



## Aghaderg GAC & Ballyvarley HC



### Child Protection Procedures

In accordance with Aghaderg GAC & Ballyvarley HC Child Protection Statement Aghaderg GAC & Ballyvarley HC is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for all young people who wish to participate in our Gaelic Games and activities. We shall take all practicable steps to protect them from discernible forms of abuse, from harm, discrimination or degrading treatment and shall respect their rights, wishes and feelings.

Staff and volunteers accept and recognise their responsibility to provide an environment which promotes the safety of the child at all times. To achieve this we will require all volunteers, coaches and administrators to follow the attached guidance and procedures.

#### AWARENESS OF THE ISSUES

Background knowledge in relation to child abuse, the general principles of child protection and the ability to recognise and respond to abuse are important issues. Of primary concern for Aghaderg GAC & Ballyvarley HC is the issue of Child Protection of our young members within the operation of the club. However, being cognisant of the indicators of abuse in respect of young members caused by others outside the club, is of an equal importance for the safety and well being of that child.

#### The Children (NI) Order 1995 formally recognises four types of abuse -

**Physical** abuse is the deliberate physical injury to a child, or the wilful or neglectful failure to prevent physical injury or suffering. This may include hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, confinement to a room or cot, inappropriately giving drugs to control behaviour.

**Neglect** is the persistent failure to meet a child's physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in significant harm. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate foods, shelter and clothing, failing to protect a child from physical harm or danger, failing to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment, lack of stimulation or lack of supervision. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, child's basic emotional needs.

**Sexual** abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non penetrative acts. They may include non contact activities, such as involving children in looking at or the production of pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.



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**Emotional abuse** is the persistent emotional ill treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child’s emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may involve causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Smothering a child’s development through over-protection can also be a form of abuse. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of ill treatment of a child, though it may occur alone. Domestic violence, adult mental health problems and parental substance misuse may expose children to emotional abuse.

In addition to these Aghaderg GAC & Ballyvarley HC recognise that we have a responsibility to:

***“protect children from bullying and to have policies and procedures in places to do so” (see Aghaderg GAC & Ballyvarley HC Bullying policy).***

**Co-operating to Safeguard Children DHSS&PS, 2017**



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### INDICATORS OF ABUSE

The following is a list of some indicators of abuse, but it is not exhaustive:

PHYSICAL INDICATORS	BEHAVIOURAL INDICATORS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unexplained bruising in soft tissue areas</li><li>• Repeated injuries</li><li>• Black eyes</li><li>• Injuries to the mouth</li><li>• Torn or bloodstained clothing</li><li>• Burns or scalds</li><li>• Bites</li><li>• Fractures</li><li>• Marks from implements</li><li>• Inconsistent stories/excuses relating to injuries</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unexplained changes in behaviour - becoming withdrawn or aggressive</li><li>• Difficulty in making friends</li><li>• Distrustful of adults or excessive attachment to adults</li><li>• Sudden drop in performance</li><li>• Changes in attendance pattern</li><li>• Inappropriate sexual awareness, behaviour or language</li><li>• Reluctance to remove clothing</li></ul>

### Guidelines for responding to a disclosure:

#### DO's

- Stay calm.
- Take what is said to you seriously
- ask questions for the purpose of clarification only
- Listen & hear. Give the person time to say what they want
- Reassure them that they have done the right thing in telling and that it will be dealt with appropriately.
- Explain and ensure that the young person understands the procedures which will follow
- Record in writing what was said as soon as possible
- Report to someone else in the organisation - "the designated person".
- Record your report.
- Treat all information received in a confidential manner

#### DON'Ts

- Panic.
- Promise to keep secrets.
- Enquire into the details of the abuse.
- Make a child repeat the story unnecessarily.
- make a judgmental statement about the allegation or the alleged abuser



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### **GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING ALLEGATIONS/ INCIDENTS** (An incident could be a child protection issue, theft, bullying, a child running away, abuse from a member of another team, etc.)

- Record all incidents reported or observed on the attached Incident Form. (See Appendix 1)
- Be accurate and factual in the recording of disclosures or allegations.
- Check with the informant /young person to ensure that what has been heard and understood by you is accurate.
- If parents do not wish to have the allegation pursued it should be explained that for the purpose of protecting their own and other children that all allegations must be recorded and reported in line with GAA policy on this matter
- Discuss the incident with the designated person within 24 hours and give a copy of the report to the designated person.
- Do not discuss with anyone especially the person against whom an allegation may have been made and treat the information confidentially, sharing it only with persons who have a right know
- The designated person will be responsible for storing any report in a safe and secure environment
- Where reasonable grounds for concern have been established the Club Designated Person shall report the matter to the relevant authorities as a matter of urgency and to the relevant GAA Designated Person.

