



RAHENY ALL STARS

**A GAA Ball Skills initiative for girls and boys
with special needs**



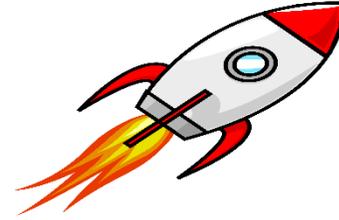


- Founded in 2016 - *My daughter Ella and children like Ella being the inspiration*
- An initiative to include children with special needs in the community into the Raheny GAA club activities
- Was this happening in other nearby clubs?
- *I wanted Ella to have an opportunity to be part of our local GAA club, people in our community would see her and get to know her*
- Main objective is to have children involved in a **regular activity** in a fun and safe environment. This is for children that cannot manage for various reasons in a typical team of their own age.





How we got off the ground



First Point of Contact > *Juvenile Secretary (Neil Kelly) & Mary Lawlor (Mam to Michael)*

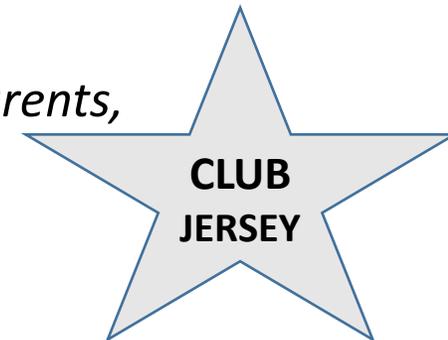
Who can link you to your club executive committee – *ALL ABOARD!!!*

A pilot initiative for a small group of children aged 9yrs – 12yrs was agreed

Initially opened to children of existing club members, followed by the wider community

Get support – parents, interested volunteers, positive people, knowledge/ interest background in special needs, people willing to commit, CHILDREN FIRST

Community partners – *Experts, Club executive, Healthy Club Committee, Club Members, Parents, Sponsors, Schools (TY's) Gaisce, GAA Fun n Run*





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Whats been happening...what works....

- Our numbers have grown to 17 children aged between 8yrs – 13yrs
- A lot of support/ encouragement from various partners
- Positive feedback from parents, other clubs, visitors, **most important the children are happy to come each week**
- Other clubs interested in setting up similar initiative
- Training & Development Coaches
- Guest coaches, Yoga (children & parents), Frisbee Coach
- Setting up a Junior All Stars for younger age group
- Large pool of new coaches each year
- Medal & Certificate Presentation end of season
- Match Coach with Child before session starts

Challenges:

Welfare of Children & Young Coaches
(Clear rules for all – Parental input)
Meeting needs of Children e.g
Differentiating a coaching plan. 1:1 coaching
Vs children needing less support
Integration not Segregation
Administration
Compliance, Safe Guarding,
Garda Vetting
Organising Group – Get Commitment/ Rota/Plan
Manage Time – Constantly On
Communication needs of the children



