarantee outcomes. It does not replace nor take on the role or remit of other professionals in public services.

Quite simply independent advocacy is about strengthening the voice of those who, through illness, disability, challenged communication or limited understanding, may otherwise go unheard or be at risk of exclusion.

It's about ensuring that people understand their rights, have the information they need to explore options, make informed decisions and can participate in having their views heard and taken into account when others are making decisions about them in matters that affect their lives.



Advocates support clients to understand and navigate the often complex and unfamiliar processes they are involved in. Advocates can help people to write letters, make phone calls, prepare for and attend meetings such as case conferences.

Non-Instructed Advocacy is particularly important for those who have issues around capacity where the role is very much about safeguarding the rights of the individual and ensuring that the past and present views and unique preferences of the individual are captured and made known.

Advocacy is about supporting vulnerable people throughout their Adult Support and Protection journey and, being independent, advocates can be solely on the side of the client without having to balance the obligations or agendas of others.

Anyone can make a referral to the advocacy services in Grampian and relevant contact details are below.

Independent Advocacy in Grampian

Aberdeenshire – Advocacy North East – admin@advocacyne.org.uk 01467 651604 (also offer awareness raising sessions for your team)

Aberdeen City – Advocacy Service Aberdeen – asa@advocacy.org.uk 01224 673200

Moray – VoiceAbility – helpline@voiceability.org 0300 303 1660

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 Adult O Learning Review which was commissioned by East Ayrshire Adult Protection Committee.

This Learning Review was considered by the Grampian ASP External Learning Review Group and the 7 minute briefing aims to provide the Group's analysis of the key recommendations in the Grampian context.

7 Minute Briefing

7 Grampian Position

- A Short Life Working Group will be developed to agree key principles and standards to ensure multi agency discussion and risk management in between formal ASP meetings, making use of the core group model.
- We need to be more professionally curious – are your supervision discussions promoting professional curiosity? Multi agency professional curiosity training is available to help develop these skills.

6 Grampian Position

- Multi agency chronologies are highlighted in the Grampian ASP Procedures and through ASP training and Grampian is well represented on the national work stream for multi agency chronologies.
- The Grampian IRD protocol needs to be embedded more consistently across Grampian.
- Work will soon commence on some stand alone multi agency training around the different protective legislations.

1 Who was Adult O?

An 81 year old man who lived alone following the death of his wife. He had sensory deficits and some cognitive impairment. He had support from his family who described him as an intelligent, independent and proud individual who was involved in his local church and an avid fan of his local football team. Adult O died tragically from injuries caused by a house fire on 22 February 2022 following a visit to the Emergency Department the day before.

2 Why was there a Learning Review?

Adult O was subject to ASP procedures at the time of his death and despite involvement from a significant number of agencies there was concern about how they had worked together to manage the risks. In the weeks prior to his death his family had lodged a complaint with the local NHS board relating to their concerns about his care in the months prior, specifically highlighting the level of self-neglect they were witnessing.

3 What were the key recommendations?

- Referrals to Scottish Fire & Rescue (SFRS) needed to be more robust.
- Mechanisms for considering early intervention and risk assessment should be strengthened to allow for input from a wider range of services to ensure vulnerable adults are getting the right support at the right time.
- Multi agency chronologies should be developed at a much earlier stage.

East Ayrshire Adult Protection Committee

Learning Review – Adult O

5 Grampian Position

- SFRS are going to start running courses on fire safety and awareness in Grampian soon. Further details on Page 1.
- Staff need to better understand the role of advocacy in ASP work – the new national best practice guidance is now available. – link on Page 2.
- New ASP Case Conference Standards are due to be rolled out later this year – these reinforce the crucial role of advocacy.

4 What were the key recommendations?

- Enhance Professional Curiosity via multi-agency training and caseload supervision.
- ASP mechanisms should be used for risk management and discussion.
- Greater awareness needed about capacity and executive functioning.
- Increase knowledge about the role of advocacy.
- Consider wider implementation of the lead professional role.
- Consider how families are involved and supported in multi-agency discussions.

Full Report 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.

'The Case Conference'

The room was bright and sterile, filled with the quiet hum of the air conditioning and the rustle of papers. Around the table sat a Social Worker, a Doctor, a Physiotherapist and someone else who he didn't know.

He, Harry, sat at the far end of the table in his wheelchair. He was 78 with sharp eyes but a slow body. He had suffered a stroke 6 months ago, his speech was halting but his mind was clear.

"We're recommending a move to long term care" the Doctor said looking down at his papers. "He's had two falls in the last month."

The Physiotherapist nodded "and he's refusing equipment at home. It's not safe."

The Social Worker added "I've been looking at facilities with vacancies, there's one that can take him next week"

Harry shifted in his chair "I – " he began but the stranger at the table was already speaking "We'll need to get consent from his daughter, she has Power of Attorney".

Harry looked around the room. He was there. He was listening. But he was invisible. Just a 'case' being discussed.

How can we ensure we are genuinely involving people in decisions about their safety, care and support?

What role might advocacy have played here?

How would you feel if you were in Harry's position?

Training Etiquette

In order to ensure training sessions run smoothly, and that all attendees get the most out of them, the Grampian L&D Group have developed the following guide to training etiquette.

- If you are able to attend the training please ensure you have accepted the MS Teams invite.
- If you have booked on to training and can no longer attend please cancel your place in advance via TURAS **and** decline the MS Teams invite. Please give as much notice as possible.
- If you need to leave a training session and are unable to return please email the facilitator directly to advise them of this. They will then work with you to decide how best to complete your learning. Note: Attendance is monitored and your training will only be marked as completed if you have attended at least 75% of the session. This is at the discretion of the facilitator.
- Most of our training sessions are interactive so please keep your camera on where possible. If you wish to have your camera off due to the sensitive nature of the material being presented please message the facilitator privately to advise of this. This is important so we can monitor the wellbeing of our attendees. Unless the facilitator has indicated that the session does not require you to have your camera on we will make contact with you privately to check you are ok, if your camera is off.
- Cameras **MUST** be on during break out rooms.
- Keep your mic muted unless you wish to speak and use the 'hands up' button to do so.
- We understand that attendees may have conflicting demands, however it is expected that full attention is given to the training being delivered in the same way it would be if the training was being delivered face to face.
- During group discussions or when using the chat function please be respectful of others views.
- Please, please, please take the 5 minutes allocated at the end of your training session to complete the course evaluations, these are so important to the future development of our courses.

National Events & Learning Opportunities

ASpire events – as well as hosting the ASpire Hub, a national repository for ASP resources, IRISS also run regular ASpire events in conjunction with the National ASP Coordinator (NASPC). The most recent event was held in May, the theme was Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking. We heard from Police colleagues about Operation Begonia, which is a trauma informed approach to tackling prostitution. There was also an impactful presentation from the Women's Support Project about the vulnerabilities that make women more open to sexual exploitation via the sex industry. This highlighted the availability of free self-guided training and resources on Commercial Sexual Exploitation via the [CSE Aware website](#). The final presentation of the event was from TARA (Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance) identifying human trafficking and how to get support if you think someone has been trafficked. The recording of this event is available [here](#).

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 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](#).

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 prior 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](#).

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](#).

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](#).

Don't forget our Grampian Wide ASP Learning Event on 17th September – details on Page 2.