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## FEEDBACK

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[yvonne.davidson7@nhs.scot](mailto:yvonne.davidson7@nhs.scot)

ASP in  
Registered Care  
Settings

Welcome to this issue of GrASP Insights, where we focus on the vital role of Adult Support & Protection (ASP) in safeguarding individuals within registered care settings. These environments, which include care homes, day centres, and supported living services, are designed to provide safety and support for older people and those with disabilities. However, it is essential to recognise that, despite best intentions, harm can and does occur in these settings.

**Recent data from 2024-2025 reveals that over 30% of ASP inquiries in Scotland were related to harm in care homes, day centres, or supported living environments.** While the majority of registered care settings in Grampian offer compassionate and high-quality care, incidents of harm can have a profound impact on vulnerable individuals and their loved ones.

Detecting harm in these environments is often challenging. There is a common assumption that registered care settings are inherently safer than living in the community. This belief can sometimes mask underlying issues, making it harder to identify and address risks. Additionally, family members may hesitate to raise concerns, fearing that it could negatively affect the care their loved one receives.

Over the next few pages we will introduce you to some of the mechanisms we have to respond to such concerns, including **Large Scale Investigation processes** which are designed to investigate concerns that are impacting more than one person.

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Effective multi-agency working is crucial in preventing, identifying, and addressing harm in registered care settings. By sharing information and expertise, agencies can spot early warning signs, intervene promptly, and support care providers in improving standards.

**Janine Blease, Operational Lead Nurse in Aberdeenshire Health & Social Care Partnership (HSCP)**, highlights the role of Care Home Support Nurse Team. This team works closely with care homes to monitor quality, support staff, and identify early indicators of harm.

Safeguarding adults in registered care settings is a shared responsibility. Whether you are a care provider, health or social care professional, family member, or independent advocate, your vigilance and willingness to speak up are vital. By working together, we can ensure that every individual receives the safe, compassionate care they deserve.

**If you have concerns about harm in a registered care setting, do not hesitate to seek advice or report your worries.** Your actions could make a significant difference in protecting vulnerable people and upholding the highest standards of care.

For more information about identifying early indicators of concern please click [here](#) for useful resources.

# National Adult Support & Protection Day 2026

National ASP day in Scotland will take place on the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

Every year ASP day is marked as an opportunity to raise awareness about ASP generally as well as highlighting key areas of practice.

The theme for next year has been announced, coinciding nicely with the theme of this issue of GrASP – ‘ASP within Supported Settings’.

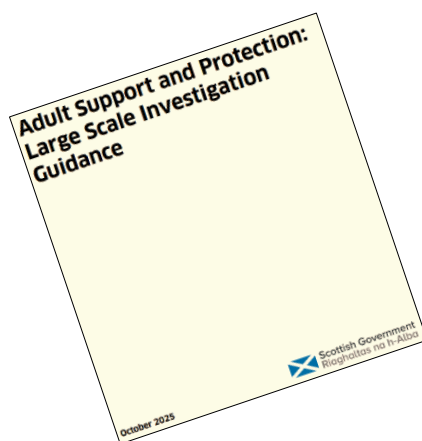
Look out for local awareness raising taking place on the day. Additionally there are a number of national events running in the days following ASP day:

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026** – ASP within Supported Settings. Online event for those with a specialist interest in ASP and supported settings across all sectors.

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026** – Launch of the National ASP Learning & Development Framework. Online event for anyone who wishes to know more about the new framework – open to all.

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026** – Generic Awareness of ASP learning session. Online session for any member of staff or volunteer looking to develop a basic understanding of ASP. This session will also be recorded and made available on the ASPire Hub.

Further information will be shared over the coming months. Subscribe to this newsletter to receive these updates direct to your inbox.



## In October 2025, the Scottish Government published the Adult Support and Protection: Large Scale Investigation Guidance.

Designed to improve consistency in how agencies respond when multiple adults may be at risk of harm within a service or registered care setting, the guidance has been welcomed by health and social care professionals in Grampian and beyond.

Large Scale Investigations (LSI's) are critical when concerns extend beyond one vulnerable person such as in care homes, supported accommodation or health facilities, requiring coordinated, multi-agency action.

In the ministerial foreword for the guidance the Minister for Social Care and Mental Wellbeing, Tom Arthur MSP said:

***'I am confident that this guidance will strengthen local and multi-agency adult protection procedures, enhance learning, and support practitioners during what can be a particularly challenging time. A consistent approach will make a meaningful difference to individuals who may be at risk and unable to safeguard themselves.'***

The new guidance clarifies the circumstances in which an LSI should be considered and the legislative context.

## What's New?

### National Guidance

### Adult Support and Protection: Large Scale Investigation Guidance

It emphasises the importance of collaborative working between local authorities, health boards, Police Scotland and care providers in order to ensure concerns are responded to timeously and effectively.

By providing standardised procedures it ensures that LSI's are fair, proportionate and transparent regardless of location.

Included in the guidance are some practical tools to support ASP professionals such as a 7 minute briefing and detailed steps for planning, conducting and reviewing LSIs.

