

The FALP has five modules and the national recommendation is that police officers and staff in public facing roles receive a minimum of Module 2 training (the equivalent to the qualification of a HSE Emergency First Aider) – this is the minimum required for frontline response officers. The FALP does include a high level learning outcome for managing head injuries, but this is only a requirement in higher modules (Modules 3 - developed for first aid in a custody setting and Module 4 - the equivalent to the qualification of a HSE First Aid at Work).

As long as individual forces achieve the learning outcomes contained within the FALP modules they will be compliant with the College's licence. The FALP does include the scope for Chief Officers to deliver additional training to their officers but we recognise that the management of head injuries is not currently in the standard for Module 2. With regards to the matter of concern relating to alcohol, module 2 includes a high-level learning outcome to enable officers to assess the casualty, and modules 3 and 4 address issues of poisoning. However, it is noted that there is no explicit reference to the potential impact of alcohol on recognising conditions.

As a matter of course, all coroner reports and inquests related to the provision of first aid by police officers are reviewed by the NPCC First Aid Forum as a standing agenda item. The College is also working with clinical leads to review the high-level learning outcomes within the FALP with the aim of placing greater emphasis on the training elements that preserve life. The review is already considering addressing the issue of acute alcohol intoxication and intentional overdoses within Module 2. It is also considering extending the learning in relation to head injuries to Module 2. The matters of concern you raise with relation to the impact of alcohol and the assessment of head injuries will be raised formally at the next meeting (13th December) to assess whether it is feasible and practicable to address these concerns within the scope of the licence.

Officers are called on to provide first aid in a wide range of incidents as part of their role. The range of incidents they attend mean it is not possible or viable for all officers to be trained for all types of medical emergencies, or for the FALP to explicitly outline the appropriate medical response in every context. That said, as detailed in this response, we acknowledge there is more that we can do to standardise our training and I trust that we have provided you with assurances that the matters of concern you have raised will be addressed.

Yours sincerely



CC 
CEO, College of Policing


Chair, National Police Chiefs' Council