#### **Anonymous Complaints**

Anonymous complaints can be difficult to deal with but should not be ignored. In all cases the safety and welfare of the child remains paramount and as such anonymous complaints should be followed up in a discreet manner. Any such complaints relating to possible abuse or other child protection concerns should be brought to the attention of the Designated Person.

Note: It is not the role of a Designated Person or anybody else in the GAA to commence investigation surrounding the allegations of abuse or to interview the person against who an allegation has been made or interview others that may have been subject to the allegation. This role shall be carried out by the statutory authorities in the relevant jurisdiction in which the Association

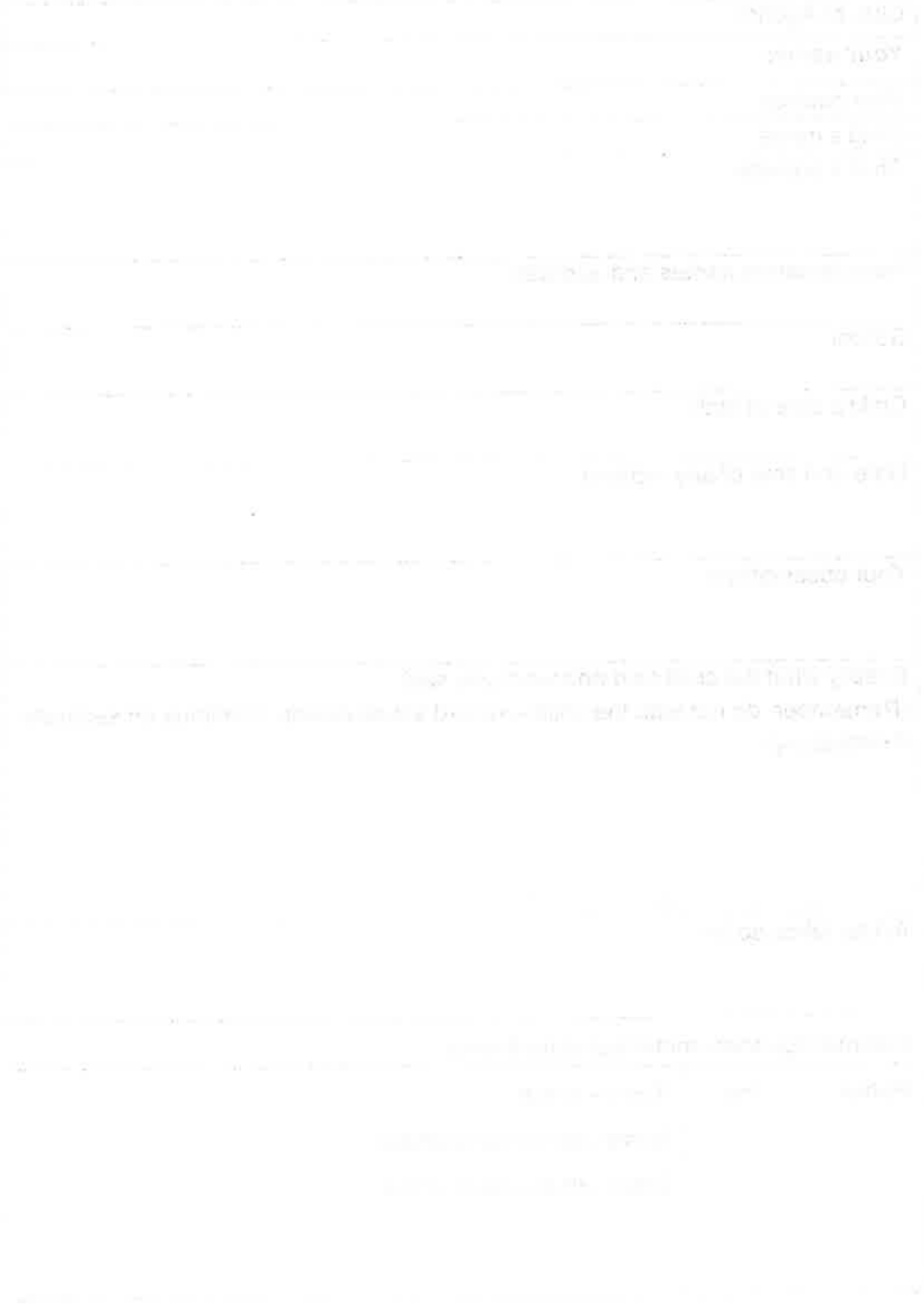


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These brief guidelines should be read in conjunction with the following:

**Appendix 2 if the concern is about the behaviour of a member of Aghaderg GAC & Ballyvarley HC Appendix 3 if concern is about possible abuse outside the organisation.**





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## Aghaderg GAC & Ballyvarley HC Child Protection Procedures

