

## Grampian wide ASP Themed Event

Out of Sight – Is Everything Alright? Are We Doing Enough? – was the title of our first Grampian wide ASP themed event held on 17<sup>th</sup> September. The response to this event was absolutely phenomenal with over 500 people registering. Over 300 people from all over Grampian joined on the day with Health, Social Work, Police, Advocacy, Housing and 3<sup>rd</sup> sector amongst others, being represented.

Guest speakers included Maggie Whyte – Consultant Clinical Neuro Psychologist, Luan Grugeon – NHS Grampian, Lindsey Flockhart – Aberdeenshire HSCP, Rachel Barclay – Harm Reduction Police Officer, Kenny O'Brien – Associate Director for Public Protection and Vicki Low – Lead Officer for ASP in Moray. Each contributed their expertise to explore the challenges faced by individuals who remain 'out of sight' and disengaged from services and the professionals trying to support them.

Topics included the impact of executive dysfunction, the power of relationship based practice, the role of Police in Safe and Well checks, escalation of concerns and the importance of 'keeping doors open'. The recording of the event is available to view [here](#). Make sure you subscribe to this newsletter for details of future events.



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## What's New?

### Grampian ASP Case Conference Standards

**A new set of case conference standards is being introduced for all multiagency partners involved in adult support and protection in Grampian. Kenny O'Brien, Associate Director for Public Protection for NHS Grampian tells us more.**

"These standards are designed to support a **shared understanding and clear expectations** for every professional attending case conferences. By setting out agreed arrangements for inviting colleagues – and for expected attendance – the standards ensure that everyone who needs to be involved receives timely invitations and has the opportunity to contribute effectively.

**The primary goal of these standards is to keep those most at risk safe.** This is achieved by making sure the right people are 'in the room'—sharing information, collaborating, and making well-informed plans to protect individuals.

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When everyone is on the same page, we can work together more efficiently and provide the best possible support to those who need it most.

**The standards will go live on December 1, 2025.** In the lead-up to this date, you can expect to see further information about what the standards mean for your role and how they will be implemented. **We encourage all colleagues, regardless of your position or organisation, to look out for these updates and familiarise yourself with the new expectations.**

**Your participation is vital.** By engaging with the new standards and ensuring you are prepared for the changes, you help create a safer environment for adults at risk. Together, we can make a real difference by ensuring that every case conference is attended by the right professionals, with the right information, at the right time."

## Time to Reflect

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

Inspired by our Grampian wide event this issue we look at the importance of 'Keeping Doors Open'.

For some vulnerable adults, engaging with services isn't about unwillingness. Trauma, mistrust, impaired executive functioning can all have an impact.

Keeping doors open means recognising this and offering flexible, non-judgmental support. It means showing up consistently, even when someone pulls away. It means building a team that weaves a safety net around the person so they don't slip through the cracks.

For some, just knowing that the door hasn't closed might be the first step towards trust and an indicator that someone cares – that first step matters.

But the reality is, services operate under strain, tight budgets, high caseloads and rigid policies.

Flexibility takes time and time is scarce.

**We need to ask ourselves:**

Are we coming together as a team or working in silos?

Are we building trust or bureaucracy?

Are we patient enough to wait, welcome back and adapt?

Do we have services that adapt to the person or do we expect the person to adapt to the service?

## Learning Reviews

The Care Inspectorate has recently released its landmark report 'Learning reviews for children and adults in Scotland Summary report 2025'.



The publication, issued in August 2025, marks the first time that findings for both children and adults have been combined, offering a comprehensive overview of learning reviews across Scotland. Members of the Grampian ASP L&D Group participated in a Knowledge Hub session where the key findings of this report were discussed:

- The number of notifications and completed learning reviews for adults has risen sharply over the reporting period, suggesting a growing recognition of the importance of learning from practice. Self-neglect emerged as a prominent form of harm identified.
- Review notifications for adults demonstrated well informed decision making and timeous decisions about proceeding to full learning review.
- The report identified ongoing difficulties in

finding and appointing lead reviewers with the necessary skills and training.

- Child and Adult Protection Committees faced challenges in meeting the timescale for completion of learning reviews as laid out in national guidance. While the suggested timeframe is 6 to 9 months, the average completion time was 23 months, with actual durations ranging from 7 to 35 months.

These findings underscore the importance of ongoing investment in training and support for those involved in learning reviews. Addressing delays and ensuring the availability of skilled reviewers will be crucial for driving improvements in both adult and child protection.

At a national level the Care Inspectorate have committed to enhancing the feedback they give when providing observations on completed learning review reports. To address the challenges finding

Appropriate lead reviewers, The National Child and Adult Learning Review Group has taken the significant step of developing a national list of external lead reviewers.

On a local level, here in Grampian we, alongside Child Protection colleagues, have introduced a new training programme for Lead Reviewers which will equip professionals with the skills and knowledge to conduct robust learning reviews.

In addition to training, work is underway to build a peer support network of professionals from all over Grampian who have previously taken on the lead reviewer role, or similar. The network will provide support, share experience and provide a forum for reflective practice and continuous improvement.

The full report can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

# National Learning Opportunities

## Catch up on the latest ASPIRE

**event!** Held in August, this session

focused on **Positive Case Studies**

**and Strengths Based Practice.**

Dundee HSCP opened the event

with a presentation on **'Strength**

**Story Work'**, showcasing how they

are driving positive change. South

Ayrshire HSCP shared progress on

**Getting it Right for Everyone**

**(GIRFE)**, with a spotlight on the

**'Team Around the Person'**

approach. Stirling & Clacks HSCP

delivered an uplifting talk reflecting

on the impact of involving family

members in the **ASP Learning**

**Review process**, highlighting the

value of collaboration. IRISS

wrapped up the session by sharing

how they are working to ensure that

**good practice identified in ASP**

**inspections** is recognised and

shared across the sector. The full

recording is now available – click

[here](#) to watch.

The next ASPIRE event is at the end

of November and will explore ASP

Risk Assessment as well as the

'Most Significant Change Model'.

**5 Nations Seminars** – Topics and

dates for the next two seminars

have been released. 31<sup>st</sup> October –

'Capacity and Decision Making

Challenges. 14<sup>th</sup> November – Adult

Safeguarding: Care Homes and

Institutional Settings. These

seminars are delivered via Zoom.

To register for the mailing list

contact

[fivenationseminars@safeguardingireland.org](mailto:fivenationseminars@safeguardingireland.org)

[land.org](#)

## Grampian ASP Training Catalogue – 2026 DATES NOW AVAILABLE!!!

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 & 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](#).**

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2025 09:30-13:00 via MS Teams.

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026 09:30-13:00 via MS Teams.

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026 09:30-13:00 via MS Teams.

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2026 09:30-13:00 via MS Teams.

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2026 13:00-16:30 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](#).**

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025 09:30-13:00 via MS Teams.

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026 09:30 – 13:00 via MS Teams.

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2026 13:00-16:30 via MS Teams.

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026 09:30-13:00 via MS Teams.

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2026 13:00-16:30 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 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025 09:30-12:30 via MS Teams.

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026 09:30-12:30 via MS Teams.

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026 13:00-16:00 via MS Teams.

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2026 09:30-12:30 via MS Teams.

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2026 13:00-16:00 via MS Teams

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

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025 13:00-15:30 via MS Teams.

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026 09:30-12:00 via MS Teams.

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2026 13:00-15:30 via MS Teams.

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2026 13:00-15:30 via MS Teams.

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2026 09:30-12:00 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](#).