

4th January 2017

A cháirde dhíl,

In the last few weeks, reported incidents of abuse suffered by young people in sport in Britain remind us of the importance of constant vigilance in the implementation of our LGFA child welfare and protection procedures, in accordance with legislative requirements.

The LGFA has developed guidance and procedures for members and staff who may have grounds for concern about the possible abuse or neglect of children involved in our activities. In doing so we have published the **Guidelines for Dealing with Allegations of Abuse**, a **Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport** and a **Code of Behaviour (Underage)** all of which directs us in our work. In addition to these policy documents each Club and County is required to appoint a Children's Officer and a Designated Liaison Person (DLP) who can advise and oversee this work at local level.

Additional child safeguarding information and directives are available on www.gaa.ie/childwelfareandprotection, or on <http://www.britain.gaa.ie/safeguarding> and <http://ulster.gaa.ie/safeguarding> **No member of the Association should delay in reporting their concerns about a child's safety and wellbeing.**

Our procedures also require that if we are aware of or may have received reports that a member of the Association may have been in any way involved in inappropriate actions(s) against a child or fellow adult then such matters should also be reported to the appropriate DLP so that such concerns can take place. It is not unusual for any person to be unsure whether a concerns merits formal reporting or not know how to make a report. The DLP will advise on all such matters and will direct any member or staff person to the appropriate authority.

Reporting Child Welfare concerns or allegations of abuse in the Republic of Ireland

Tusla – the Child and Family Agency, is the dedicated agency responsible for improving wellbeing and outcomes for children in the Republic of Ireland. The LGFA has developed a policy of interagency cooperation with the Child and Family Agency and it is to them that we report our concerns about a child's welfare.

Such reports may be made by individual members of the LGFA or by our DLPs on their behalf or on behalf of the Association and all such reports are made on the **Tusla Standard Report Form**. If a child is perceived to be in danger and we cannot contact Tusla we pass on our concerns to an Garda Síochána.

Reporting child welfare concerns or allegations of abuse in Britain

Referrals can be made to:

Local Safeguarding Boards/Children's Social Services <http://www.safecic.co.uk/your-scb-acpc/55-free-downloads-and-safeguarding-links/61-safeguarding-children-board-links>

NSPCC – Child Protection in Sport Unit (England & Wales) +44 116 366 5590

NSPCC – Children 1st – Safeguarding in Sport – Scotland +44 141 418 5674

However, if you think a child or vulnerable adult is in immediate danger, don't delay call 999 or the NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 500.

Reporting child welfare concerns or allegations of abuse in the Six Counties

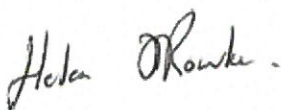
If you believe that a child or young person is at immediate risk, this should be reported without delay to the police service as a 999 emergency and contact should also be made to your local Health and Social Care (HSC) Trust, please also remember to report through the LGFA Structures as soon as is possible.

NI Contacts Gateway Services / Child Protection

<http://www.cgigolf.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/NI-Contacts-Getway-Services.pdf>

Child Welfare is a responsibility for us all and it is important that you bring the contents of this circular to the attention of your clubs.

Mise le meas,



Helen O'Rourke
Chief Executive