**Role of Midleton FC Children’s Officer**

The key **role** of the Club **Children's Officer** is to ensure the implementation and promotion of the FAI Child Welfare and Safeguarding Policy so as to ensure that young people can participate, enjoy and benefit from football in safe and enjoyable surroundings.

All Clubs are required to have a Children’s Officer in place in order to fulfil the Child welfare and safeguarding roles. The appointment of a Children’s Officer is an essential element in the creation of a quality atmosphere in any club.

Role of the Children’s Officer is to:

* To influence policy and practice and to prioritise children’s needs
* To ensure that children know how and whom they can report their concerns to within the club
* To encourage the participation of parents/guardians in club activities
* To co-operate with parents to ensure that each child enjoys his/her participation in soccer
* To act as a resource with regard to best practice in children’s soccer
* To report regularly to the Club Management Committee
* They act as a resource to members with regard to Children’s issues and also ensure that Children have a voice in the running of the club and can freely talk about their experiences.
* To undertake the role of Children’s Officer, the individual must have completed the Safeguarding 1 and Safeguarding 2 courses.

**Children’s Officers do not have the responsibility of investigating or validating Child protection concerns within the Club and have no counselling or therapeutic role. This responsibility lies with the Gardaí, Tusla or the HSE.**

Midleton FC have appointed Denise McArdle as our Children’s Officer and can be contacted at 0876486504