**County Children’s Officer**

**Role Description**

The key role of the County Children’s Officer is to oversee the implementation and promote awareness of the GAA Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport and our joint Code of Behaviour with the co-operation of Clubs within the County with Club Children’s Officers.

Reports/accountable to

* County Committee

**Responsibilities**

* Ensure that each Club has appointed a Club Children’s Officer and that these Children’s Officers are aware of their roles and responsibilities.
* Regularly liaise with all Club Children’s Officers; respond to their queries; support and assist them to develop and implement an annual work plan.
* Promote and co-ordinate Child Protection in Sport Awareness Workshops for all Clubs in the County.
* Ensure, in collaboration with Coiste na nÓg that all County underage games and competitions are compliant with the relevant Gaelic Games Codes, with the Go Games Initiative and with the GAA Respect Campaign.
* As required, liaise and advise the County Coaching and Games Development personnel on strengthening a child centreed ethos in their programmes and activities.
* Assist, where required, the County Vetting Co-ordinator in the processing of vetting applications on behalf of the Association to the relevant authorities.
* Advise on good practice in the recruitment and selection of persons working with young people.
* Promote greater consultation with under age players and participation by them in Club and County activities.
* Deal with breaches of the Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport and Code of Behaviour as per relevant guidelines.
* Monitor and report to the County Committee and relevant Committees on any significant trends or developments relating to the participation of young people in Gaelic Games.
* Review and report to the County Committee on the extent and nature of implementation of the relevant Association Codes within the County and by Clubs.
* Maintain regular communication and liaison with the National Children’s Officer and provide reports as required.
* Provide a report to the Annual County Committee Convention.
* Assist the County Coiste na nÓg in the development of underage games and activities and liaise with other groups on their behalf as appropriate.

\*Young People. The term 'young people' is used throughout this document denotes any person under the age of 18 years.

**IMPORTANT**

**COUNTY Children’s Officers do not have the responsibility to investigate or validate child protection allegations or concerns at County level. The liaison person appointed to deal with such concerns is the County Designated Person as per the GAA Guidelines for Dealing with Allegations of Abuse (Fourth Edition).**

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| SKILLS | KNOWLEDGE |
| * Have good communication skills, be approachable and open minded * Be discreet and confidential | * **Be familiar with the GAA Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport and Code of Behaviour** * **Attend the relevant basic awareness training on child welfare and protection and Children’s Officer training** * **Be familiar with relevant child welfare/protection legislation** * **Have the confidence of all Clubs and in the particular of Club Children’s Officers within the County** * **Have a commitment to attend other relevant training as required** |

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| OTHER REQUIREMENTS |
| * Undertake a Garda Vetting/Access NI/CRB check relevant to their jurisdiction * Have time to do the job. * Have a genuine interest in the Association * Be of good standing in the community |