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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### **TEACHTAIREACHT**

Post-Primary Schools are essential parts of the fabric of Cumann Lúthchleas Gael (CLG). They are nurseries for local clubs and counties, not only for players but also for future volunteers and activists. The vitality of Gaelic Games activity in schools is obviously central to the health and well-being of CLG at every level now and in the future. It is imperative, therefore, that we all have and share a clear vision and a coherent strategy to support the 2nd Level Schools sector, and give it a clear steer as to its future direction.

This plan is based entirely on issues identified by the schools themselves in response to a questionnaire which was devised and circulated to 590 schools, 278 of which (47%) responded. These responses revealed 10 major areas of concern which have now all been addressed in the 3 main goals identified in this plan. Crucially, these are practical goals which, when achieved, will make a significant difference to the sector.

Goal 1 focusses on organisational structures and installing 2nd Level Schools firmly within the mainstream of GAA activity at all levels. Goal 2 is concerned with our new Transition Year Future Leaders programme, and the 'Croke Park hours' issue, while Goal 3 aims to enhance coach and player education in a systematic and more accessible manner.

Of course, the publication of this plan only represents the start of our work, rather than its conclusion. We now proceed to the implementation phase, and we do so against a challenging backdrop of budgetary constraints and escalating curricular demands on teachers, while our dependence on their voluntary work in coaching and preparing teams continues. These are tough times for schools, and this backdrop illustrates precisely why there needs to be greater involvement from CLG at club, county, provincial, and national level in support of Gaelic Games in Post-Primary schools.

We have now set up an Implementation Sub-Committee which will oversee the successful delivery of this Action Plan over the next 3 school years; this Plan will be widely circulated in both electronic and printed forms, and there will be extensive follow-up work; the real dividends will be enjoyed at the level of each individual school.....in more mutually beneficial relationships with your feeder clubs and counties, in personal development initiatives for students and staff, and in enhanced provision in the area of coaching.

Ar aghaidh leis an obair anois!

Samos Nechetide

Seamas MacConchoille

Cathaoirleach

An Comhairle Iarbhunscoileanna Náisiunta

## 2. OVERVIEW OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

#### **STEERING GROUP**

In 2015, the Post Primary Committee of the GAA's Central Council appointed a group of volunteers to participate in a Steering Group to develop the plan. The most important responsibilities of the Steering Group included defining the criteria for a successful plan, designing a consultation process for the formulation of the plan and deciding on priorities arising from the consultation.

The Steering Group participants were:

- Seamus Woods (Cathaoirleach)
- Sean Mc Gourty (Uladh)
- Colm Hayes (Mumhan)
- Larry Curtin (Laighean)
- Hugh Rudden (Connacht)
- Brendan Connolly (Páirc an Chrócaigh)

### **DEFINING THE CRITERIA FOR A SUCCESSFUL PLAN**

The Steering Group identified the following criteria:

- 1. The plan should be based on the feedback from Post Primary Schools
- 2. The plan will limit itself to the priority areas identified through the consultation process
- 3. The plan must contain practical actions that are capable of delivery within the next three years
- 4. The plan should be clearly written and easy to understand

### IDENTIFYING THE PRIORITY ACTION AREAS TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE PLAN

The Steering Group identified three priority action areas:

- 1. Collaboration between School and other GAA Units
- 2. Student and Teacher Development
- 3. Coach and Player Education

### DESIGNING A CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR THE FORMULATION OF THE PLAN

Following the formation of the Steering Group, it was decided to seek input from every Post Primary School participating in Gaelic games. The Steering Group designed an 18-question survey which covered a wide range of areas including coach education, player welfare and the links between schools, Clubs, Counties & Provinces. The survey was circulated via each Post Primary Provincial Secretary. Arising from the significant response rate, 10 main areas were identified for action. The Steering Group then used these 10 areas as the basis of this plan. It is envisaged that this Action Plan will address the issues facing the people on the ground, actively working to promote the Post Primary Schools sector.



## 3. HEADLINE PLAN

### **OUR MISSION**

The GAA is a community-based volunteer organisation promoting Gaelic games, Gaelic culture and lifelong participation.

We are dedicated to ensuring that our games and values enrich the lives of our members, families and the communities we serve.

We are committed to active lifelong participation for all and to providing the best facilities.

We actively seek to engage with and include all members of our society.

We promote individual development and well-being, and strive to enable our members to achieve their full potential in their chosen roles.

#### **OUR VISION**

Our vision is that everyone be welcome to participate fully in our games and culture, that they thrive and develop their potential, and be inspired to keep a lifelong engagement with our Association.

