

DECEMBER 2017  
**NUACHTLITIR**  
NOLLAIG 2017



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# HAVE YOUR SAY AND SHAPE THE GAA TOWARDS 2020

**A**n online survey is currently being conducted to help inform the development of the Association's Strategic Plan for the period 2018 – 2020. The plan will result in organisation-wide goals and strategies to improve the Association at all levels.

A Steering Group chaired by the Uachtarán-tofa John Horan has been put in place to guide the development of a strategy that reflects the needs of the Association. It began its work in October with the aim of an April 2018 launch.

The first phase of the consultation process involves gathering input via an online survey, written submissions and interviews with targeted individuals and groups. This phase will run until 15 January 2018. The second phase will involve the production of a consultation paper to facilitate further input through a combination of methods.

The online survey which will take approximately 5 minutes to complete.

## [GAA STRATEGIC PLANNING SURVEY](#)

The deadline for completion is 5 p.m. on 15 January 2018.



# THE GAA & PDST LAUNCH FUTURE LEADERS TRANSITION YEAR PROGRAMME

**T**he GAA, in collaboration with the PDST, has developed the Future Leaders Transition Year Programme designed to help produce the GAA leaders and standard setters of tomorrow.

It is a cross-curricular programme comprising of eight modules, each designed to encourage maturity, initiative, responsibility and leadership skills in pupils.

The Programme gives pupils the knowledge and skills to support all roles required in the effective staging of Gaelic Games. As part of the Programme pupils are challenged to organise and run a GAA Super Games Centre for younger students or assist in Coaching at the local Primary School.

## Course Structure:

- The Programme is comprised of 8 modules.
- All modules are between 6 – 10hrs long, stand alone and individually certifiable. Pupils will receive a certificate for each completed module.
- A school can choose to deliver one or more modules. Delivering five modules plus the organisation of a GAA Super Games Centre/Coaching initiative through the pupils, results in them being awarded the “GAA/PDST Future Leaders



*Dublin footballer Dean Rock, Galway camogie player Ava Lynskey, Eoghan Hanley, National Co-Ordinator of the Future Leaders programme, John Horan, President Elect of the GAA, Ciara O'Donnell, Director of the PDST, Dublin ladies footballer Ciara Trant and Galway hurler Aidan Harte during the Future Leaders Transition Year Programme Launch at Croke Park in Dublin.*

- Award”.
- When registered, each pupil gets an online e-Portfolio to store and share documentation and to submit tasks. Pupils receive certification for each module when all the tasks are completed and submitted to their e-Portfolio.

## Modules:

- Future Leaders FMS & Coaching of Hurling / Gaelic football Module
- Future Leaders Nutrition Module

- Future Leaders Refereeing Module
- Future Leaders Administration Module
- Future Leaders Sports Journalism Module
- Future Leaders Performance Analysis Module
- Future Leaders Event Management Module
- Future Leaders Wellness Module

The Super Games Centre allows players to take ownership of the Games and

feel a sense of belonging and enjoyment in a fun, safe environment. As the TY pupils themselves are responsible for organising and running all aspects of the 1st and 2nd Year Super Games Centre, this course encourages and empowers the Transition Year pupils to take ownership and responsibility for everything linked to the games, which make the match day experience what it is. By completing the various modules and running a Super Games Centre, pupils really develop,





mature and benefit in so many ways, which can only be achieved by putting their newly acquired skills and knowledge to use in a practical, real life setting.

From an educational perspective the benefits of the Programme are huge with TY pupils enhancing their Physical Literacy Skills, Digital Literacy Skills, Literacy & Numeracy Skills and their Presentation Skills. From a social view point, the benefits to the pupil are equally important as the Programme, and the running of the Super Games Centre, embraces inclusivity and fosters a sense of belonging in the pupil. There are benefits to the pupil, the school, to the local community and in turn to the country as a whole. The Future Leaders Transition Year Programme has the potential to make a huge contribution to

the health and wellbeing, both physical and mental, of the young people of Ireland. This comes at a time when Irish children are engaging in less and less physical activity and levels of obesity and diabetes are on the rise.

This Programme will future proof our games in towns and villages countrywide by developing capacities in young people to empower them to take ownership of the games and carry them forward for the next generation. They will be the future administrators, coaches, referees, ground staff, performance analysts, nutritionists etc. They could be the reason 1000s of children will play our games in every corner of the country in the years to come. There are presently 48 schools delivering the Programme as part of Pilot Phase 2.

The Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST) are our partners in this programme and are providing training and development to the teachers involved in this initiative. The Programme will be rolled out nationally in 2018/19 and presently we have more than 250 schools registered to start in September.

“The PDST team are delighted to be part of this wonderfully innovative project which provides rich opportunities for students to develop in the most holistic sense in line with the principles of the TY programme. I believe that this initiative provides a unique and creative learning pathway for young people to acquire skills which are both sports related and transferable not only

across the curriculum, but beyond TY itself. It is a privilege to work with the schools involved and our colleagues in the GAA “.  
Ciara O Donnell, National Director of the PDST

“This programme will be of great assistance to teachers in providing them with material for multi-skill development by the students away from the main curriculum.”  
John Horan, Uachtáran Tofa, CLG

Post Primary School Teachers/Principals who wish to express interest in delivering the Future Leaders Transition Year Programme can do so at [learning.gaa.ie/futureleaders](http://learning.gaa.ie/futureleaders).



