

**Understanding Adult Support & Protection**

Self-Learning Pack 2024 - 2026

**Essential information for managers and practitioners working in adult and children services across South Lanarkshire**

Reviewed April 2024

Review April 2026

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# Introduction

South Lanarkshire Adult Protection Committee (SLAPC) has created this learning pack, which reflects the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 and its revised Code of Practice.

The pack is designed as a first step learning tool to ensure those involved in the support and protection of adults at risk of harm whether directly or indirectly, including those working in children’s services, have as a minimum, a working knowledge of adult support and protection and its legislative framework. This **SLAPC Self-Learning Pack – Understanding Adult Support & Protection (2024-2026)** forms a key part of our training material and offers essential information on adult support and protection for those who may only require foundation level information or are waiting to start their training. It can also be used as a refresher for those currently in practice of returning to the workplace.

It should always be treated as **FIRST STEP** information for those with an interest in this area of practice and does not replace the need to take the further learning steps that you or your agency may require.

##### What’s involved in completing this?

The materials are designed to enable you to recognise, report and record an adult protection concern and to understand your role in ensuring the continued support and protection of adults at risk of harm in South Lanarkshire.

Throughout the pack, activities are provided which are intended to offer an opportunity for practitioners / managers / agencies to reflect on the learning achieved and identify future learning needs. On completion, practitioners will have sufficient foundation knowledge in adult support and protection to get started and will be well placed to derive maximum opportunity from the training and development opportunities available from their own agency and / or SLAPC.

**Aims and Learning Outcomes**

This pack is suitable as a first step for:

Practitioners (all levels) working in South Lanarkshire across the multi-agency partnership that have a role in the support and protection of adults at risk of harm.

**It will provide:**

* An introduction to adult support and protection and;
* An opportunity to explore your role in the support and protection of adults at risk of harm.

**On completion you will have:**

* Increased your knowledge about how to recognise and respond to adult support and protection issues.
* Explored the adult support and protection process in South Lanarkshire.
* An awareness of your own agency adult support and protection procedures.
* A foundation knowledge of adult support and protection and be aware how to locate further training opportunities.
* Have identified your own future learning needs in adult support and protection.

**You will have located and considered:**

* The South Lanarkshire Adult Protection Committee Website:

[www.adultprotectionsouthlanarkshire.org.uk](http://www.adultprotectionsouthlanarkshire.org.uk)

* The South Lanarkshire Adult Support and Protection App:

<http://aspdecisions.scot.nhs.uk> OR download the Right Decisions app from the app stores and search for “Adult support and protection.”

* Your own agencies adult support and protection procedures and relevant documentation used for recording and referring cases where there is concern that an adult may have been harmed or may be at risk of harm from themselves or others.

**Your Responsibilities in Adult Support and Protection**

We all have a responsibility to ensure that adults who may be at risk of harm in our communities are safe, respected and included, with clear communication routes and fully involved in all decision making. Our aspiration, for all adults who may be at risk of harm in our communities, is that they are empowered, through support from the responsible agencies, to be free from harm and enabled to make decisions and choices about their lives and to live as independently as possible in relation to their personal circumstances.

**Trauma Informed Practice**

This learning tool follows a trauma informed approach. **Trauma informed practice** is an approach to care provision that considers the impact of trauma exposure on an individual's biological, psychological and social development. Delivering services in a trauma informed way means understanding that individuals may have a history of traumatic experiences which may impact on their ability to feel safe and develop trusting relationships with services and professionals.

Trauma informed practice is not intended to treat trauma-related issues. It seeks to **reduce the barriers**to service access for individuals affected by trauma, and to promote **understanding** of the **impact of trauma** on individuals.

Key principles of a trauma informed approach are:

* safety
* trustworthiness
* choice
* collaboration
* empowerment

Taking a trauma informed approach to adult support and protection practice enables all those who perform any of the functions under the Act to better understand the range of adaptations and survival strategies that people may make to cope with the impacts of trauma. Practitioners should be alert to the need to view behaviours that compromise health, wellbeing and safety as adaptations that may have played a useful role in the individual's life in helping them to survive, and cope with, their experiences of trauma.