### Appendix 1

#### INCIDENT FORM

Club or Agency:	
<b>Your name:</b>	
Your position:	
Child's name:	
Child's address:	
Parents/carers names and address:	
School:	
Child's date of birth:	
Date and time of any incident:	
Your observations:	
<p>Exactly what the child said and what you said:            (Remember, do not lead the child – record actual details. Continue on separate if necessary)</p>	
<i>Designated Officer Informed to complete as below</i>	
Action taken so far:	
External agencies contacted (date & time)	
<b>Police</b> /no	If yes – which: Name and contact number: Details of advice received:



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<b>Social services</b> / no	If yes – which: Name and contact number: Details of advice received:
<b>Governing Body</b> yes/ Local Council/Education Dept no (If appropriate)	If yes – which: Name and contact number: Details of advice received:
<b>Other</b> (e.g. NSPCC) NO	Which: Name and contact number: Details of advice received:
Signature:	
Print name:	
Date:	

**Remember to maintain confidentiality on a *need to know* basis – only if it will protect the child. Do not discuss this incident with anyone other than those who need to know.**

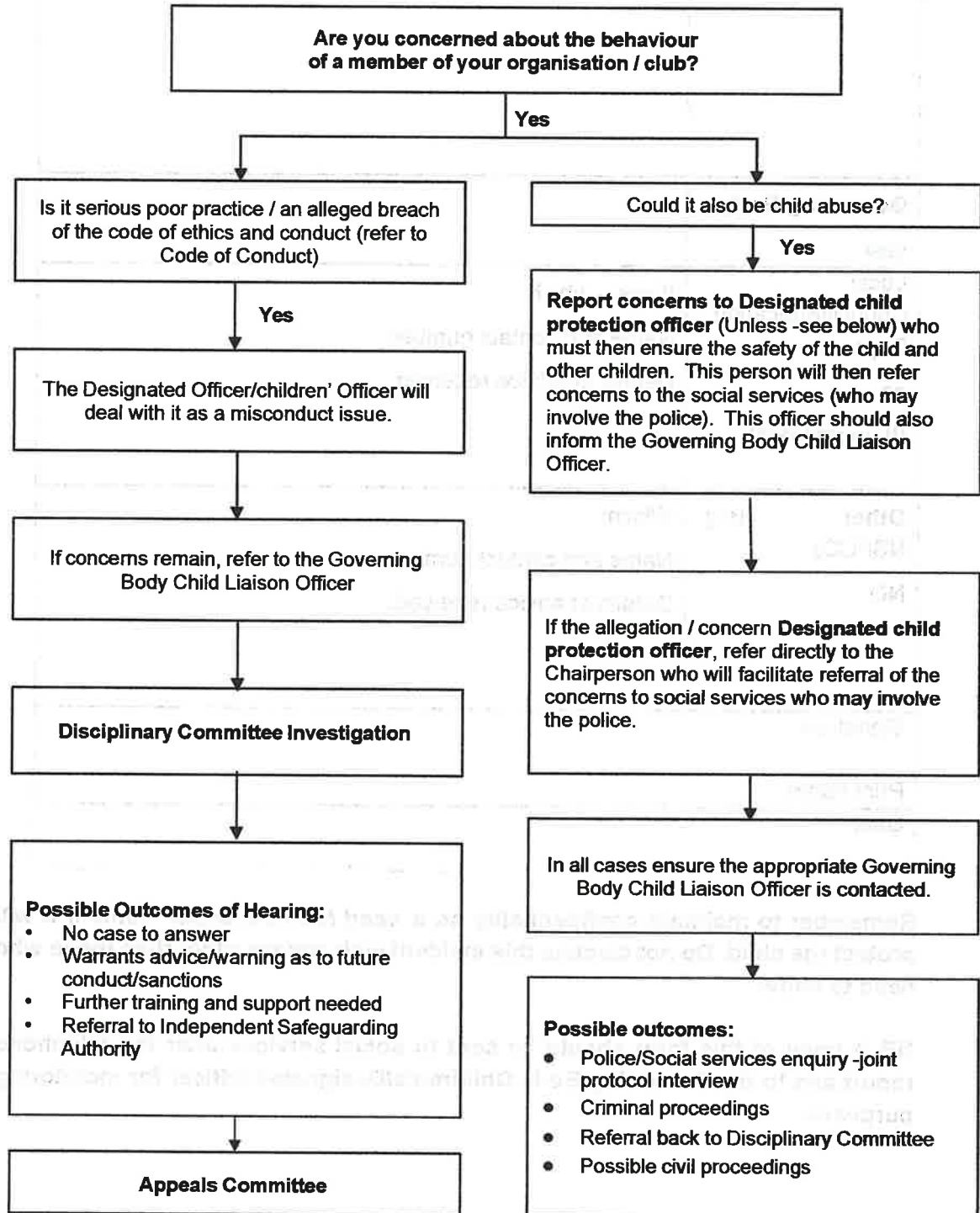
**NB A copy of this form should be sent to social services after the telephone report and to the Governing Body Children's/Designated Officer for monitoring purposes.**



