

Adult support & protection supported self-evaluation



Healthcare
Improvement
Scotland



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Aims and objectives



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- **Key objective 1**

Jointly evaluate initiatives to support decision-making about adults at risk of harm for whom it was difficult to determine the three-point criteria.

- **Key objective 2**

Jointly develop a supported self-evaluation methodology with partnerships. To provide partnerships with an extensive learning opportunity and insight into self-evaluation and improvement.

We also aimed to...



- Better understand the lived experiences and outcomes of adults at risk of harm where there are escalating risks, repeated presentations or continuous referral to services and for whom it is difficult to determine the three-point criteria.
- Support partnerships to develop capacity to independently conduct self-evaluation using the quality improvement framework (QIF).
- Develop a comprehensive suite of tools and templates for self-evaluation of adult support and protection, to be published online for all partnerships in Scotland to use.
- Highlight good practice examples for the wider sector across Scotland.
- Share learning through publication of an overview report.

Our approach

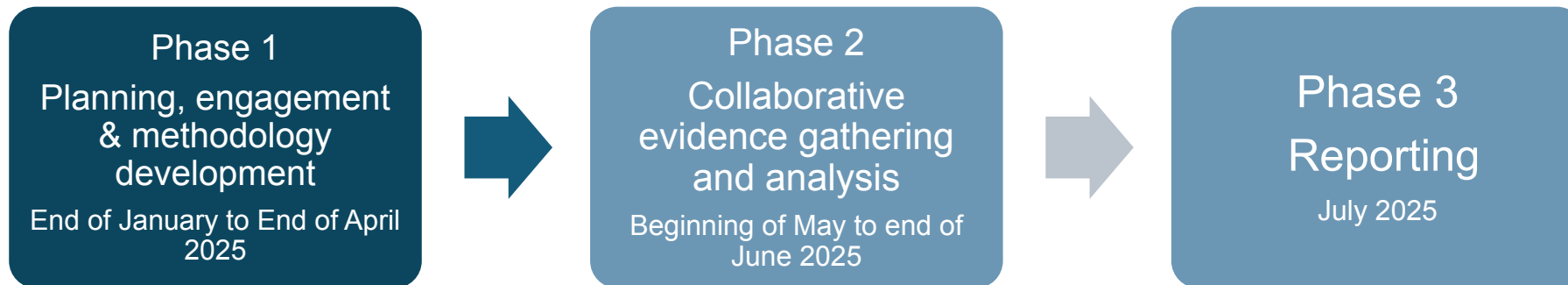


- Two ways of working with us
 - Self evaluation partnerships
 - Learning partnerships
- Open & transparent
- Collaboration
- Co-production
- Learning and reflection
- Self-evaluation owned by the partnership-inspection partners had a supportive role

Phases of supported self-evaluation programme



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Planning engagement & methodology development



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- Reference group
- Delivery group
- Collaboration sessions
- Development of tools and templates
- Engagement with partnerships
- Iriss involved throughout

Collaborative evidence gathering & analysis



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- Inclusion criteria for the record reading cohort of adults
- Supporting evidence
- Chronology or case synopsis guidance
- Staff survey
- Record reading
- Focus groups
- Engagement with adults with lived experience
- Analysis of evidence template (in relation to 5.7)
- Final self-evaluation reporting template.

Reporting



- Final report replaced with a self-evaluation template
- Offer for joint presentation to APC/PPC on key findings and process

Key findings

objective 1



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- Adults at risk of harm living with mental illness and experiencing problematic drug and alcohol use were the largest care groups. There was comorbidity between these groups.
- Multiple contacts with the police and multiple scheduled and unscheduled contacts with health services were characteristic of our sample of records of adults.
- All self-evaluation partnerships successfully and collaboratively supported adults with escalating risks. As a result of early intervention and prevention initiatives adults at risk of harm experienced positive safety and wellbeing outcomes.

Key findings

objective 1 (cont.)



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- Interagency referral discussions and similar multi-agency early planning meetings enabled sound, collaborative decision-making when adults' circumstances were complex and difficult.
- Partnership staff were skilled and appropriately professionally curious about adult protection matters.
- Adults at risk of harm who were spoken to directly were consistently positive about their experience of adult support and protection.