Professionals involved in the identification, support and protection of adults at risk of harm may wish to make use of the resources provided by the [National Trauma Training Programme](https://www.nes.scot.nhs.uk/our-work/trauma-national-trauma-training-programme/). For more information on trauma-informed practice, practitioners can also access [A Roadmap for Creating Trauma-Informed and Responsive Change](https://www.traumatransformation.scot/app/uploads/2023/11/Roadmap-for-Trauma-Informed-Change-Part-One.pdf), which provides guidance for organisations, systems and workforces in Scotland for creating trauma informed services.

You can also watch this short animation [Opening Doors: Trauma Informed Practice for the Workforce](https://vimeo.com/274703693) which aims to support workers to know how to adapt the way they work to make a positive difference to people affected by trauma and adversity.

**Seen Something - Say Something**

We highly recommend you take the time to visit this website which includes easy guidance on what to do and also has a video campaign that you can watch and share with others: <http://www.actagainstharm.org/>

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**SLAPC Self Learning Task 1**

**Please take time to complete;**

**Local Social Work Office Details:**

Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Police Scotland Contact (Public Protection Unit)**

Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Adult Protection Agency Lead**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Location of own agency Adult Protection Procedures:**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**South Lanarkshire Adult Protection Committee website:**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Social Work Out of hours contact:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**What does Adult Support & Protection mean?**

Most adults, who might be at risk of harm, manage to live their lives without experiencing harm. Often this is with the assistance of relatives, friends, paid carers, professional agencies or volunteers. However, some people will experience harm such as physical harm, psychological harm, sexual harm or exploitation of their finances or property. The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 was introduced to maximise the support and protection of adults at risk of harm. The Act has 5 parts to it, this self-learning pack relates mainly to Part 1. You can find out more about the full Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 Act here:

[www.adultprotectionsouthlanarkshire.org.uk](http://www.adultprotectionsouthlanarkshire.org.uk)

<http://www.actagainstharm.org/about-the-act/>

[www.gov.scot/Topics/Health/Support-Social-Care/Adult-Support-Protection](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Health/Support-Social-Care/Adult-Support-Protection)

The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 is legislation which was introduced to support and protect people from harm. This is because there are certain people who might find it more difficult to stop harm happening to them or they may be at risk of self harm. The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 calls people in this situation ‘Adults at Risk’ of Harm.

**An adult (aged 16 or over\*)** is only considered to be an Adult at Risk of Harm in relation to the Adult Support and Protection legislation if they meet **all of** the following **three criteria:**

1. They are unable to safeguard their own wellbeing, property, rights or other interests, **and;**
2. Are at risk of harm, **and;**
3. Because they are affected by disability, mental disorder, illness or physical or mental infirmity, they are more vulnerable to being harmed than adults who are not so affected.

*\*NB - Please refer to Appendix 1 on page 20-21 of this self-learning pack for more information on young people moving into adulthood.*

**What is meant by Harm in Adult Protection?**

Harm: In the 2007 Act - Section 53 states harm includes all harmful conduct and, in particular includes:

* Conduct which causes physical harm,
* Conduct which causes psychological harm (for example by causing fear, alarm or distress),
* Unlawful conduct which appropriates or adversely affects property, rights or interests (for example theft, fraud, embezzlement or extortion),
* Conduct which causes self-harm
* Neglecting someone you are meant to be caring for, either intentionally or unintentionally

**Definition of Harm**

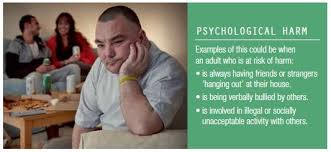
The definition of harm in the 2007 Act sets out the main broad categories of harm; physical, psychological, sexual, neglect and finances, interests and property. No harm type is excluded from the Act.

Physical harm

This is when a person deliberately hurts someone else by punching, kicking, slapping, or shaking. Making aggressive physical contact with someone is known as assault. It is against the law to hurt someone intentionally.