# COUNTDOWN ON TO ARRIVAL OF NEW GAA APP

**J**anuary is just around the corner and it brings with it a new season of possibilities for GAA clubs and members everywhere. Next month will also see the arrival of the new GAA Mobile App which will be a modern and convenient digital solution to help improve the ways in which Clubs interact with their members throughout the year.

The new app, available on Android and iOS devices, will provide easy access to the latest GAA news, Fixtures and Results and, by logging on with your GAA Membership number, will facilitate GAA Club Membership renewal and receipt of individual, tailored updates from your club.

The functionality provided will deliver a host of practical benefits for both Clubs and members including cost-savings for Clubs through the reduction in SMS costs (messaging from clubs to members is free through the App) and huge time-saving efficiencies for Club Administrators and members, thanks to convenient online payment and registration functionalities.

Importantly, the app has also been carefully developed to align closely to the new General Data Protection Regulation [GDPR] and Children First legislation ensuring that interactions between Clubs and Members are fully compliant with these

new laws, reducing the risk of breaches and supporting overall 'good governance'.

The first phase of the App will be available for download from the 23rd January 2018 and will initially bring two new key features:

## 1. Pay memberships digitally

This new functionality will enable members to pay their annual subscriptions via the app, using a debit or credit card. This will not only be much quicker and more convenient for members than having to go to the Club to register and make their payment, but will greatly reduce admin time for Clubs.

## 2. Update profiles from app

This new functionality will enable members to update their profile, including their contact details, directly from their app. In compliance with the new GDPR, members will also be asked for their consent to receive marketing communications via their app. Members will only be required to update this information in one place, and updates will be applied across all channels.

This first phase launch will also provide Newsfeed and Fixtures & Results functionality.

## Later in 2018...

The second phase of the app – to follow later in Spring 2018 – will enable Clubs to send communication directly to their members' GAA mobile apps, with a subsequent release also enabling coaches to send communications to their teams. In accordance with GRPR, members will have the ability to opt in or out of communications via the app, and to set their communication preferences so that only the messages of relevance to them are received. This will serve as a much more secure way of communicating with members, restricting the ability to attach images or videos, as well as only allowing relevant responses.

### Important reminder

In order to facilitate the use of the App by their members, Clubs are required to complete a number of important steps on the Games Management System (Servasport GMS), by 21st January 2018. Unless the information requested is provided by the Club, members of that Club will be unable to use certain functionality, such as on-line payments, on the App. Information on the six

steps that must be taken – as set out in November newsletter – can be found [here](#):

### Data Protection:

Due to significant interest, further Data Protection Seminars will be scheduled early in the new year in each province. Dates and Times will be confirmed once finalised. opportunity for delegates to attend sessions from speakers of national and internal renowned covering topics relevant to the player, the coach, the game and the



# THE NATIONAL CLUB DRAW 2018 IS AT TOP GEAR!

**T**he National Club Draw is giving Clubs around the country a chance to raise up to €20,000 for their Club. Ticket purchasers will be entered into the Draw for some amazing prizes.

Prizes for the 2018 Draw include All- Ireland Final tickets with an overnight stay in the Croke Park Hotel, a brand new Renault Clio Dynamique, a Blue Book Voucher to the value of €750 and a travel voucher to the value of €2,000 to name just a few.

Tickets for the Draw are €10 each with each Club having received their initial allocation of tickets from their County Liaison Officer for the National Club Draw. All proceeds made from ticket sales are kept solely by the Club, raising much needed funds, with last year's Draw raising a massive €1.5 million for Clubs. The National Club Draw aims to promote the games at Club level and gives Clubs a great opportunity. It is risk free and cost free for Clubs to take part as all tickets and prizes are provided by Ard Chomhairle.

## The Club Specific Draw- an extra opportunity for Clubs!

Clubs which sell a minimum of 200 tickets, account for them, record the tickets online and adhere to the terms & conditions (on the back of every ticket) of the Draw are automatically entered into the Club Specific Draw.

This includes:

- A Draw for all counties in which 3 Clubs will win a prize of €5,000.
- A Draw for each county in which 1 Club per county will win a prize of €1,000.
- And the Club with the highest ticket sales in each province will receive a prize of €1,000.

Clubs can sell a maximum of 2,000 tickets. Should Clubs wish to request extra tickets or extra promotional material, they should contact their County Liaison Officer or email [nationalclubdraw@gaa.ie](mailto:nationalclubdraw@gaa.ie)

All extra ticket requests must be made before February 1st 2018, with tickets being returned to County Liaison Officers by February 8th. The Draw will take place on March 8th, with Draw Winners being invited to Croke Park on St. Patrick's Day and Club Championship Final Day, the 17th of March, to receive their prizes.