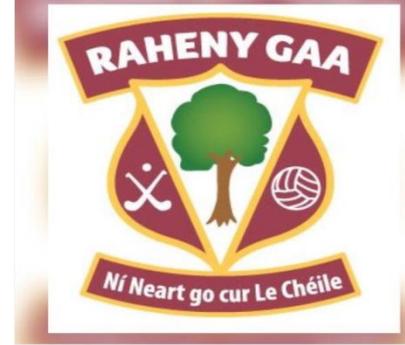




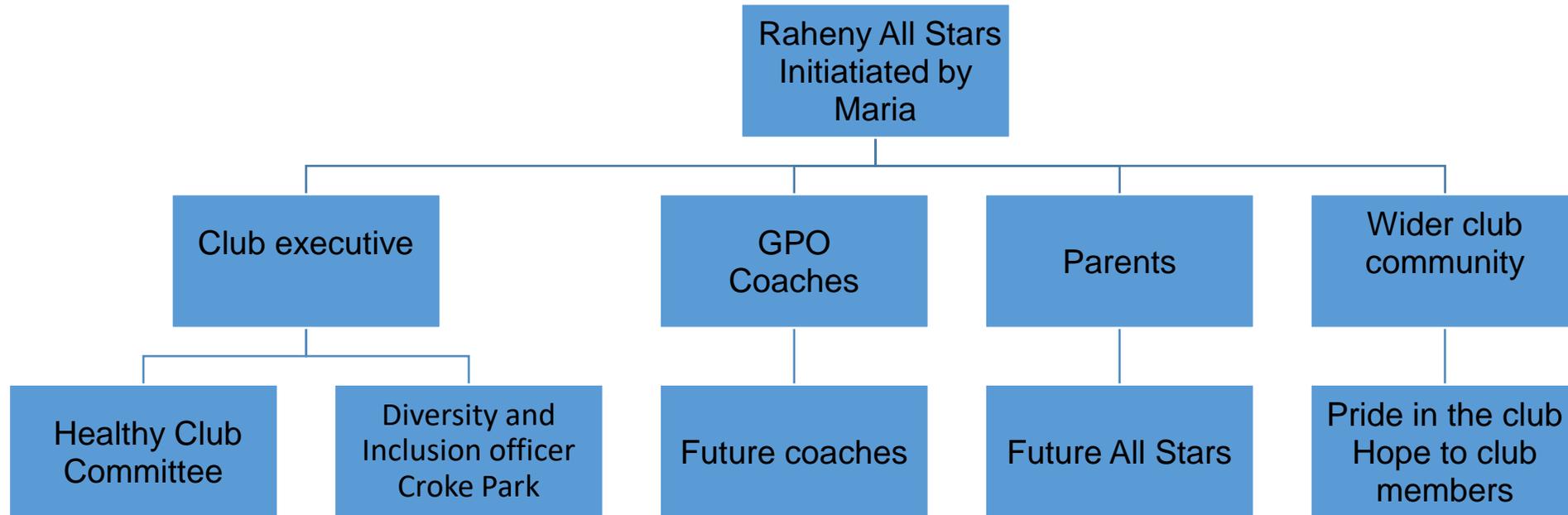
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What it takes to make it happen

(some examples)



- Organising Group
- Participation Forms
- Training ID Forms
- Visual Timetables
- Weekly updates to Parents & Coaches via Whatsapp
- Term Newsletters Parents
- Meetings & Coaches Training & Development Sessions (e.g. Brain Storm meeting)
- All Star Rules – Play Fair-Give Respect-Get Respect
- Sessions devised by our head coach, sometimes guest coaches.
- All coaches are compliant with GAA requirements, some also have Disability Inclusion Training
- The children, parents, coaches, club executive, wider club community.
- Funding: Supported by DCC Sports & Wellbeing Officer, Supervalu, British Telecom, Parents, Club Members (Fundraising)





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The Where, The How & The Why



- Every Friday evening (5pm – 5.45pm)
- Sessions devised by Games Promotion Officer (GPO)our head coach
- Assisted by senior and juvenile coaches
- Develop ball skills, tailored to each All Star
- Safe and fun environment
- Any participation is a success for us
- Children have exercise, fun and socialise in the fresh air



**MOST IMPORTANTLY -
THE
CHILDREN**





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ORGANISING GROUP

Maria – Lead Coordinator, Catherine – Juvenile Coach Coordinator, Mary – Secretary, Will – GPO Head Coach, Kevin – Senior Mentor, Juvenile coaches, James - support to head coach



MEET LAURAN ☺

- My name is Lauran Robinson.
- I go to the local girls school in Raheny which is Manor House.
- I have been part of Raheny GAA since I was six years old and I am currently playing on the Raheny camogie minor and senior team.
- As well as being part of the All Stars I also help out and coach the 5 and 6 year olds to play camogie and football on a Saturday morning.
- I became part of the All Stars group last year when I was in TY, *I was talking to the girls who were in TY the year before me and they couldn't say enough amazing things about it and I thought it was just a wonderful thing to do and thought I would be nice and try get involved myself.*
- All Stars is the highlight of our week, it is what gets us all through the week of school. It is such a lovely atmosphere getting to work with so many amazing kids. There hasn't been a training session so far I haven't left with a smile on my face. You get to meet so many new people and also some new friendships too. coaches





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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ew8FrSt3WH0&t=12s>