Psychological harm

Words do hurt. Especially when used to frighten, threaten, humiliate or control another person, or making them feel isolated. Vulnerable people can be targets for others taking advantage of them; for example, using their home and belongings or pressuring them into being involved in illegal or socially unacceptable behaviour.



Sexual harm

Sexual activity requires permission, known as ‘consent’. However, in order to give consent a person must fully understand what they are consenting to. They also need to understand that they have the right to refuse to do anything they don’t feel comfortable with – at any time – even if they have previously given permission.

It is a serious crime to coerce, threaten or force someone to engage in any type of sexual activity.

Neglect

Neglect is when someone is not being cared for properly, either by themselves or by the person or authority responsible for them. A neglected person may not have enough food to eat or be living somewhere that’s cold, dirty or damp, or they may not be fully dressed or appear to have washed. They may be being denied important medical and social care. It is important that everybody gets the professional help they need at the right time.

Self-harm and self-neglect

Self-neglect is the inability to perform activities of daily living, even though the adult understands the need to do them. It can include an inability to recognise unsafe living conditions. However, adults have a right to make their own decisions, including the use of alcohol and drugs, even if that means they choose to remain in situations or indulge in behaviour which others consider inappropriate. Without any additional vulnerability, such as an illness or disability, adult protection intervention would not normally be appropriate.

Financial Harm

Financial harm is becoming an increasing concern and constitutes a significant proportion of all adult protection referrals. Often those who become victims of financial harm are not always recognised as “vulnerable” as they may have capacity or safeguards in place through appointeeships, powers of attorney or financial guardians. While in the most part these safeguards work well, there are instances where these protective factors no longer meet the principle of best interest of the adult.

**Possible Signs of Harm or Abuse**

* Unexplained or unusual injuries.
* A delay in seeking treatment for injuries or illness.
* Sudden increase in confusion.
* Unexplained deterioration in the adult's health or neglected appearance.
* The adult being anxious, afraid or withdrawn.
* Misuse of medication, e.g. not giving medicines properly.
* Pressure by family or professionals to have someone moved into or taken out of care.
* Hostile or unkind behaviour towards the adult.
* Unexplained debt, not paying bills for services.
* Not having basic needs met, such as adequate food or heating.
* Not being provided with information on rights or entitlements or being misinformed.
* Harassment about age, gender, disability, race, colour, sexual or religious orientation.
* Another person using possessions, bank account or property without the adult's informed consent.
* The adult not receiving care, which would protect them from harm.

**Adults with Incapacity**

In terms of the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007, it supports and protects those who have capacity and those who lack capacity.

**Section 3** of the Act states:

An adult is at risk of harm for the purposes of subsection (1) if:

1. Another person’s conduct is causing (or is likely to cause) the adult to be harmed, or;
2. The adult is engaging (or is likely to engage) in conduct which causes (or is likely to cause) self-harm.

When an adult protection referral is received relating to any type of harm:

The Council has a duty to make inquiries under **Section 4** of the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007.

The responsible manager will review the information and decide in accordance with their local procedures if:

* Immediate action is required in relation to the adult deemed at risk and/or further inquiries with or without investigative actions should take place to inform any decision to support and protect the adult.
* Allocate a Council Officer to undertake the necessary inquiries with or without investigative actions.
* Where it is suspected that a crime has been committed the police should be alerted immediately.
* Where the adult has a **power of attorney** or a financial guardian in place and they are suspected of breaching their “Fiduciary duty” (causing financial harm) the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) will be alerted.
* Where the adult has an appointee, and you suspect financial harm the Department of Works and Pension (DWP) the Council Officer will inform them so that they can investigate. The DWP have agreed a form for Council Officers to use in respect of S10 requests for information.



**The Law - Legislative Responsibilities**

Legislative responsibilities in relation to the support and protection of adults at risk of harm are contained within the **Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007**. In addition, there are two other Acts which provide provision for this in relation to the support and protection of adults, these are the **Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000** and the **Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003.**

All three Acts have similar principles, including that any use of legislation must: -

* Provide benefit to the adult, be necessary and be the least restrictive option for the adult.
* Take into account the past and present wishes of the adult, where this can be ascertained.
* Ascertain the views of relevant others.
* Respect the adult’s individual abilities, background and characteristics.
* Ensure the adult is not treated less favourably than any other person who does not meet the criteria for an ‘Adult at Risk of Harm’ would be treated in a comparable situation.