## Contact Details

Should Clubs have any queries regarding the Draw, they can contact their County Liaison Officer or email [nationalclubdraw@gaa.ie](mailto:nationalclubdraw@gaa.ie).

If Clubs have issues logging in to the Online Ticket Recording System at <http://gaa-clubdraw.cloudapp.net/GAAClubDraw>, they should contact tech support at [ncdsupport@gaa.ie](mailto:ncdsupport@gaa.ie).

**Davitts CLG Mayo,  
Highest ticket sellers in Connacht 2016 and 2017.**



**Go n-éirí an t-ádh libh!**



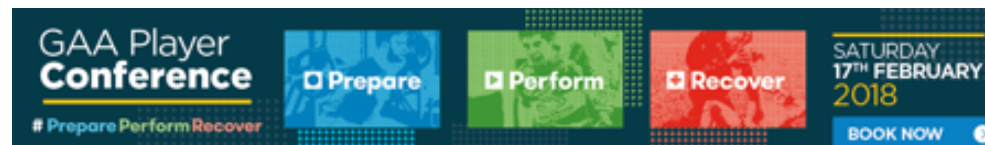
# GAA PLAYER CONFERENCE

The GAA is delighted to announce details of the first ever GAA Player Conference. The event which will take place in Croke Park on Saturday, February 17th, 2018 is open to all adult players of Gaelic Games (Football, Hurling, Camogie, Ladies Football, Handball and Rounders). The event is themed Prepare, Perform and Recover and is designed to engage educate, support and inform adult club players on player welfare topics.

In relation to the conference, Uachtarán CLG, Aogán Ó Feargháil, said: "I am delighted to announce this opportunity for our players to attend an event such as this, which will help increase awareness of the many fantastic resources available through our online platforms, gaa.ie and learning.gaa.ie, which are available to all our members."

Player Welfare is one of the GAA's core values and the association invests considerable time, personnel, and finance in developing evidence-based programmes and resources. Research has identified the challenge for sports governing bodies in communicating player welfare messages to the playing population. To bridge this gap, the GAA is providing a platform for adult club players to engage and be informed about the following player welfare areas:

- Warm-up / Injury prevention / Strength



- & Conditioning
- Technical demands of the game & Skills acquisition
- Mental preparation and performance skills
- Nutrition for Performance / Supplements

The conference will include keynote addresses, engaging workshops and discussion groups as well as practical

- experiential demonstrations on the above and other player welfare related topics including fixtures, concussion and gambling awareness. Special guests and speakers include
- Eamonn O'Shea (former Tipperary Hurling manager)
  - Cathal Cregg (Head Strength & Conditioning Officer)
  - Prof Niall Moyna (Head of the School of

Health and Human Performance and Sigerson Manager - DCU)

- Caroline Currid (Performance Coach - experience with multiple All-Ireland winning teams)
- Dr. Crionna Tobin (Leading sports nutritionist)
- Dr. Edwenia O'Malley (Sports Physiotherapist)
- Mark Roe (Researcher, GAA/UCD National Injury Surveillance Database)
- Further speakers to be added in the coming weeks...

For just €10, attendees will also receive information on key areas of player welfare, an attendee pack and refreshments (including lunch) throughout the day.

In the lead up to the conference, as part of a #PreparePerformRecover campaign, player welfare related resources will be promoted across [www.gaa.ie](http://www.gaa.ie), <http://learning.gaa.ie/player> and the GAA's many social media channels to assist players, coaches and clubs as they plan for the 2018 season.

The GAA Player Conference will take place in Croke Park from 9.45am until 3.15pm on Saturday 17th February 2018. Spaces are limited so to book your place, and for further information see <http://learning.gaa.ie/player>

For further information please contact [playerwelfare@gaa.ie](mailto:playerwelfare@gaa.ie) / 01-8658610

# IRELAND LIGHTS UP WITH THE GAA

**The GAA, in partnership with RTÉ's Operation Transformation, is seeking to bring together communities across the 32 counties to enjoy healthy walks in the safe, bright environs of their GAA club.**

In a bid to make exercise more accessible on the dark winter nights, 'Ireland Lights Up' will see participating clubs turn on their floodlights/lighting systems between 7pm-9pm each Monday for a six-week period (22nd January – 26th February, 2018) as Operation Transformation returns to our screens in the New Year.

Each Monday, club and community members will be invited to come together at participating clubs to walk off the Christmas excess, catch up with their neighbours, and banish the winter blues. (Walking is proven to benefit both our physical and mental health.) GAA clubs are already becoming hubs for health through the Healthy Clubs Project, with at least one Healthy Club in each county.

During the six-week period Operation Transformation cameras will visit a selection of participating clubs across the series, with all clubs encouraged to capture their stories via videos and images for use on the show, GAA.ie, and RTE's various platforms.

The GAA is seeking expressions of interest from clubs that are keen to participate in 'Ireland Lights Up', which is also supported by Healthy Ireland and Get Ireland Walking (GIW). Clubs that complete the registration process and adhere to the necessary criteria will be covered by GIW's insurance for all walk leaders and participants.

