

## **Club Designated Person**

The Designated Person will be responsible for dealing with any concerns about the protection of children. The Designated Person is responsible for reporting allegations or suspicions of child abuse to the Health Service Executive (rOI) or Health and Social Care Trust (NI) and/or An Garda Síochána/PSNI.

The Club Designated Person should:

- Have knowledge of the Irish Sports Council 'Code of Ethics & Good Practice for Youth Sport' and 'Children First' (rOI guidelines) or Co-operating to Safeguard Children (NI guidelines)
- Have knowledge of categories and indicators of abuse
- Undertake a 'Basic Awareness Workshop' provided by Gymnastics Ireland or a local Sports Partnership Be familiar with and able to carry out reporting procedures as outlined in section five of this booklet Communicate with Parents/Guardians and/or external agencies as appropriate
- Assist with Code of Best Practice training needs within the Club
- Liaise with Club and National Children's Officer in relation to Code of Best Practice training needs
- Be aware of local contacts and services relating to child protection
- Advise Club Administrators on issues of confidentiality, record keeping and data protection
- Keep a log of any issues raised
- To attend any internal information sessions and seminars organised by Gymnastics Ireland for Designated Persons

It is important to remember that the Children's Officer or Designated Person do not have the responsibility of investigating or validating child protection concerns within their Club and have no counselling or therapeutic role. These roles are filled by the Statutory Authorities as outlined by 'Children First' and 'Our Duty to Care'.

It is however possible that child protection concerns will be brought to the attention of the Children's Officer (or Designated Person) and it is essential that they discuss all concerns with the Designated Person and follow the correct procedures as outlined in 'Children First/ Co-operating to Safeguard Children'.

The Gymnastics Ireland National Children's Officer will work with Club Officials to further develop a quality atmosphere within Clubs.

(If there are difficulties identifying individuals for these roles, the Children's Officer can be appointed as the Designated Person once the individual and Club are clear about the responsibilities of each role).