**Making an ASP Referral**

Anyone can make an Adult Support and Protection referral themselves, or an adult they know or believe to be at risk of (any type of) harm, including self-harm. However, all staff employed by a public body including Police Scotland, the Local Authority or NHS Scotland have a legal **duty** to refer any adult they ‘know or believe’ might meet the ASP 3 point criteria.

**What should I do?**

You must never ignore any suspicion that an adult is being harmed. You should:

* Listen to what is said
* Observe what is happening
* Write down exactly what you see and hear
* Tell the adult at risk what you are going to do next
* Never promise confidentiality
* Report exactly what you see and hear to your line manager immediately
* Contact social work resources for your area the same day
* Complete an AP1 referral form (public bodies)

**What happens next?**

In South Lanarkshire, an ASP inquiry (without investigative actions) is carried out for all referrals submitted, to establish the circumstances and to confirm if the adult meets the ASP 3 point criteria. Even where the ASP criteria is not met, other appropriate supports can be considered out with the context of ASP.

The referrer (if a public body) must complete the AP1 referral documentation with full details of the concern within 24 hours of the harm being identified. Other agencies adults / public can make an ASP referral using their documentation and or by telephoning their local Social Work Office.

Within the 2007 Act the investigating officer has been given the title of **Council Officer**. The Council Officer will lead any ASP inquiry with or without investigative actions**.**

A planning meeting will be held to discuss if the circumstances indicate a requirement to proceed to the next stage in the process – an **ASP inquiry with investigative actions** which willinclude a full risk assessment. The Council Officer will record this on the adult support and protection risk assessment paperwork (known as the AP2).

Where appropriate, a multi-agency **ASP Case Conference** will be convened for all relevant parties to meet (the adult and any key personal supporters – e.g. guardian, carer, friends, family, advocacy etc. will usually be invited to this conference) to discuss the best way forward to support and protect the adult. It may be necessary to develop a Protection Plan, detailing the support to be provided, who is responsible, timescales and a contingency plan.

While the person remains under the auspices of ASP legislation, a monthly Core Group meeting will be undertaken to update all parties on the progress of the Protection Plan and every three months a review Case Conference will held to further discuss the protection plan and up-date if required.

When an adult protection inquiry with investigative actions is undertaken, staff must actively consider the needs of any child within the household and any child for whom a vulnerable adult has caring responsibilities.

Staff must also check whether there have been any previous child protection concerns about any relevant child. All concerns relating to a child **MUST** be shared immediately with Children and Justice Services. Further joint assessment with children’s services may be required.

**Protection Orders**

The ASP Act allows for 3 types of Protection Orders to be applied (to the Court) for:

* **Assessment Order** (to gain access to the adult to conduct an assessment of their circumstances)
* **Removal Order** (temporarily remove the adult to a place of safety)
* **Banning Order** (temporary or permanent) – to ban identified individuals from the adult for a period of up to 6 months (further Banning Orders can be applied for at the end of the 6 months if required.

**Understanding the Different Orders**

Protection orders

Because any protection order under the Act represents a serious intervention in an adult's life, a sheriff must be satisfied that the council has reasonable cause to suspect the person in respect of whom the order is sought is an adult at risk who is being, or is likely to be, at risk of **serious** harm. Where the adult has the capacity to make decisions, the application cannot be granted by the Sheriff if the adult does not consent to the order unless it can be proved that the adult has been subject to undue pressure to refuse consent.

\*\*There is no definition of ‘serious harm’ provided in the 2007 Act.

Assessment Orders

The council officer can apply to the Sheriff for an *Assessment Order* which authorises the council, if necessary, to take the adult from a place being visited under the order to allow:

* the interview to be conducted in private and /or
* a private medical examination by a health professional nominated by the Council.

