



Adult Support & Protection

7 Minute Briefing - Responsibilities for Healthcare Practitioners



1. Background

NHS Tayside has established adult protection procedures in place. These procedures provide staff with detailed instructions in relation to any concerns regarding the safety of an adult who is known or believed to be at risk of harm.

7. What to do

The 5R's of Public Protection

Recognise - be aware that people may be at risk of harm and may need support and protection

Record - know what to do and who to contact for advice or support. Remember to record all information including actions and decisions. This may include a chronology entry and ideally upload the completed adult protection form onto clinical systems

Reflect - learn lessons, share learning. Use your experience to support colleagues

Report - follow correct procedure to report to social work and complete an adult protection referral form

Respond - address immediate needs. Ensure the people at risk are safe

PUBLIC PROTECTION IS EVERYONES JOB

6. Adult Support & Protection Case Conference

Adult support and protection case conferences are multi-agency forums that usually include the adult at risk of harm.

The purpose of these meetings is: to share the relevant information; the joint assessment of current and ongoing risk; to agree to a specific and detailed protection plan with timescales for addressing risks; and provide services to support and protect the adult.

It is important that health staff prioritise attendance at case conferences when invited. If unable to attend, the health staff should notify the Chair as soon as possible and arrange for someone to attend on their behalf. The Chair may request a report is submitted prior to the conference and may also ask for a copy of a management plan.

2. Why it matters

The Adult Support & Protection(ASP) (Scotland) Act 2007, was introduced to maximise the protection of adults at risk of harm. The responsibility for the protection of these adults lies with all statutory agencies, as well as voluntary and private providers. It is important that healthcare staff are able to recognise an adult who may be at risk of harm and understand the importance of responding to their concerns and making an appropriate referral to social work.

Scan QR code above to take you to the Act

3. Adult at Risk of Harm - 3 point criteria

Section 3(1) of The ASP (Scotland Act) defines adults at risk as those who are aged 16 and over and who:

- Are unable to safeguard their own well-being, property, rights or other interests
- are at risk of harm; and
- because they are affected by disability, mental disorder, illness or physical or mental infirmity are more vulnerable to being harmed than adults who are not so affected

4. Duty to cooperate

Under the Act, staff within public bodies such as health boards are duty-bound to report any known or suspected adult safeguarding concerns to Social Work Services. **Health staff do not need to evidence that all elements of the 3 point criteria are met in order to make a referral.** Any information may form part of a larger picture. **Health staff also have a legal duty to co-operate with any Adult Support and Protection inquiry, investigation or request for a medical examination where there is suspected or actual harm under section 4 and section 9 of the Act**

5. Information Sharing

Whilst confidentiality is important, it is not an absolute right. The co-operation of health staff in sharing proportionate and relevant health information is necessary to enable a council to undertake the required inquiries and investigations. The Act specifically allows for disclosure of information with or without consent where a person knows or believes an adult is at risk of harm Section 49 of the act states that it an offence to refuse, without reasonable excuse, to comply with a request to provide information made under section 10