

## Kevin McVeigh Children's Officer Report for 2020 season

### **Background**

My role as Children's Officer within Galbally Pearses football club is to ensure the implementation and promotion of the relevant GAA Child Welfare Codes and Guidelines for good practice throughout the Club, so that young people in our club can participate, enjoy and benefit from our Gaelic Games in safe and enjoyable surroundings. In my role I work closely with our Youth Officer Paddy Corrigan.

### **Policies**

A copy of all GAA policies adopted by the club is available to view on the Galbally Pearses Website. These policies are in line with the GAA codes of best practice issued by GAA central committee, Croke Park.

A key document I want to highlight is **The GAA Code of Behaviour, Underage**, which Galbally Pearses first adopted four years ago and was updated by the GAA three years ago. The Joint Code is a publication by the GAA, Ladies Gaelic Football Association, the Camogie Association, GAA Handball Ireland, and the Rounders Council of Ireland. The Code applies to all persons under 18 years of age who participate in our games or other activities and to those who work with them and assist them in any capacity on behalf of the GAA. The Code expresses clearly how the welfare of the child shall always be paramount consideration within our club and outlines the rights and expectations of u18 players, coaches, parents and guardians supporters and referees.

I encourage all our members particularly players and coaches to make themselves familiar with this document. I have copies for anyone who would like one.

### **Child Protection Training and Vetting**

Child Protection Training and Vetting are essential requirements for all volunteers within our club.

It is recommended by Ulster GAA that vetting and child protection training should be renewed every **three** years. As many of our members were vetted and attended Child Protection Training in February 2017 a Child Protection Workshop took place in the committee room on the 25 February 2020 with 24 volunteers successfully completing the training. I have vetting forms available for anyone who wants to volunteer in our club.

### **Feile preparation**

Galbally Pearses were selected to host the u14 boys and girls Feile which was due to take place in June 2020. As part of the clubs preparations all host families completed vetting applications which were forwarded to Ulster Council in a timely manner. Unfortunately the u14 Feile did not go ahead due to the Covid Pandemic.

## **Galbally Welfare week June 2020**

Due to the Covid Pandemic concerns were raised about the mental health of our all club members who were feeling the emotional impact of not being at school, work or able to participate in Gaelic games. In collaboration with the Primary School the club organised Galbally Welfare week, in mid June, which involved a series of Zoom resilience seminars by Stephen Beattie, specifically tailored to address the emotional and wellbeing of all our males and female club members. Overall there was an excellent response from school and from the club with good attendance and excellent feedback overall. I would like to thank Stephen Beattie for his help in making Galbally Welfare week so successful.

### **Welfare issues/questions**

In the event anyone has any concerns about welfare issues within the club please contact;

Kevin McVeigh - Children's' Officer

Paddy Corrigan – Youth Officer

Michelle Nugent - Designated Person

Noel McKeown - Chairperson