An assessment order does not contain powers of detention. An Assessment Order can be enacted for up to 7 days after the date specified in the order (this may not be the date on which order is granted). An assessment order does not contain powers of detention. **The adult can refuse to be interviewed or examined** despite the assessment order.

Removal Orders

The council officer can make application to the Sheriff (or Justice of the Peace in certain circumstances) for a *Removal Order*, which would allow the removal of the adult to another place primarily for the purposes of protection.

A removal order must be implemented within 72 hours of being granted and can then last for a maximum of 7 days. A removal order does not contain powers of detention. The adult can refuse to be interviewed or examined despite the removal order.

Banning Orders or Temporary Banning Orders

Banning of the person causing, or likely to cause the harm from being in a specified place.

Application can also be made by **any** person, including the adult at risk of harm, to the Sheriff for a *Banning Order* in respect of a person or persons considered to be placing or likely to place an adult at risk of **serious** harm. Conditions can be placed on banning orders by the Sheriff, which includes the length of time of the order (up to 6 months) and contact. The Sheriff can also attach a power of arrest. There is an appeals mechanism.

Where it is deemed appropriate to seek an order under the Act, whether that be an Assessment Order, Removal Order or Banning Order, liaison should take place between Adult and Older Peoples Services and Legal Services, although, generally speaking Legal Services would be in attendance at the Case Conference.

**The Right to Anonymity**

Those working / living in the local community are often the first to have a concern about an adult. Tell us when you have a concern, whether you are at work or not. As a member of the public, you have a right to remain anonymous. You can request anonymity as a professional, but you must let social work, or the police know who you are when you call. If granted, they will not share who made the referral any further. Please note, this is not possible in all circumstances.

**SLAPC Self-Learning Task 2**

**My agency adult protection procedures and AP1 (referral documents) are located:**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

I have read the adult protection procedures in my workplace and / or I have accessed relevant documents from the South Lanarkshire Adult Protection Committee Website.

**Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

It is important that anyone working with vulnerable adults refers to their own agency adult support and protection procedures *(and the information provided on our website)* whenever there is a concern that someone has been harmed or suffered abuse.

If I am concerned or worried about an adult at risk of harm, I should be aware of whom I need to talk to and how to make a referral.

The designated adult protection lead person in my organisation is:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Their contact details are:

I should also remember to:

* Record the actions I have taken as soon as practicable, sign and date preferably within 24 hours.
* Follow any verbal referral with a written referral within 24 hours, to the relevant Social Work Team for the area in which the adult normally resides.
* Discuss with my line manager or the designated adult protection person in my organisation immediately the same day.
* Ensure you receive the outcome of your referral from social work within 5 working days.
* Notify the Care Inspectorate.

**Reporting emergencies or when a crime may have been committed**

If a person is in immediate danger, a 999 call should be made to request urgent assistance or advice from the appropriate emergency services. Callers may follow this with a call to local social work to advise them of the situation or, outside of office hours, make a referral to Emergency Social Work. This should be followed up with an adult protection referral AP1 within 1 working day.

If you suspect a crime has been committed, you should encourage the adult to report this to the police and offer to support them to do this. If the adult will not report the matter to the police, you should make the report yourself and advise the police that it relates to someone who may be an adult at risk in terms of the 2007 Act and if the adult has consented to the report being made or not consented.

In the case of physical or sexual harm, immediate referral to the police is essential. This is to ensure that the person receives appropriate medical attention, and that vital evidence is not lost. Follow up with a referral to social work services and advise them that a referral has also been made to the police.

The police will log the referral and take appropriate action to ensure the adult is safe. The police will make enquires and /or investigate the incident further. The information shared is put on a police referral form.

The police form clearly states whether the police are merely sharing information in the form of a Police Concern – or submitting an ASP Referral – marked as an Adult at Risk of Harm, to refer adults at risk of harm to social work. Police and social work should continue to liaise throughout to ensure appropriate support and protection to the adult.

