National Adult Support & Protection Coordinator

supporting those protecting others

Brenda Walker

Adult Support and Protection

ASPire - ASP General Basic Learning Session for Staff and Volunteers

Thursday 26th February 2026

Welcome

Introduction

Who is in the room?

Challenges of facilitating to a group with mixed levels of experience of ASP - timings

ASP Generic Video

Case Example

Mary Brown is 83 years old and has dementia. Mary has a Care at Home Service to assist her at home with making meals, taking medication and personal care.

Mary's son Brian returned from living in London around 4 months ago and is staying nearby. Since Brian has been back in his home town - you have noticed that Mary's fridge is often empty and the meals planned for Mary are not there to make for her. Staff are having to rush out and buy tins of soup etc from their own pocket. This has happened several times. It has been reported to the Care at Home Supervisor. You also note that Mary's large TV has disappeared from her wall and Mary has no idea where it has gone.

Today - it has been noted that Mary's lunchtime and evening medication has gone missing. These issues have all coincided with the return of Mary's son.

ASP – Where did it come from?

Social work, police and others have always had a responsibility to help support and protect adults from harm. Traditionally, however, greater focus has been placed on state interventions to protect children, with adults regarded as usually able to safeguard themselves and with rights to make free and informed choices within the law.

It was a high-profile case in the Scottish Borders, however, that prompted action. In 2002 it came to light that a woman in the Scottish Borders with learning disabilities, had suffered serious sexual abuse over a 30-year period.

Adult Support and Protection (ASP) is designed to support and protect adults who are unable to safeguard themselves, their property and their rights.

The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 (ASPA) both defines and provides the legislation framework for all of this work.

The ASP '3 Point Test (Criteria)'

- ASP focuses on supporting a particularly defined group of vulnerable adults deemed to be 'at risk.' Under Section 3(1) of the ASPA an 'adult at risk' is defined as someone who is 16 years and over who meets all three of the following criteria (previously referred to as the three-point test):
  - Unable to safeguard their own well-being, property, rights or other interests;
  - At risk of harm; and
  - That 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.

Who can make an ASP referral?

- Anyone can make an ASP referral for an adult in Scotland

- If you are part of an organization – you will normally have Adult Support and Protection processes and protocols in place to support you – are you clear which processes exist within your organisation - to support you in relation to ASP?

  Details of local Social Work Contacts can be found at **Care Information Scotland**

  Action under ASP Act must be the least restrictive option and any actions taken must be of benefit to the adult

CASE STUDIES FOR DISCUSSION

- **CASE A:**

John Green is 43 years old, lives alone and has type 1 diabetes and issues with drug and alcohol use - you are asked to visit John and you go to his home. You are shocked by the conditions. The house is very dirty and cluttered and although it is November, there is no heating and the house is freezing. John says he is fine and does not need heating.

- **CASE B:**

Carly Pink is 20 years old and her Mum is worried about her as she is often out at clubs at weekends and sometimes does not come home. Carly has recently been taking medication for anxiety. On two occasions, Carly has been late for work because she has come home drunk and not got up in time for work on Monday morning. Carly's Mum asks you to have a word with her. Carly says she is fine and it is none of her Mum's business.

MORE CASE STUDIES FOR DISCUSSION

- **CASE C:**

Brian Scarlet is 83 years old and has had some memory issues. He tells you he has had a letter from his energy provider to say that his gas and electric will be cut off as he has not paid any of his bills. Brian's granddaughter looks after all his bills now and she pays everything for him. She got Brian to add her to his account, to make it a joint account. This morning, Brian got a call from his Social Landlord to say that his rent is now six months in arrears. Brian just cannot understand what is going on.

- **CASE D:**

Corrine Blue is 23 years old and has profound mental health issues. When you visit Corrine she is still in bed. Corrine does not want to get out of bed. You notice dried blood on the bed sheets and it becomes clear that Corrine has been self harming. Corrine tells you she just does not want to go on anymore and is making plans to take her own life.

What happens when an ASP Referral is received?

This can differ between Local Authority areas - in the main, however the following process/es usually feature:

- Referral is considered - usually within 24 hours of receipt
- Some areas have an IRD Process or other type of screening/assessment process
- Inquiry process undertaken - initial process - desktop exercise - any potential outcome - other legislation used, move forward under ASP, No further action, signposting to other services etc.
- Inquiry with Investigative Powers - investigative interview with adult
- Proceed to ASP Case Conference - multi agency meeting - usually involving the adult
- Protection Plan - monthly core group meetings between Review Case Conferences
- Protection Orders considered where required:
  - Assessment Order
  - Removal Order
  - Banning Order (temporary - short term, full - 6 months: can apply again for another 6 months)

The role of the National Adult Support and Protection Coordinator

Current NASPC (Brenda Walker) came into post in October 2022

- The role is funded by the Scottish Government – but is independent from Government
- The role is hosted by Iriss

brenda.walker@iriss.org.uk

Key ASP National Work & Communications

- ASP - Everyone's Business – great learning tool for those new to ASP
- National Implementation Group and its Subgroups
- NASPC Newsletter
- ASPire Sessions and ASPire Hub
- National Adult Support and Protection Learning & Development Framework

Brenda Walker

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brenda.walker@iriss.org

Link to get the NASPC Newsletter:

https://khub.us18.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=cceb39733f2e9a839ef0e835f&id=603a96b0c2

Iriss Website: https://www.iriss.org.uk