



**National Adult Support
& Protection Coordinator**

supporting those protecting others

ASPIre - 22.05.25
Links between
Violence Against Women & Girls
and
Adult Support and Protection

Click on the underlined Heading below for a short
introduction to the Legislation
[Adult Support and Protection Legislation](#)

The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 introduced new measures to identify and protect individuals who fall into the category of '**adults at risk**'. These measures included:

- placing a duty on councils to make the necessary inquiries and investigations to establish whether or not further action is required to stop or prevent harm occurring;
- a requirement for specified public bodies to cooperate with local councils and each other about adult protection investigations;
- a range of protection orders including assessment orders, removal orders and banning orders; and

All actions taken under the Act in relation to the Adult at Risk of Harm, must be of benefit to the adult and must also be the least restrictive option available

Who are adults at risk of harm under the Act?

Who are 'adults at risk?'

The Act, defines 'adults at risk' as individuals, aged 16 years or over, who:

- are **unable to safeguard** themselves, their 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 others who are not so affected.

The presence of a particular condition does not automatically mean an adult is an "adult at risk". Someone could have a disability but be able to safeguard their well-being etc. It is important to stress that all three elements of this definition must be met. It is the whole of an adult's particular circumstances which can combine to make them more susceptible to harm than others.

For a 50 minute learning video - Introduction to ASP [Click Here](#)

Could someone who is at risk of harm through CSE or DA - also be an Adult at Risk under the ASP Act?

YES - anyone who meets all three of the criteria

ASP covers all types of harm - it is everyone's business and involves multi-agency access to support as well as the protection element

There is work taking place in relation to a National Minimum Dataset for ASP

Better links could be forged between the two approaches:

- Agencies coming into contact with survivors should consider whether an ASP referral could be required
- MARAC meetings should consider whether ASP legislation might apply and have someone on the group who has expertise in this area
- ASP Case Conferences should consider if there any VAWG issues for the adult and have someone with VAWG expertise in the Conference, if there is