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# **NEWTOWN GAA CHILD PROTECTION AND WELFARE**

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

The Gaelic Athletic Association is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for all young people who wish to participate in our Gaelic Games and activities. We at Newtown GAA with the guidelines set out by our governing body shall take any steps necessary to protect all children under our care from any forms of abuse, from harm, discrimination or degrading treatment and shall respect their rights, wishes and feelings.

### **We do this by:**

- Recognising that all children have the right to be protected from harm
- Ensuring that all our coaches and volunteers are carefully recruited and selected and that they accept responsibility for ensuring the wellbeing of children under their care
- Responding swiftly and appropriately to protect the welfare of children who participate in our games and related activities
- Providing parents and children with the opportunity to voice any concerns they may have
- Appointing a Children's Officer in our Club to oversee the implementation of good child protection and welfare practices within our Club\*
- Appointing a Designated Person who will liaise with the statutory authorities as appropriate
- Ensuring that all allegations of abuse of young people are confidentially dealt with in accordance to the Associations Guidelines for Dealing with Allegations of Abuse and with statutory guidelines and relevant legislation
- Reviewing the effectiveness of our Child Protection procedures and policies on an on-going basis
- Ensuring that members, coaches, team mentors, administrators, parents/guardians and spectators sign up and adhere to our Code of Behaviour/Best Practice.

### **\*THE CLUBS CHILDREN'S OFFICER**

The Club Children's Officer shall assist in promoting a child and youth centered ethos in the Club and will have attended the relevant training courses on child welfare and protection. In his/her work the Children's Officer shall be the link between the children/young people and the adults within **Newtown GAA** and to ensure the implementation and promotion of the relevant Child Welfare Codes and Codes of Behaviour/Best Practice in the Club so as to ensure that young people can participate, enjoy and benefit from our Gaelic Games in safe and enjoyable surroundings. Any child, parent/guardian, coach, mentor can consult the



Camann Lúthchleas Gael

Coiste Bhaile Uí gCeardnaigh

Comae Chill Mhartaín



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Clubs Children's Officer any time in confidence to express any concerns or to answer any questions about their sports activities/experiences or breaches of Codes of Behaviour/Best Practice within our club.

The Children's officer at our club is: **Paul O'Riordan**

I can be contacted at any time at: **0861719106**