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## APPENDIX 2 Child Protection Procedures REPORTING PROCEDURES RELATING TO BEHAVIOUR OF A MEMBER/VOLUNTEER OF BREDAGH GAC





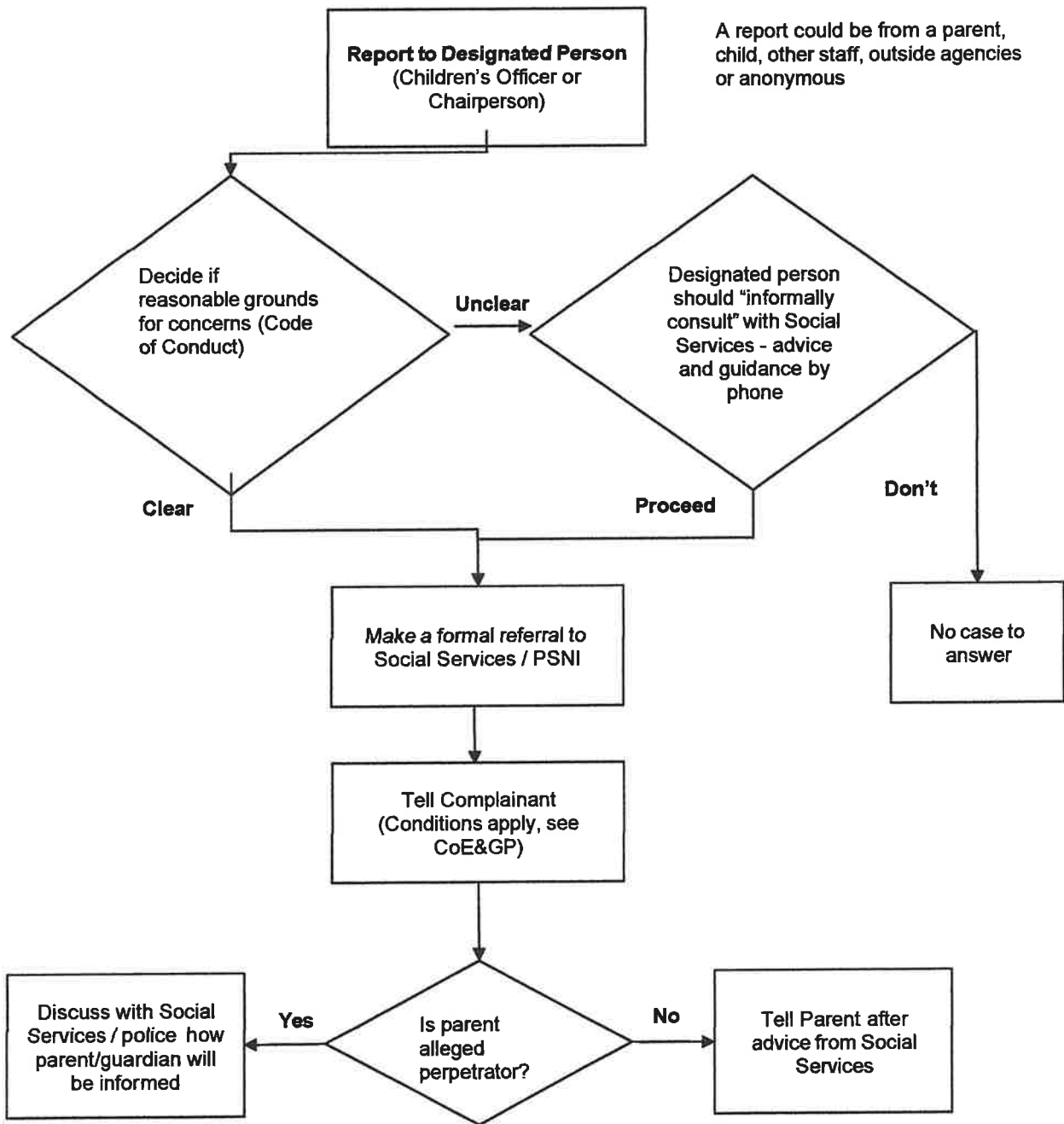


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## APPENDIX 3 Child Protection Procedures

### REPORTING PROCEDURES IF CONCERN ABOUT BEHAVIOUR EXTERNAL TO THE CLUB





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If you do not know who to turn to for advice or are worried about sharing your concerns with a senior colleague, you should contact the Social Services direct (or the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000 or Childline on 0800 1111).

Reporting a concern about a child or young person