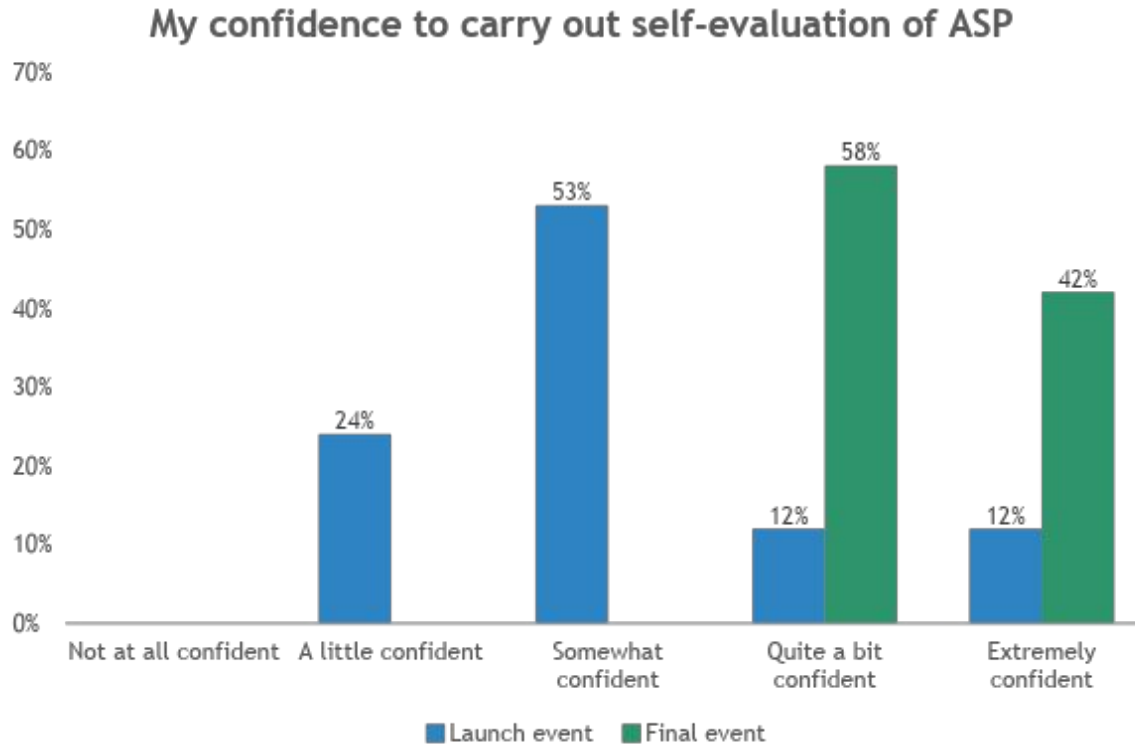
Key findings

objective 2



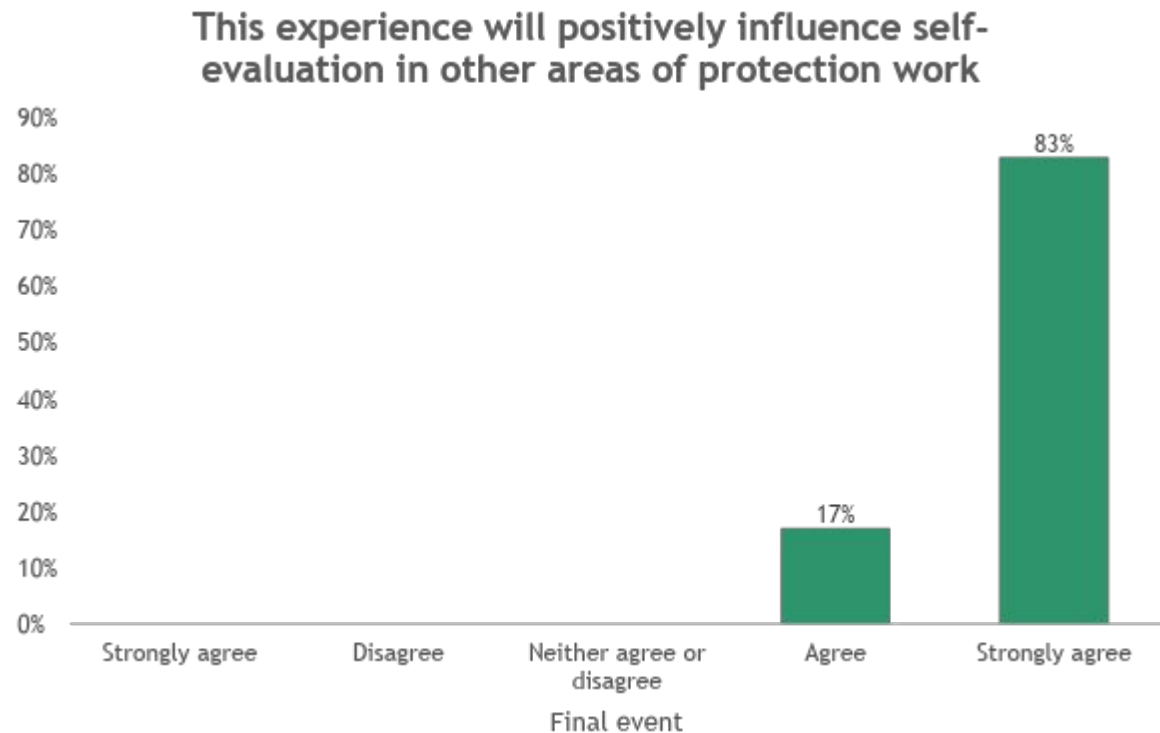
- Supported multi-agency self-evaluation is time-consuming and needs appropriate resourcing in terms of staff and overall capacity.
- Self-evaluation requires equal commitment from all partners.
- Where adequate resources are provided by partnerships, learning is impactful and develops knowledge and skills in the sector.
- Partnerships gain confidence in their determinations through self-evaluation, where external assurance is provided.