**Does the adult need to consent to an ASP referral?**

If possible, discuss with the adult at risk their view of the situation. Inform them that you will report concerns to your line manager and that these will be recorded. It is preferable that the adult consents to further action being taken but even without the adult’s consent public bodies have a duty to report under the 2007 Act. Voluntary and private sector agencies are expected to report actual or suspected harm of an adult at risk. When making a referral to the police or social work under the 2007 Act you should advise if the adult has consented to the referral or not.

The law in relation to an adult’s capacity (i.e. anyone over the age of 16) makes a distinction between those who are capable of making decisions and managing their own affairs and those who are not. Social work services consider capacity and incapacity in every referral they receive including referrals relating to adults at risk of harm when deciding the most appropriate action to support or protect the adult. If you think the adult may lack capacity to make decisions about welfare or financial matters this should be noted in your referral.

***Remember, ASP legislation supports and protects those who have capacity and those who lack capacity.***

**Will reporting harm breach a duty of confidentiality?**

A proper function of a public body making a referral may include being bound by a duty of confidentiality. It is noted however under Section 5(3), if the public body or office holder knows or believes that person is an adult at risk of harm and that action is needed to be taken under Part 1 of the 2007 Act to protect them from harm then the facts and circumstances of the case **must** be reported to the council for the area in which it considers the person to be located.

**If NO Consent given** - Even without the consent of the adult, public bodies and office holders are required to take further action as you have a legal and professional duty to report adults at risk of harm. Voluntary and private sector agencies should consider if General Data Protection Regulations exemptions apply.

**Sharing information and General Data Protection Regulations**

Where there is a concern about an adult at risk of harm or you are made aware of such a concern, agencies have a responsibility to share and exchange relevant and proportionate information with other professionals. This should be done without delay (within 24 hours) and with confidence, following your own agency/service procedures.

All staff should be aware that their own agency will support them if they have shared personal information in these circumstances using their professional judgement. Recent reviews have highlighted misconceptions about information sharing. Existing legislation does not prevent the sharing and/or exchanging relevant information where it is believed there are concerns about the protection of adults at risk of harm. In addition, agencies are lawfully able to share confidential information where disclosure is necessary to protect the individual or another third party. This extends to all practitioners working with adults who may be self-harming or neglecting themselves.

It is important that we are open and transparent and make people aware that we will share information when we suspect an adult is at risk of harm. It is also important that staff record any decisions to share or not to share information and their reasons for doing so.

For further advice and guidance staff should speak directly with their supervisor/manager or with their organisation’s Data Protection expert.

**Harm from paid staff towards an adult at risk**

All Agencies should have an adult protection and disciplinary procedure that takes account of harm occurring from a paid [or volunteer] member of staff. In all cases agencies should follow this procedure while recognising that Social Work, Care Inspectorate and/or the Police may also be involved dependent on the nature of the harm alleged or evidenced. Agencies should work together to ensure that information is shared and that actions taken are coordinated and managed appropriately.

**SLAPC – Self Learning Task 3**

Exploring Your Role

In relation to what you might be expected to do after making an adult protection referral, take the opportunity to discuss the implications for you in relation to these tasks with your line manager or the person in your organisation responsible for adult protection.

**Please compete:**

1. **What will your role be in the adult protection process?**
2. **What support might you need?**
3. **Do you need any training now?**
4. **What future learning needs may you have?**

A printable copy of the current Adult Protection Training Programme is available from our website.

[www.adultprotectionsouthlanarkshire.org.uk](http://www.adultprotectionsouthlanarkshire.org.uk)

**SLAPC - Self Learning Task 4**

Continued Professional Development

You should now have read and completed the exercises within this pack.

Along with your line manager or person with responsibility for adult protection within your organisation, please complete the following.

**I have had the opportunity to read this pack and its appendices.**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**I have had the opportunity to discuss the implications of this with my line manager or person with adult protection responsibility.**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

We have agreed what my future learning needs in adult protection are and these will be met by:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Congratulations - Please now print your certificate**

**Self – Learning Certificate**

Understanding Adult Protection



This is to certify that (name)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Viewed **South Lanarkshire Adult Committee Website** and completed the above named Self –Learning pack as a first step to learning about Adult Support and Protection in South Lanarkshire.