### **OUR VALUES**

Values	What this means
Community Identity	<ul> <li>Community is at the heart of our Association</li> <li>Everything we do helps to enrich the communities we serve</li> <li>We foster a clear sense of identity and place</li> <li>We support our members in contributing to the well-being of their respective communities</li> </ul>
Amateur Status	<ul> <li>We are a volunteer-led organisation</li> <li>All our players and members participate in our games as amateurs</li> <li>We provide a games programme at all levels to meet the needs of all our players</li> </ul>
Inclusiveness	<ul> <li>We welcome everyone to be part of our Association</li> <li>We support the needs of all of our members</li> </ul>
Respect	<ul> <li>We respect each other both on and off the playing fields</li> <li>We operate with integrity at all levels</li> <li>We listen and respect the views of all</li> </ul>
Player Welfare	<ul> <li>We provide the best playing experience for all our players</li> <li>We structure our games to allow players of all abilities to reach their potential</li> </ul>
Teamwork	<ul> <li>The cornerstone of our Association is effective teamwork on and off the field</li> <li>Ní neart go cur le chéile (there is no strength without working together)</li> </ul>

### **STATEMENT OF GOALS**

The strategic goals from 2017 to 2020 are:

- 1. To promote integration between Post Primary Schools and all other relevant GAA units
- 2. To develop and deliver Student and Teacher Development Initiatives
- 3. To provide and enhance Coach and Player Education



## 4. GOALS, IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

### GOAL 1:

TO PROMOTE INTEGRATION BETWEEN POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND ALL OTHER RELEVANT GAA UNITS

### **STRATEGIES**

1.1 Establish meaningful links between every School and its feeder Clubs

### To achieve this, we will encourage each school to:

- Establish contact between its Gaelic games personnel and the Youth Officer in each Club
- Identify a liaison officer who will cultivate and maintain such contacts
- Cooperate on matters of mutual interest and potential benefit e.g. player development, coaching arrangements & use of facilities
- Host an annual meeting with feeder Club representatives

### Measure of success:

- The creation of meaningful and enduring links
- 1.2 Secure the creation of an active Post Primary Schools Committee in each County with a representative on the County Committee

### To achieve this. we will:

 Ensure the creation of an active Post Primary Schools Committee in each County with a representative on the County Committee, and on the County Coaching & Games Development Committee.

### Measure of success:

 The number of active Post Primary Schools Committees with a representative on the County Committee in accordance with Riail 3.18(a), and on the County Coaching & Games Development Committee. 1.3 Ensure the hosting of regular meetings between schools' representatives and the applicable County and Provincial Committees

### To achieve this, we will seek to arrange:

- Bi-annual meetings between County Post Primary and County Management Committees
- An annual meeting between each Provincial Post Primary Committee and the relevant Provincial Management Committee, in addition to representation on the Provincial Council as per Riail 3.29.

- Bi-annual meetings between each County Post-Primary Committee and its County Management Committee.
- An annual meeting between each Provincial Post Primary Committee and the relevant Provincial Management Committee.



### GOAL 2:

### TO DEVELOP AND DELIVER STUDENT AND TEACHER DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

### **STRATEGIES**

2.1 Continue to roll out the Future Leaders Transition Year (TY) Pilot Programme in 2017/2018

### To achieve this, we will:

- Collaborate with Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST) personnel to provide training and support for Post Primary teachers in the delivery of the programme
- Provide online resources
- Complete evaluation of the 2016/17 pilot

### Measure of success:

- Engagement with PDST Personnel
- Delivery of a training and support programme for teachers
- Positive outcomes from the programme evaluation
- 2.2 Roll out the Futures Leaders Transition Year (TY) Programme as a National Programme from September 2018 onwards

### To achieve this, we will:

- Arrange in-service training events in Spring 2018
- Refine modules content based on the evaluation of the pilot
- Empower schools to deliver the programme

- Provision of in-service training
- Provision of refined online resources
- Availability of the programme on a national basis

2.3 Design and deliver accredited Staff Training modules for delivery on mandatory staff development occasions

### To achieve this, we will:

- Devise modules in consultation with Games Development personnel at National level
- Pilot the modules
- Acquire GAA & PDST sign-off
- Promote the programme to schools

- Availability of accredited Staff Training modules for delivery
- Uptake



### GOAL 3:

### TO PROVIDE AND ENHANCE COACH & PLAYER EDUCATION

#### **STRATEGIES**

3.1 Devise and deliver a Communications Plan to raise awareness of the wealth of resources available to teachers, coaches and players

### To achieve this, we will:

- Agree the aim and objectives of the Communications Plan
- Consult with the GAA Communications Department on the most effective means of delivery
- Deliver and review the plan on an on-going basis

### Measure of success:

- Production of the documented plan
- Engagement with Communications Department
- An increased awareness of the resources available to schools

3.2 Multiply the use of the official Post Primary Schools Website and Learning Portal

### To achieve this, we will:

- Establish the current level of engagement with the Post Primary Schools Website and GAA Learning Portal
- Devise and deliver a marketing campaign to maximise usage

- Delivery of the marketing campaign
- Significant increase in usage

3.3 Encourage schools to utilise the knowledge, skills and services available from full-time coaching personnel in Counties and Provinces

### To achieve this, we will encourage schools to:

- Pursue the establishment of the links documented in the first goal of this plan
- Engage with Counties and Provinces to:
  - a) Identify the full range of resources available
  - b) Utilise the available personnel, expertise and resources

- Establishment of links
- Deployment of full-time coaching personnel to schools



# NOTES