However, irrespective of GAA membership status, leaders and participants are not covered by the GAA Injury Benefit Fund for this initiative. **Closing date for submission is December 31st at 5pm.**

**To participate, clubs MUST comply with certain criteria, including:**

1. Register your club and at least two walking leaders free-of-charge with GIW at <http://www.getirelandwalking.ie/GAA/>. This extends additional indemnity cover to the club in addition to the GAA's public liability cover (be sure to click yes on this box on the registration form).
2. Ensure your club has a current health and safety statement in place and completes a documented hazard inspection of the proposed walking track/route in the club. All floodlighting must be checked prior to the commencement of each walk
3. Ensure your club can provide a safe, floodlit location for the 'Ireland Lights

Up' walk each Monday between January 22-February 26, 2018. This should only take place on a purpose-built walking track/surface.

4. The club can decide (and promote to its members and communities) what time between 7pm-9pm each Monday the lights will be turned on. (It can be all or some of this period, depending on walk leader availability, floodlight resources etc.)
5. A registration of all participating walkers must be taken each night. This is will provided in the support pack once your club signs up. This is once again designed to protect the club from exposure to insurance risk and to allow us tally final numbers to evaluate the success of 'Ireland Lights Up'.

**For any more information please contact the GAA's National Health & Wellbeing Coordinator Stacey Cahill at [stacey.cahill@gaa.ie](mailto:stacey.cahill@gaa.ie) or 01 8192387.**





# GAA 15 INJURY PREVENTION PROGRAMME

**T** Medical, Scientific and Welfare Committee in conjunction with a working group comprising of experts including Dr. Catherine Blake, Prof. Niall Moyna and Dr. Kieran Moran have developed the GAA 15, a standardised warm-up programme aimed at reducing the number of injuries sustained by GAA players.

Recent research carried out in IT Carlow has shown that using the GAA 15 can significantly reduce lower limb related training injuries by up to 45% in adolescent males.

The programme, including video tutorials on the exercises involved is available at the following link:

<http://learning.gaa.ie/GAA15> and  
<http://activategaa.sini.co.uk/>



# GAA CARDIAC SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE

**The GAA advise that the most effective way to identify risk of cardiac issues is for players over the age of 14 to undergo cardiac screening on one occasion.**

It is also advised that this process be repeated before the age of 25. Players should consult their team or family doctor if they wish to get screened and screening should consist of completion of the GAA's Cardiac Screening Questionnaire, a Physical Examination and an ECG.

For further information, including the Cardiac Screening Questionnaire see: <http://learning.gaa.ie/node/110300>

**Is your  
GAA club  
ready to ACT?**



The following video shows the value of a defib as a life saving device at a club fixture in 2015.

Accessible – make sure that your defibrillator is stored in an area where ACCESS is not restricted, remember time is critical. Specialised units are available for outdoor storage.



Charged – Ensure that your defibrillator is fully CHARGED and that self-tests have passed by carrying out weekly inspections. Ensure that your battery and pads (pad-paks) have not reached their expiry date.

Trained – Ensure there are enough TRAINED rescuers to respond anytime the Clubhouse or pitches are occupied.

Certified training courses are available from

- **the Irish Heart Foundation** ([www.irishheart.ie](http://www.irishheart.ie))
- **Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council** ([www.phecit.ie](http://www.phecit.ie))
- **Heart Safety Solutions** ([www.hearts.ie](http://www.hearts.ie))
- **The Cormac Trust** ([www.thecormactrust.com](http://www.thecormactrust.com)) (Ulster only)

Further information on the GAA Defibrillator Scheme, including the association's guidelines for clubs and the defib purchase and trade in scheme see:

<http://learning.gaa.ie/Defibrillator%20Scheme>



## PUTTING CHILDREN FIRST

**O**n 11 December 2017 the remaining provisions of the Children First Act commenced in full. Most notably for the GAA our immediate requirements include adopting all provisions in relation to mandatory reporting of child abuse, ensuring the appointment of what can be termed key child safeguarding officers which include Designated Liaison Persons and Children's Officers at Club and County level and also appointing the Association's Mandated Person, we must also provide certain child safeguarding training programmes and commence the process to agree a Child Safeguarding Statement for all Clubs.

The commencement of the Act and the publication of the Children First Guidance documents have all thrown up a number of questions and issues of clarification that Coaches, Parents, Children and Club and County Officials have been asking of late. It is worth noting that where aspects of the Act impose certain requirements on our Associations or raise the threshold of good practice in our work with children in the Republic of Ireland all of these requirements, as they arise, will apply not just within the geographical jurisdiction of the Act but across the island of Ireland as well.

This leaflet seeks to raise awareness as to the implications of the Act on GAA Clubs in particular and to draw attention to the links between the Children First Act and other children's related legislation, all of

which promote the safety and protection of children.