Signed by (line manager) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE TO THOSE READING CERTIFICATE:**

South Lanarkshire Adult Protection Committee offers this certificate as part of a **Self-Learning Pack – Understanding Adult Protection** that assists people learn about adult protection issues. It is designed for those who may only require foundation level information or are waiting to start their training. It can also be used as a refresher for those currently in practice of returning to the workplace.

It should always be treated as **FIRST STEP** information for those with an interest in this area of practice.

area.

[www.adultprotectionsouthlanarkshire.org.uk](http://www.adultprotectionsouthlanarkshire.org.uk)

Appendix 1

**16-18 Years: Moving into Adulthood**

Generally speaking, where a young person turns 16, they will have the right to make their own decisions. Those holding parental rights and responsibilities in relation to the young person (whether parents or carers) will only have the right to provide guidance to the young person post 16. If a Local Authority holds a Parental Responsibility Order or a Permanence Order, the young person has a right to be supported by having their wellbeing assessed and access to appropriate services in place. It may be that those involved with the young person are unhappy with the choices they are making, but generally speaking, there is little that can be done if the young person has the capacity to make decisions and does not fall within the definition of an ‘Adult at Risk’ in terms of the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007. Of course, if the young person is behaving in a criminal manner, the matter should be referred to the Police.

Where a Compulsory Supervision Order – Children’s Hearing (Scotland) Act 2011 is in place, the Children’s Hearing or Panel will be able to make decisions in relation to the young person. In the case of a looked after child, ongoing support should continue to be offered post 16, whether that be on the basis of ‘continuing care’ under the Continuing Care (Scotland) Order 2015 and the Continuing Care (Scotland) Amendment Order 2016 or whether that be under the general duty to provide guidance and assistance in terms Section 29(1) of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995. Care Leavers also have a right to assistance and advice from a Local Authority up to their 26th birthday. The National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 (updated 2023) also recognises a child or young person up to the age of 18, this aligns with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

**Where a young person between the age of 16 and 18 requires support and protection, Children and Adult services will need to consider which legal framework best fits each person’s needs and circumstances.**

The introduction and implementation of the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 does not change current child or adult protection procedures nor affect the associated responsibilities of services and professionals working with children and young people. The police and/or social work should continue to be contacted immediately where a child or young person is perceived to be at risk of harm. All professionalsinvolved in the child or young person’s care and those who will become involved as the child moves into adulthood will assist in transition planning for the child or young person moving into adulthood on the basis that they will have an overview of the child and the issues affecting them. It is crucial therefore that all professionals are involved in and consulted in relation to any plan for the child or young person. In some circumstances the young person concerned will continue to be supported using the legislative framework that applies for children until the age of 18 years or beyond. This may be;

1. The Children (Scotland) Act 1995
2. The Children’s Hearing (Scotland) Act 2011
3. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014

Young Adults with Incapacity

A young person should be regarded as having capacity to make decisions unless there is evidence to the contrary. However, where there are concerns in relation to the capacity of the young person to make decisions in relation to his/her welfare and/or finances, consideration will be required in relation to whether an order under the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000 is required in order to make decisions.

Discussion should take place among all involved services (child and adult services) in relation to any risks that may be around for the young person and any decisions that will require to be made in relation to the young person when he/she turns 16. A decision should be reached in relation to whether an order under the 2000 Act, whether that be a Welfare and/or Financial Intervention Order or a Welfare/Financial Guardianship Order should be pursued. Whilst a decision may require to be made prior to the young person turning 16, in terms of South Lanarkshire procedures, a decision to seek an order under the 2000 Act can only be made at an Adults with Incapacity Case Conference.

It is recognised that family members, carers or indeed anyone claiming an interest, may wish to take on the role of Intervener or Guardian therefore they should be encouraged to seek legal advice in this regard at the earliest opportunity. If this is not the case, however, responsibility will fall to the local authority to make an application, either to appoint the Chief Social Work Officer, Head of Finance, or a solicitor in private practice depending on the nature of the order. Section 79A of the 2000 Act makes provision for an application for Guardianship to be made, and indeed granted, up to three months prior to the young person turning 16, albeit the order will not come into force until their 16th birthday. This provision is useful in bridging the gap and allowing the transition between childhood and adulthood to be as seamless as possible.

