

14 The Club Designated Person

The Club Designated Person will be responsible for dealing with any concerns about the protection of children in the Club. The designated person is responsible for reporting allegations or suspicions of child abuse to the County Board Designated Person, Health Service Executive (ROI) or Social Services (NI) and/or An Garda Síochána/Police Service of Northern Ireland.

The Club Designated Person should;

- Have detailed knowledge of the GAA Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport and the GAA Guidelines for Dealing with Allegations of Abuse document (Fourth Edition 2009).
- Have knowledge of the Code of Ethics Good Practice for Children's Sport (Irish Sports Council and Sport Northern Ireland).
- Have knowledge of statutory guidelines and relevant legislation as they relate to child protection and welfare of young people.
- Have knowledge of definitions, categorisation and indicators of abuse.
- Undertake Code of Ethics (ISC/SportNI) Basic Awareness training provided by Cumann Lúthchleas Gael and any other training relating to their role or to Child Protection and Welfare matters.
- Be familiar with and able to carry out reporting procedures as outlined in the GAA Guidelines for Dealing with Allegations of Abuse (Fourth Edition 2009).
- Communicate with parents and external agencies as appropriate.
- Assist with and identify the need for Code of Ethics (ISC/SportNI) training within the Club and other appropriate training in consultation with the Club's Children's Officer.

- Be aware of local contacts and support services that may assist in developing and delivering their role(s).
- Advise, as appropriate, club administrators on issues of confidentiality, record keeping and data protection.

The distinct role of the GAA Club Designated Person is outlined in the GAA Guidelines for Dealing with Allegations of Abuse (Fourth Edition 2009). It is important to note that the Designated Officer does not have a counselling or therapeutic role or a responsibility for investigating or validating child protection concerns within their Club.

Investigations of alleged abuse are carried out by the relevant Statutory Authorities as outlined in Children First and Our Duty to Care or by specially appointed trained personnel in counselling, psychological and child therapeutic services. Further review and consideration of any Allegations of Abuse within the GAA structures may be carried out as deemed necessary by the appropriate body in the GAA, appointed for such purposes.

Further details on the role of the Club and County Designated Persons may be obtained in the GAA Guidelines for Dealing with Allegations of Abuse (Fourth Edition 2009).