GAA Clubs should have no apprehensions about the full commencement of the Act as any Club that has engaged with our safeguarding requirements to date will have knowledge of child safeguarding training requirements, the need to vet various personnel that work with children and the requirements to appoint key child safeguarding officers as described above (Designated Liaison Persons, Children's Officers or the Association's Mandated Person) all of whom should now be in place. In addition to the above we recognise and support the principle that anybody in our Association who may have a reasonable

concern about a child's welfare should report their concern to Tusla and if any of our safeguarding personnel can assist in this process, they should willing do so.

What is Children First?

Children First is the title for both the National Guidance that promotes the protection of children from abuse and neglect and it is also refers to the legislation of the same name.

What's the difference between the Children First Act and the Guidance?

Both The Children First Act 2015 (the Act) and the Guidance work in tandem with each other. It's not unusual for legislation to be accompanied by guidance but in relation to this Act it is vital that such a

publication is made available to statutory and voluntary bodies so as to assist us and guide us in adhering to our responsibilities. The Children First Act, initially passed into law in 2015, provides for the framework in which regulations on mandatory reporting, inter-agency cooperation and the statutory obligations on organisations and agencies that work with children apply.

The Children First Guidance 2017 is a resource booklet reflecting what is contained in the Children First Act 2015. It is intended that the Guidance will assist people in recognising different forms of child abuse, and in reporting reasonable concerns to Tusla. It outlines what organisations need to do to keep children safe, and what different bodies and the general public should do if they are concerned about the safety and welfare of children.

What is Tusla - the Child and Family Agency?  
Tusla – the Child and Family Agency is the dedicated State agency responsible for improving wellbeing and outcomes for children. The agency operates under the Child and Family Agency Act 2013, a major piece of legislation which has children at its heart and views healthy families as the foundation of a strong healthy community where children can flourish.

What are the major issues that a GAA Club should be aware of now?  
Children First Guidance makes references to aspects of the Act that commenced on 11



December with other sections that require to be fulfilled or to be in place by 11 March 2018, three months later. The Act also by extension references other matters including vetting.

To simplify matters this leaflet highlights a number of issues that arise immediately or issues that we must address by March 2018, with relevant on-line links provided as appropriate.

- **Vetting**

In accordance with vetting legislation, also referred to in the Children First Guidance, all persons who have a regulated role with children, (i.e. coaches, referees, Bord na nÓg members, parents who regularly assist in the GAA) must be vetted under the Vetting Act by 1 January 2018. Indeed, according to GAA rules and Children First they should have been vetted by now. There are no exceptions to this directive. If a person, who has not been vetted, continues to act in any of the above roles after 1st January 2018 they will be breaking the law as may their Club for offering or facilitating such a role. Vetting regulations stipulate that a vetting applicant must be at least 16 yrs. of age when submitting their application. The GAA Vetting Policy states that once vetted an applicant shall be re-vetted within a five year period.

**GAA vetting links:**

**National (Garda) Vetting Bureau Vetting** <http://www.gaa.ie/the-gaa/child-welfare-and-protection/vetting> or **AccessNI vetting:** <http://ulster.gaa.ie/safeguarding/access-ni/>

- **Appointing a Children’s Officer**  
The recent Child Welfare & Safeguarding Audit shows that of the 1,038 GAA Clubs that participated in the Audit only 7 had yet to appoint a Club Children’s Officer. This is encouraging as the role and its remit shall be a key component of the Club Safeguarding Statement to be published in March 2018. If your Club has yet to appoint your Club Children’s Officer please do so immediately and also ensure they are actively in membership of your Club Executive Committee.

- **Appointing a Designated Liaison Person (DLP)**  
Each Club and County Board must appoint a Designated Liaison Person (DLP) who shall act as a resource, and is responsible for ensuring that reporting procedures within the Club/County are followed so that child welfare and protection concerns are referred promptly to Tusla. They will naturally liaise with the Association’s Mandated Person as required. The DLP should record all concerns brought to their attention and the actions taken.

If a DLP is making a report to Tusla they should do by using the Child Protection and Welfare Report Form (CPWRF) <http://www.tusla.ie/children-first/publications-and-forms#SRP>

The Club or County Chairperson automatically assumes the role of DLP unless another person is chosen and ratified to undertake the role. The DLP should have a knowledge of categories and indicators of abuse, attend the DLP training workshop, and be familiar as required with GAA reporting procedures. The DLP should be ratified on an annual



basis by their Club or County and must attend the Association’s DLP training in 2018.

In the GAA if a DLP is in receipt of a child welfare and protection concern and they report this to Tusla or for whatever reason they choose not to report to Tusla they are required, regardless of which option taken, to also report their actions to the GAA Mandated Person. This shall assist the

Association in fulfilling any necessary and legal follow up requirements. Reports to the GAA Mandated Person should be forwarded to [mandatedperson@gaa.ie](mailto:mandatedperson@gaa.ie).

