



# *National Coarse Fishing Federation of Ireland*

## **Child Welfare structures in the NCFFI**

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The National Children’s Officer & NCFFI Chairperson Pat Dalton said he was satisfied with the progress and speed of roll out of the Federations child welfare structures. The comments were made after a number of National Executive Committee Members were contacted by members in the aftermath of the Cloyne Report on Child Abuse in that diocese.

In the week before our own premier juvenile event the Juvenile All Ireland Competition in Killeshandra it is reassuring to be able to report positively on the state of our welfare structures. The structures refer equally to vulnerable adults and with ACI’s national Adults with Disabilities Project in full swing around the country the issue takes on added importance. Pat together with ACI’s National Childrens Officer Der Casey will be in attendance in Killeshandra on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July. Both men have been involved in all NCFFI’s Disability Programmes also.

After the turmoil and attendant distractions of last year, the committee has been able to focus on the important issues affecting all sports organisations. As a member of the Angling Council of Ireland, we in NCFFI, have access to some very important and useful supports for Child Welfare in the organisation. Firstly we have an up to date Code of Ethics Policy approved by the Irish Sports Council. This is backed up with a Vetting Policy and, importantly a system of implementing the policy. Advice is always available from the Childrens Officer’s subcommittee of the ACI as well as from the professionals in The Sports Council.

To date all national executive members have been vetted by either GARDA or PSNI vetting units. This is also true of our coaches, international Competitors and international Managers. Further to that, all coaches will have completed the ISC Code of Ethics Training or equivalent by year end. This is a precondition set out by the Angling Council before ACI coaching licenses can be awarded.

90% of clubs have now appointed a Childrens Officer and they will be vetted and trained in the coming months. After that the officers and committee members of each club will be offered vetting.

Our biggest achievement in this area has been the development of awareness of the issue reflected in the Childrens Officer appointments. With a growing number of under 18’s and vulnerable adults involved in our activities the, soon to be published, ACI CODE OF CONDUCT will make practical suggestions around club structures and attitudes.

At the risk of being tarnished by politics the situation in NCFEI can best be described as  
***“Much Done More to Do”***