Appendix 2

**Important Information Sources**

Legislation

* Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968
* Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973
* Local Government (Scotland) Act 1994
* Human Rights Act 1998
* Data Protection Act.1998
* Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000
* Protection from Abuse (Scotland) Act 2001
* Regulation of Care (Scotland) Act 2001
* Community Care and Health (Scotland) Act 2002
* Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003
* Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004
* Vulnerable Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2004
* Emergency Workers (Scotland) Act 2005
* Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007
* Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007
* Public Health etc. (Scotland) Act 2008
* Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009
* Offences (Aggravation by Prejudice) (Scotland) Act 2009
* Equalities Act 2010
* Children’s Hearing (Scotland) Act 2011
* Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2011
* Forced Marriage etc (Protection and Jurisdiction) (Scotland) Act 2011
* Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012
* Victims and Witnesses (Scotland) Act 2014
* Anti-social behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014
* Children and Young Persons (Scotland) Act 2014

**Web based information:**

1. [Act Against Harm](http://www.actagainstharm.org/)
2. [Scottish Care - Adult Protection](http://www.scottishcare.org/practice/adult-support-protection/)
3. [Scottish Government - Adult Protection](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Health/Support-Social-Care/Adult-Support-Protection)
4. [Action on Elder Abuse Hotline](http://elderabuse.org.uk/)
5. [www.adultprotectionsouthlanarkshire.org.uk](http://www.adultprotectionsouthlanarkshire.org.uk)
6. [www.childprotectionsouthlanarkshire.org.uk](http://www.childprotectionsouthlanarkshire.org.uk)
7. [National Trauma Transformation Programme](https://www.traumatransformation.scot/)

**Apps:**

* The South Lanarkshire Adult Support and Protection App:

<http://aspdecisions.scot.nhs.uk> OR download the Right Decisions app from the app stores and search for “Adult support and protection.”

* [Collection | Right Decisions (scot.nhs.uk)](https://rightdecisions.scot.nhs.uk/collections/collection?name=care-homes-care-at-home)

This app is provided freely to all care home and care at home services in Scotland, as part of the national decision support programme funded by Scottish Government. It delivers easy to use guidance and practical tools to support care workers in delivering day to day care, communicating with the wider multi-professional team and learning and personal development.

Appendix 3

**ASP Self Learning - Staff Evaluation**

1.Which organisation do you work for?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

2. Please enter your job title

|  |
| --- |
|  |

3. Prior to completing this self learning pack, how would you rate your knowledge of Adult Support and Protection? 1 being **very good** and 5 being **poor.**

4. How confident do you feel applying what you have learned in your work place? 1 being **confident** and 5 **not confident**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

5. Do you know who the designated Lead Worker for Adult Protection is in your organisation?

Yes No

6. Do you know where to locate your agency’s AP1 referral form?

Yes No

7. Have you found this self learning pack helpful? 1 being **very** **helpful** and 5 **not helpful**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

8. Any other comments?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire

Please send back to: [publicprotectionoffice@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:publicprotectionoffice@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

Appendix 4

**ASP Self Learning – Line Manager Evaluation**

1. Which organisation do you work for?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

2. Please enter your job title

|  |
| --- |
|  |

3. Prior to completing this self learning pack, how would you rate your staff member’s knowledge of Adult Support and Protection? 1 being **very good** and 5 **poor.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

How confident do you feel the staff member is in applying what they have learned in the work place? 1 being **confident** and 5 **not confident**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

4. How confident did you feel supporting your employee to complete the self learning pack? 1 being **confident** and 5 **not confident**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

5. Have you found this self learning pack helpful? 1 being **very helpful** and 5 **not helpful**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

6. Any other comments?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire

Please send back to: [publicprotectionoffice@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:publicprotectionoffice@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

Appendix 5

**NOTES PAGE:**