- **Appointing a Mandated Person**  
The Act imposes a statutory obligations on the GAA, and many others, to appoint a Mandated Person whose role shall be to report child protection concerns over



a defined threshold to Tusla and to assist Tusla, if requested, in assessing a concern which has been the subject of a mandated report. Other sectors also have Mandated Persons and these include social workers, medical practitioners, teachers, members of an Garda Síochána, youth workers and many more. The Mandated Person shall by the nature of their role, liaise regularly and as required with Association DLPs. DLPs are not Mandated Persons within the meaning of the Act. The GAA Mandated Person is Gearóid Ó Maoilmhichíl. [mandatedperson@gaa.ie](mailto:mandatedperson@gaa.ie)

- **What is Mandated Reporting?** Mandated persons are required to fulfil their obligations attached to mandated reporting and to be aware that the legal obligations to report mandated concerns rest with them and not with the DLP. The Mandated Person's role shall be to report child protection concerns over a defined threshold to Tusla and to assist Tusla, if requested, in assessing a concern which has been the subject of a mandated report.

- **Child Safeguarding (Protection) Training** Child Safeguarding Training is highlighted in Children First as being mandatory and is required for the level of child safeguarding engagement one has in the Association. While we have maintained this level of training to date including a requirement that a basic coaching qualification cannot now be achieved without such training all such practices are now mandatory. Three levels of Child Safeguarding Training are now in place in the GAA as follows and attendance is dependent on what role a person may have in relation to children. All training is delivered in workshop format and all are of three hours duration each and are endorsed

by agreement with Sport Ireland.  
Safeguarding 1 - Child Protection in Sport Awareness Workshops relevant to coaches and others who work in a regulated role with children in the Association.  
Safeguarding 2 – Club Children's Officer Training for Club Children's Officer  
Safeguarding 3 – Designated Liaison Person Training for DLPS in Clubs

- **Coaching Qualification** GAA safeguarding codes have for a number of years promoted the practice that all coaches who work with children must have a minimum coaching qualification. It makes sense and such practices have benefitted not just the coaches but also the children and the Clubs with whom they play. Given the standards contained in Children First this requirement is even clearer now and it has been enshrined in our Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport and will also be referenced in our Child Safeguarding Statement. Confirmation of compliance shall be required by March 2018.

- **Risk Assessment** procedures and publishing a Child Safeguarding Statement

**Risk Assessment:** The Children First Guidance states that providers of relevant services to children must carry out a comprehensive risk assessment of their services and develop Child Safeguarding Statements thereafter. The purpose of the risk assessment is to ensure as far as is reasonably practicable, that a child availing of our services in the GAA is safe from 'harm' and we must specify the procedures in place to manage any identified risks. Each Club Executive shall be provided with a risk assessment template which must be formally discussed at an Executive

meeting. The Executive must minute and date the discussion. Following completion of this process they may then proceed to ratify a Child Safeguarding Statement for their Club and to display the statement as well.

- **Child Safeguarding Statement** The GAA Child Safeguarding Statement shall specify the services provided by the GAA and the principles and procedures to be observed to ensure, as far as practicable, that a child availing of our services is safe from harm. Reflective of our risk assessment procedure it shall be issued in poster format highlighting procedures such as Recruitment, the new Code of Behaviour (Underage), Safeguarding Training, Reporting Procedures, Children's Officers roles, DLPs etc. It shall be provided by the GAA for all of our Clubs.

- **New Code of Behaviour (Underage)** To coincide with certain obligations under Children First, which come into effect in March 2018, the GAA in collaboration with LGFA, Camogie, Handball and Rounders shall publish a new and enhanced joint Code of Behaviour (Underage). This Code will replace the existing Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport (Our Games Our Code) and while limited copies may be printed for distribution it shall primarily be made available in disc format and on-line. It shall in updated format reflect much of what is contained in the current Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport with some additional sections devised in response to needs highlighted of late by Clubs and County Boards.

- **Can you appoint a 15 yr. old as a coach?** In accordance with the 'Vetting Act' and Children First Guidance 2017 it is compulsory for any person who is carrying

out relevant work with children to obtain a vetting disclosure. In the GAA this applies to coaches, referees, Bord na nÓg members, parents who regularly assist in the GAA and other roles as may be defined at local level. Vetting regulations do NOT permit us to vet an individual unless they are at least 16 yrs. of age. Given this legal requirement it is not therefore permissible for a 15 yr. old to be a coach as they cannot be vetted. It is also not permissible for a person to undertake a coach Educating Qualification in the GAA unless they are 16 yrs. of age.

**Gaelic Games Mandated Persons**  
GAA Gearóid Ó Maoilmhichíl  
[mandatedperson@gaa.ie](mailto:mandatedperson@gaa.ie)

**HANDBALL** John Kelly  
[mandatedperson.handball@gaa.ie](mailto:mandatedperson.handball@gaa.ie)

To download the Tusla Child Protection and Welfare Report Form (CPWRF) go to: <http://www.tusla.ie/children-first/publications-and-forms#SRP>





