Adopting a Club Substance Use Policy
Club Substance Use Policy should include:

- **Prevention of Substance Use**
- **Education Regarding Substance Use**
- **Planned Responses Should a Problem Arise**
Six Steps

• Form a Working Group
• Review the GAA’s draft Substance Use Policy
• Present a draft to the Club Executive
• Circulate the draft
• Finalise, Launch & Implement
• Monitor, Review & Evaluate
1. Form a Working Group

• Establish a Working Group to adopt and implement the GAA’s draft Substance Use Policy, this can be found at www.GAA.ie/community

• Consider including the following representatives:
  • Club Executive
  • Mentors
  • Parents/Guardians
  • Young people
2. Review the GAA’s draft Substance Use Policy

As a Working Group spend time discussing the Draft Substance Use Policy

Engage local agencies and partners (e.g. Drugs and Alcohol Taskforces (DATFs), Drugs and Alcohol Co-ordination Teams (DACTS), Garda Síochána and PSNI) to assist in this step
3. Present a draft to the Club Executive

- Centre the policy around your Club to ensure it is relevant to the membership and its environs
  - e.g. Does your club have a bar? - if yes, what additional points of discussion does this raise
4. Circulate the draft policy

- Send out copies to EVERYONE
- Invite people to give feedback on the draft policy
- Amend it to include relevant feedback
- Club Executive must ratify the policy and formally adopt its recommendations
5. Finalise, Launch and Implement

- Officially launch of the policy to:
  - Signify its start date
  - Get some positive media coverage
  - Let everyone know of its existence
  - Display it in the club and/or on club website

- It is strongly advised that if a club wishes to run an education/training event, the Club Substance Use Policy should be launched at this event in partnership with Statutory agencies.
6. Monitor, review and evaluate the policy

- Annually review your clubs Substance Use Policy:
  - The policy should be reviewed following an incident to see if it was effective or if amendments are necessary
  - Be aware of changes to legislation with regards Substance Use
  - Evaluate the policy within the club planning and development framework
Contact Details for Substance Use in Croke Park

Blánaid Carney
GAA Health & Wellbeing Coordinator
Croke Park
3 Jones Road
Dublin 3

(01) 8192387
blanaid.carney@gaa.ie