Appendices include template documentation that can be adopted at various stages in the LSI, e.g. Sample Notification letters, Organisational Chronology template and LSI Outcome Report template.

The introduction of the guidance is about more than procedural instruction. It is an opportunity to promote and emphasise good practice by embedding trauma-informed practice and prioritising the voices of the most vulnerable members of our communities.

For professionals the document should enhance confidence and clarity, empowering them to act decisively and consistently, strengthening public trust and confidence in the process.

To view the guidance document you can click [here](#).

Happy Birthday  
to us.....



This issue marks one year since the first issue of GrASP Insights was published! Over the last year and five issues we really hope our readers have enjoyed the various articles and insights into the world of ASP. Thank you for reading.

..... and Happy  
Festive Season  
to you all!!

However you choose to spend the upcoming festive season, we wish you all the very best of times and hopefully some rest and reflection too. We'll be back in 2026!!

From The Grampian ASP L&D Group.



## Care Home Support Nurse Team

Janine Blease, Operational Lead Nurse for Aberdeenshire HSCP, tells us about the role of the team



The Aberdeenshire Care Home Support Nurse Team plays a vital role in ensuring and supporting safe, high-quality care for residents while embedding Adult Support and Protection (ASP) principles into everyday practice. Working collaboratively with care home staff, social work colleagues, and partner agencies, the team provides both proactive and responsive support to maintain standards and safeguard vulnerable adults.

### What We Do:

**Clinical and Operational Support:** Our nurses offer guidance on clinical care, infection prevention, and quality improvement, helping care homes meet regulatory requirements and best practice standards.

**Education and Training:** Through tailored learning sessions and reflective practice, we build confidence in recognising harm, understanding thresholds, and navigating ASP procedures. This training not only improves safeguarding awareness but also enhances the quality of care delivered to residents by promoting person-centred approaches and early intervention.

**ASP Leadership:** We act as a key link between care homes and ASP processes, supporting managers and staff to identify, report, and respond to concerns promptly and effectively.

### Care Planning After ASP

**Concerns:** Following an ASP referral or investigation, our team works closely with care homes and multi-agency partners to review and adapt care plans. This ensures that lessons learned are embedded into practice and that residents receive the right support to prevent recurrence and promote wellbeing.

**Agency Collaboration:** The team works closely with social work, Care Inspectorate, and health professionals to ensure a coordinated approach.

Our work strengthens the culture of protection within care homes, ensuring that residents' rights, dignity, and safety remain at the heart of care delivery. By combining clinical expertise with ASP operational knowledge, we help care homes respond to challenges and continuously improve outcomes for older adults living in care homes and very sheltered housing.



## Time to Reflect

In every edition 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.

### It's Not My Place

Domestic: 'I mop the floors but I see things others don't. A bruise hidden under a sleeve. A tray of food left for hours, cold and uneaten. But it's not my place...is it?'

Care Assistant: 'I've been told to follow the plans, tick the boxes, keep things moving. But the plans don't cover the cries at night or the pleading eyes when nobody is looking. I want to speak up but whispers can cost you your job. It's not my place...or maybe it is?'

Family member: 'They tell me he's 'fine' and 'settling well' but his hands tremble and his eyes are sad. He smells....different, not like dad...like neglect maybe? But it's not my place to doubt....is it?'

Visiting professional: 'I'm trained to assess, see risk, trained to act. But time is short and the workload heavy. Others must see it too? They don't need my voice. It's not my place to fight alone....is it?'

Resident: My voice is lost but people see me cry, they see me ache. Will someone speak for me? Will someone be my courage? Because suffering like this.....it's not my place.

We all saw something, we all carried the weight. Maybe silence is easier and it isn't my place.....until it's too late.

Does this resonate with you in either your personal or professional life?

How can we overcome some of the challenges illustrated above?



# National Learning Opportunities

'Five Nations' Adult Support,  
Protection and Safeguarding  
Seminar Series

The most recent event in this series took place on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025, and in keeping with our theme, it explored 'Safeguarding, Adult Protection and Institutional Care'

The following speakers presented on several aspects of institutional care, risk and harm:

Fiona Bateman, solicitor and cofounder of Safeguarding Circle in England spoke about 'Improving Responses to sexual abuse in institutional settings.'

Professor Amanda Phelan from Dublin City University gave some insights into 'Exploring peer-to-peer abuse in residential care'.

Dr Lucy Series from the University of Bristol reflected on matters relating to 'Deprivation of Liberty'.

Professor Michael Preston-Shoot from the University of Bedfordshire presented 'Endless evidence of organisational abuse – what we are learning and not learning from safeguarding adult reviews'.

Hayley Moore from the Care Quality Commission gave a regulatory perspective of 'Identifying and responding to organisational abuse'

The presentations can be accessed via [this link](#) where you can also sign up to receive information about future Five Nations events.

## 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](#).

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](#).

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 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 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](#).

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:

**\*\*NEW\*\*** Grampian ASP Case Conference Standards, available [here](#)

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](#).