<b>REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>WHO</b>	<b>DATE OF COMPLIANCE</b>
<b>VETTING</b>	<i>Vetting of all persons who work with children</i>	Required immediately under legislation
<b>CHILDREN'S OFFICER</b>	<i>The Club Children's Officer in all Sports Clubs is required by agreement with Sport Ireland</i>	Required immediately
<b>DESIGNATED LIAISON PERSON</b>	<i>DLPs must be appointed in each Club in accordance with the Guidance</i>	Required immediately
<b>MANDATED PERSON</b>	<i>Appointed by GAA Central Council</i>	Required immediately
<b>MANDATED REPORTING</b>	<i>A function of the Mandated Person to fulfil</i>	Required immediately
<b>SAFEGUARDING TRAINING</b>	<i>Three levels of Safeguarding Training available: 1 - Child Protection in Sport Awareness Workshops 2 - Club Children's Officer 3 - DLP</i>	Required immediately
<b>COACHING QUALIFICATON</b>	<i>Will form part of the new Code of Behaviour (Underage) and the Child Safeguarding Statement</i>	Required by March 2018 under GAA Child Safeguarding statement
<b>RISK ASSESSEMNT PROCEDURE</b>	<i>The GAA shall issue a risk assessment procedure for all Clubs that must be discussed and agreed by the Club before they display the follow up Child Safeguarding Statement</i>	Required by March 2018
<b>CHILD SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT</b>	<i>To be issued by all Clubs and must be put on display by March 2018. Statement shall be provided by the GAA for our Clubs.</i>	Required by March 2018
<b>CODE OF BEHAVIOUR (UNDERAGE)</b>	<i>This Code replaces the Code of Best Practice in Youth Sport and shall be launched to coincide with the GAA Child Safeguarding Statement</i>	Available March 2018





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# DEVELOPMENT FUND OPEN FOR DEPOSITS FROM CLUBS

**T**he Development Fund is a **Deposit and Loan Scheme** which was set up to help provide finance for Clubs when purchasing and developing grounds and facilities.

Clubs should be aware that the Development Fund is open for deposits.

- **Interest is 1.9% on Deposits and Loans**
- **No DIRT (Deposit Interest Retention Tax)**
- **Lotto Jackpots would be a good place for Clubs to start when depositing into the Fund**

The fund is not currently open for loans but efforts are underway to reopen it with the help of deposits from Clubs. A separate sterling Development Fund will also be set up in the near future, to help combat exchange rates.

Clubs which have deposited money into the scheme will have priority when it comes to obtaining loans from the fund.

Deposit Forms are available from GAA National Finance in Croke Park, to request one, please email [kathy.slattery@gaa.ie](mailto:kathy.slattery@gaa.ie) / [rebekah.evans@gaa.ie](mailto:rebekah.evans@gaa.ie)





# INJURY BENEFIT FUND

**DID YOU KNOW ?**

€9M – The amount of money paid by the GAA nationally every year to the Injury Benefit Fund

70% of this fund goes on medical expenses

**The GAA has entered into Preferred Medical Provider Agreements with a network of hospitals and clinics countrywide with effect from the 1st October 2017.**

The key aim is to help reduce medical costs and to deliver quality healthcare to our registered members through the GAA Injury Benefit Fund.

### What is the Preferred Medical Provider Initiative?

Through the operation of the GAA Injury Benefit Fund, which costs Cumann Lúthchleas Gael €9,000,000 to fund per year, medical expenses make up over 70% of the claims payments issued. Given this significant cost, Cumann Lúthchleas Gael approached hospitals and clinics countrywide with a view to agreeing preferred prices for our registered members

who present at these hospitals/clinics following an accidental bodily injury sustained while playing in an official competitive match/ sanctioned challenge match or taking part in an official supervised training session on a team registered under the Fund and for which full payment of registration fees has been received in Croke Park. Furthermore, Cumann Lúthchleas Gael have also obtained service commitments from the Preferred Medical Providers which will help in delivering

quality healthcare to our registered members and enhance our commitment to Player Medical Welfare.

### Who are the Preferred Medical Providers?

The following are the list of Preferred Medical Providers who have agreed to work with us on this initiative. It is our intention to build working relationships with the listed providers in the long-term which we hope will provide further benefits to our registered members.

Preferred Medical Provider	Locations	Telephone Number	Website
<b>Aut Even Hospital</b>	Kilkenny	056 7775275	<a href="http://www.autevenhospital.ie">www.autevenhospital.ie</a>
<b>Beacon Hospital</b>	Dublin	01 2936600	<a href="http://www.beaconhospital.ie">www.beaconhospital.ie</a>
<b>Blackrock Clinic</b>	Dublin	01 2832222	<a href="http://www.blackrock-clinic.ie">www.blackrock-clinic.ie</a>
<b>Bon Secours Hospital Group</b>	Cork, Dublin, Limerick, Kerry, Galway	021 4542807	<a href="http://www.bonsecours.ie">www.bonsecours.ie</a>
<b>Cappagh National Orthopaedic Hospital</b>	Dublin	01 8140800	<a href="http://www.cappagh.ie">www.cappagh.ie</a>
<b>Hermitage Medical Clinic</b>	Dublin	01 645 9000	<a href="http://www.hermitageclinic.ie">www.hermitageclinic.ie</a>
<b>Kingsbridge Private Hospital</b>	Belfast	0845 60 06 352	<a href="http://www.3fivetwo.com">www.3fivetwo.com</a>
<b>Mater Private Group</b>	Dublin, Cork, Limerick	01 8858888	<a href="http://www.materprivate.ie">www.materprivate.ie</a>
<b>North West Independent Hospital</b>	Derry	028 777 63090	<a href="http://www.nwih.co.uk">www.nwih.co.uk</a>
<b>Sports Surgery Clinic</b>	Dublin	01 5262000	<a href="http://www.sportssurgeryclinic.com">www.sportssurgeryclinic.com</a>
<b>St. Francis Private Hospital</b>	Westmeath	044 9385300	<a href="http://www.stfrancisprivatehospital.com">www.stfrancisprivatehospital.com</a>
<b>Ulster Independent Clinic</b>	Belfast	028 9066 1212	<a href="http://www.ulsterindependentclinic.com">www.ulsterindependentclinic.com</a>
<b>Whitfield Clinic</b>	Waterford	051 337400	<a href="http://www.whitfieldclinic.ie">www.whitfieldclinic.ie</a>

