

Child Protection Policy and Strategic Ethos

This Club recognises that our greatest asset lies in the richness and variety of our membership who in so many ways give of their time and expertise. In all our dealings with children, young people and vulnerable adults we shall be guided by our Child Protection Policy and a Strategic ethos which encompasses the values and codes of behaviour espoused by our club. Thus we shall take all practicable steps to:

- create and maintain the safest possible environment for those who wish to participate in our Gaelic Games, Culture and activities;
- protect these designated groups from discernable forms of abuse, from harm, discrimination or degrading treatment;
- respect their rights, wishes and feelings.

We will 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 [Appendix 1] and that they accept responsibility for ensuring the wellbeing of children in 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 to oversee the implementation of good child protection and welfare practices within our club.
- Appointing a Designated person in our Club who will liaise with the statutory authorities as appropriate.
- Ensuring that all allegations of abuse of young people are confidentially dealt with in accordance with the Association's Guidelines for dealing with Allegations of Abuse (Fourth Edition 2009) and with Statutory Guidelines and relevant legislation.

- Reviewing the effectiveness of our Child Protection procedures and policies on an ongoing basis.
- Ensuring that members, coaches, team mentors, administrators, parents/guardians and spectators sign up and adhere to our code of Behaviour.

The Executive Committee of Ui Raithilligh G.A.C. will strive to ensure we follow the GAA code of Best Practice in Youth Sport and the GAA Code of Behaviour for all Persons Working with Young People. As an Executive Committee we have nominated the following people in the position of Children's Officer and Designated Person respectively. Full training has been provided to ensure full implementation of the Child Protection Policy.

CHILDREN'S OFFICER Print Name _____

Address _____

Phone 028 _____ Mob _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

DESIGNATED PERSON Print Name _____

Address _____

Phone 028 _____ Mob _____

Signed: _____ Date _____

CHAIRPERSON Print Name _____ Signed _____

Phone 028 _____ Mob _____ Date _____

SECRETARY Print Name _____ signed

Phone 028 _____ Mob _____ Date _____

Child Protection
Additional Information on Roles and Procedures.

1. *Ui Raithilligh G.A.C. has demonstrated its commitment to the creation and maintenance of a safe environment for all children, young people and vulnerable adults, who wish to take advantage of any or all the facilities and activities on offer within the Club.*
2. *This resolve is evidenced by the existence of a **Child Protection Policy and Strategic Ethos** (see separate document) which encompass, amongst other things, the values and codes of behaviour espoused by Ui Raithilligh G.A.C.*
3. *A particularly significant group is those who work face to face with the children, young people and vulnerable adults to whom a Service is provided.*
4. *In all our dealings with these designated groups our club is guided by a written **Child Protection Policy** and structurally safeguarded by the appointment of a **Designated Person** and a **Children's Officer**.*
5. *Both the above roles are designed to enhance the support and protection afforded to children, young people and vulnerable adults and the mentors and coaches closely involved with them.*
6. *This development is consistent with existing statutory codes and guidelines as set out in **Appendix [1]**.*
7. *The club is fully aware of the potentially sensitive and confidential nature of the information referred to in **Appendix [1]**. Everyone can be assured that it will be treated in the utmost confidence and handled strictly in accordance with the County Boards Policy on Secure Storage, Handling, Retention and Disposal and Disclosures of Information. It will be seen only by the County Board Registered Person who applies for Access N.I. Disclosure.*
8. *All this is designed to minimise the possibility of any child young person or vulnerable adult suffering physical, emotional, sexual abuse or neglect as a result of omission or commission on the part of anyone connected with the club.*
9. *In the event of abuse occurring the strategy, structure and systems are designed to enable the problem to be dealt with in a systematic, comprehensive and proactive manner.*
10. *All of the above is securely grounded in the concept that the interests of the child, young person or vulnerable adult is paramount at all stages of the process.*

ROLE OF THE DESIGNATED OFFICER

11. *The role of the **Designated Officer** is as follows:*
- *To listen to any concerns relating to the protection of children or vulnerable adults*
 - *To take responsibility for managing the response to those concerns and disclosures from start to finish. This includes a preliminary internal enquiry and referral to Health & Social Services and P.S.N.I.*
 - *To ensure that the person raising the concern/ allegation is regularly informed about the progress of the inquiry.*
 - *To liaise with the County board Officer who deals with the issues*
 - *To record all steps undertaken part of these procedures*
 - *To ensure accuracy and store all records and documents relating to individual cases in a secure manners*
 - *To assist with the ongoing development of Ui Raithilligh G.A.C. child protection needs.*

ROLE OF CHILDRENS OFFICER

12. *The role of the **Children's Officer** is as follows:*
- *To ensure widespread dissemination of the Clubs' **Child Protection Policy***
 - *To raise awareness and knowledge of the issues around child abuse/ protection*
 - *To ensure that adequate training is provided and recorded at all levels within the club*
 - *To play a major part in the ongoing development and implementation of Ui Raithilligh G.A.C's child protection needs*

Conclusion

13. *In order to ensure the implementation of the above, in spirit and in fact, the following set of documents is essential:*
- 1 *A volunteer application form*
 - 2 *A reference form*
 - 3 *A confidential declaration form*
 - 4 *An identity verification form*
 - 5 *Access NI form*
14. *The protection of children young people and vulnerable adults is of the utmost importance to the club. The approach and detail outlined above is designed to minimise the possibilities of physical, emotional, or sexual abuse or neglect being visited on a young person child or vulnerable adult within the clubs ambit of responsibility. Another very important aspect of this approach is that it will significantly reduce the possibility of an unfounded or spurious allegation or concern being made or sustained against the club or any individual within it.*

APPENDIX [1]

Any individual who is fulfilling a role which falls under a “regulated activity” as defined by the SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE GROUPS (N.I.) ORDERS 2007 (see Appendix 2) must complete a formal application process. Part of that process involves a declaration of any previous criminal convictions. This type of involvement with designated groups also brings the activity within the definition of an “excepted” position as provided for by the REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS (EXCEPTION) ORDER (N.I. 1979
Therefore all convictions, including spent convictions, must be disclosed

APPENDIX [2]

Regulated Activity

Does the activity involve contact with children or vulnerable adults?

AND

Does the activity require them to do one of the following:

- | | | |
|------------|-----------|--|
| ▪ Teach | Supervise | Offering therapy to |
| ▪ Train | Advise | Transport |
| ▪ Instruct | Guide | Moderate a chat room |
| ▪ Care | Treat | YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> |

Frequency or Intensity

Will the person be in contact with young people:

Once per week or more

OR

4 or more days in the month

OR

Between the hours of 2am – 6am

YES NO

If “YES” is ticked to regulated activity and “YES “ to frequency and intensity then **the individual must complete the application process.**