

# **Child Safeguarding Information Seminar**

**3<sup>rd</sup> November 2018**

**County Children's Officers Forum**

# Our aim today.....

- ❑ **An opportunity to gather our thoughts**
- ❑ **Identify challenges and successes**
  - club, county and national
- ❑ **Identify supports you need**
- ❑ **Create an Awareness of the Give Respect – Get Respect initiative**
- ❑ **What can we do or you in 2019?**

## Recap on what our Associations have achieved

- 2008** No formal Children's Officer role, no formal Code , no joint Code of Best Practice, no Code of Behaviour, no vetting, resistance to efforts to promote child protection training
- 2010\*** GAA created the position of Children's Officer, did away with Youth Officer/Child Welfare and Protection Officer etc. New Code, commenced vetting, revised training, joint initiatives emerged
- 2013/4** Agreement on joint Code between all Associations, joint protocols on vetting/training, role of Children's Officers firmly established, National Committee, agreement on Dealing with Breaches of the Code
- 2017/8** Joint vetting, joint training, joint risk assessments, joint National Committee, joint safeguarding statements, closely aligned, cooperation etc.

# What is the role of the Children's Officer?

- **Play your role on the County Committee**

Promote the Code of Behaviour

Oversee the Risk assessment & Safeguarding Statement

Liaise on Child Safeguarding Training

Influence child centered approach in clubs & county

Oversee vetting

Be available to advise on Code breaches

Seek a voice for children & young people

Promote the RESPECT initiative

**Play your role on your Club Executive**

**Assist your coaches in adhering to the Code**

# Discussion

**Let's look at our discussion document**

**Look at each section**

**Complete each section/question individually**

**Each table agrees a joint answer to each question**

**We then engage in a discussion on each section**

**We note all points and report to plenary and to NCSC**

# 2018 Child Safeguarding Statement

GAA



The Gaelic Athletics Associations (GAA, LGFA, Camogie, Rounders, and Handball) in accordance with our Code of Behaviour (Underage) and our legislative requirements have agreed this Child Safeguarding Statement which is binding on all members and units of our Associations.

The basic aims of the Gaelic Games Associations include fostering and developing our Gaelic Games and Irish cultural activities among young people and children.

These games and related activities are organised and promoted by dedicated volunteers at Club, County, Provincial and National levels with the cooperation and support of an equally dedicated cohort of staff all of whom are committed to the safeguarding of children in our Associations as we seek to create a safe environment for young people in which to grow and develop.

We have completed an assessment of the potential for harm to children when they are participating in our games and attending our activities under the following headings: Club and Coaching Practices; Complaints & Discipline; Reporting Procedures; Use of Facilities; Recruitment; Communications and a further heading of General Risk of Harm.

In addition to our Risk Assessment document described above, the following procedures support our intention to safeguard children availing of our services:

- Code of Behaviour (Underage) which includes
  - Recruitment policy for those working with children
  - Child safeguarding training requirements
  - Anti-Bullying statement
  - Social Media policy
- Guidance for Dealing and Reporting Allegations or Concerns of Abuse by staff or volunteers
- Appointing Designated Liaison Persons at Club, County and national levels
- Appointing Children's Officers at Club, County and national levels who shall be the Association's relevant persons or first point of contact in respect of this statement

The GAA appointed Mandated Person, who has a legal obligation to report harm of children as per legislation is Gearóid Ó Maoilmhichíl. Contact: [mandatedperson@gaa.ie](mailto:mandatedperson@gaa.ie).

We are committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures contained therein that outline our intentions to keep children safe from harm.

Our Child Safeguarding Statement has been prepared in accordance with the legislature requirements contained in the Children First Act 2015 and the Children (NI) Order 1995 and as required by our Association rules and will be reviewed in January 2019.



Club Children's Officer



## **Code of Behaviour (Underage)**

**Do you know your role?**

**What are the basics ?**

**Have you the knowledge to advise?**

**Formal vs Informal?**

**What do you need to know?**



# What does 'the Respect initiative seek to do?

**The GAA Respect Initiative seeks to ensure that Gaelic Games are promoted and played in a positive, fair and enjoyable manner where players, coaches, spectators and referees**

**Give Respect – Get Respect from each other**

**The initiative applies to all in the GAA regardless of age, competition or ability**





# Give Respect Get Respect

## Your Club & County

- Coaches
- Referees
- Parents/Guardians
- Supporters
- Players









# Promoting Respect - recap

- ◎ Implementing the Code of Behaviour
- ◎ Referee's & Visiting Teams
- ◎ The Hand Shake
- ◎ Designated Spectators` Area
- ◎ Referee Communication
- ◎ Team Officials – Respect Bibs
- ◎ Respect Awareness Programme
- ◎ Recognition and Merit Awards