# A NEW OPTION FOR YOUR GAA CLUB TRUSTEE

The Corporate Trustee is now an option for Clubs, when considering appointment of Trustees of Clubs.

“*Iontaobhas Corparáideach Chumann Lúthchleas Gael Teoranta*”

The Corporate Trustee is a separate legal entity, a Trust Company, called “Iontaobhas Corparáideach Chumann Lúthchleas Gael Teoranta”, set up by the GAA. The Trust Company holds the property for and on behalf of the Club.

Clubs can now opt to hold property through the Corporate Trustee. Holding property through the Corporate Trustee does not affect the ownership in any way but can have advantages in the way of continuous amendments to the title is avoided when trustees die or retire. This will save on legal costs to the Club. This also takes the pressure off of individual Trustees and avoids the publishing of names should court proceedings take place. The Corporate Trustee is optional.

There are three options available to clubs:

**OPTION 1** - Clubs may elect to do nothing and to continue to hold Club property through personal Trustees.

**OPTION 2** - Clubs may elect to introduce a partial change in that case property is held by a combination of personal trustees and the Corporate Trustee.

**OPTION 3** - Clubs may elect to have property held only through the Corporate Trustee.

**Should Clubs want to know more information or wish to appoint the Corporate Trustee, they should contact the National Finance Department of Croke Park,  
Tel: 01 8363222**

# BIG NAMES LINED UP FOR GAA GAMES DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE 2018

**A**nother stellar line up of elite coaching expertise has been assembled for the GAA's Games Development Conference which is expected to sell out next month.

The GAA Games Development Conference 2018 is being developed in partnership with Sky Sports and will take place on Friday and Saturday, January 12th and 13th 2018 in Croke Park.

Friday, January 12th will feature a Youth Development forum that will investigate many of the issues related to ensuring that player are provided with an adequate programme of games, appropriate to their needs and abilities. Speakers will present on a number of initiatives that have been developed to complement the formal games programme. Speakers include Martin Fogarty (GAA Hurling Development Manager), Shane O'Sullivan (Ballygunner and Waterford Hurler), Micheál Quirke (former Kerry Senior Footballer) and Brian Cuthbert (former Cork Senior Football manager).

Saturday, January 13th provides an opportunity for delegates to attend sessions from speakers of national and internal renowned covering topics relevant to the player, the coach, the game and the

environment. Speakers include:

- Paul McGinley, Professional Golfer and Captain of the European team for the Ryder Cup 2014
- Stuart Lancaster, Senior Coach, Leinster Rugby
- Stephen McDonnell, former Armagh Senior Footballer
- Peter Canavan, former Tyrone Senior Footballer
- Martin Fogarty, National Hurling Development Manager
- Brendan Cummins, former Tipperary Senior Hurler
- Diarmuid Lyng, former Wexford Senior Hurler
- Tony Óg Regan, Galway Minor Hurling team, All Ireland Champions 2017
- Peter Keane, Manager of the Kerry Minor Football team, All Ireland Champions 2017
- Jason Sherlock, Coach Dublin Senior Football team
- Ashley Jones, Strength and Conditioning coach, formerly coach to the New Zealand All Blacks

Tickets cost €60 and are available to purchase from the dedicated ticket site at <http://learning.gaa.ie/coach>



**GAA Games Development Conference**

*In conjunction with Camogie, Handball, Ladies Gaelic Football and Rounders*

**Venue: Croke Park**

**Dates: 12 - 13th January 2018**

**Theme: Think It - Do It - Become It**





Football

Hurling

Club

General

## MÍLE BUÍOCHAS

Thank you to all of those who have contributed to this month's edition of the GAA Club Newsletter. Your feedback is welcome and any comments, suggestions or queries should be directed to [clubnewsletter@gaa.ie](mailto:clubnewsletter@gaa.ie).

Produced by the GAA Communications Department in Croke Park, Edited by Cian Ó Murchadha and designed by DBA Publications in Blackrock, Co Dublin.