Partnership learning



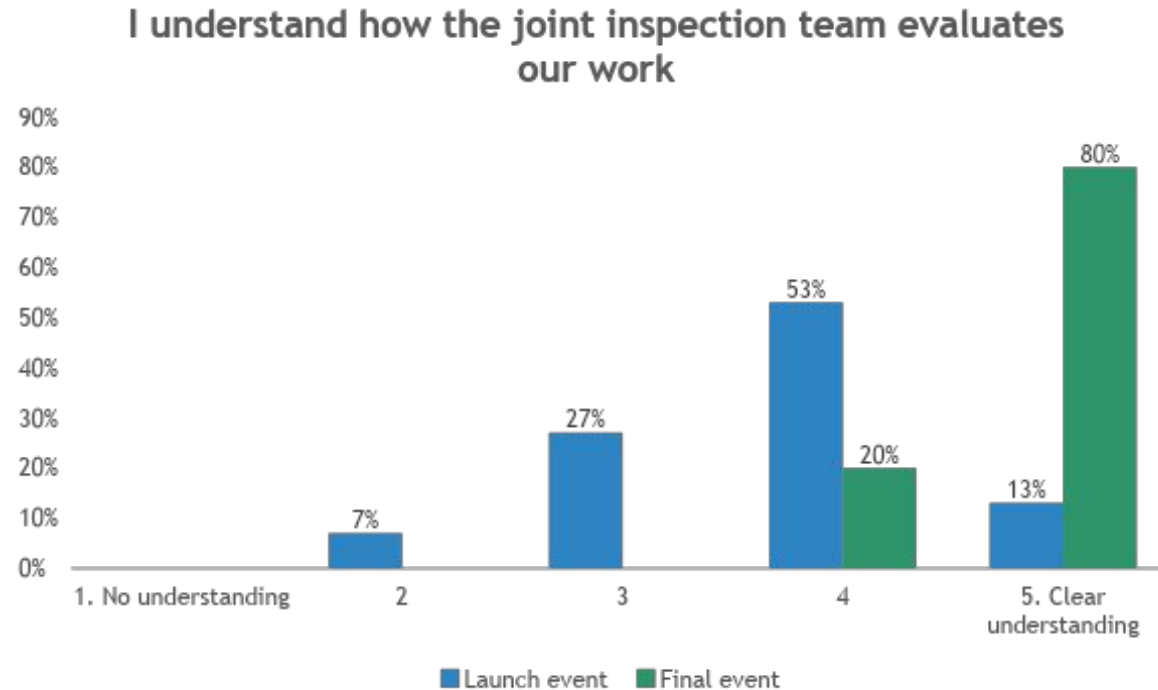
Respondents' confidence to carry out self-evaluation was markedly improved by the final event

Partnership learning



Participation in this work will positively influence partnerships' use of self-evaluation for other areas of protection work

Partnership Learning



Respondents' understanding of how the joint inspection team evaluates their work was enhanced

Next steps



- Overview report published 30 September 2025
- IRISS evaluation of programme impact ongoing