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BOD-OUT-26-2019 – Board Statement - Safeguarding Manager

14th March 2019

Scouting Ireland Appoints new Safeguarding Manager

Scouting Ireland is pleased to announce the appointment of a new safeguarding manager. Gearoid Begley, currently Detective Superintendent in the Criminal Assets bureau will take up his new role on 8th April next.

Gearoid Begley joins Scouting Ireland from An Garda Síochána where he spent the majority of his career investigating serious crime, including sexual crime. He was the Detective Superintendent in the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Investigation Unit, now the Garda National Protective Services Bureau. In that role Gearoid was the Child Protection Officer for An Garda Síochána and was involved in the development of the model of the Divisional Protective Services Units which is currently being rolled out in An Garda Síochána. While in that position he worked closely with State Agencies and non-Governmental organisations in the sector.

Gearoid was also involved in the introduction of SORAM, a joint agency unit dealing with sex offenders who are subject to Part 2 of the Sex Offenders Act, 2001 under the supervision of the Probation Service. He sat on a number of joint agency committees with both the H.S.E. and TUSLA. In addition Gearoid was involved in a number of other committees including the development of Sexual Abuse services in Ireland and the introduction of Children First legislation. Since 2015 he has worked in the Criminal Assets Bureau as the Assistant Chief Bureau Officer.

Adrian Tennant, Chair of the Board of Scouting Ireland said; “We are delighted that Gearoid Begley is joining Scouting Ireland as Safeguarding Manager. Gearoid’s experience in investigating sexual crime, his role in the development of Sexual Abuse services and in the development of Children First legislation will be invaluable as we continue to put the protection of children front and centre in everything that we do. He will work closely with the CEO and the relevant statutory authorities in Ireland and Northern Ireland, to ensure that Scouting Ireland continues to implement best practice in safeguarding”.

Reg. No. 397094
Charity No. CHY3507

PATRON Michael D. Higgins PRESIDENT OF IRELAND



Member of World Organisation of the Scout Movement

Directors: A list of names and personal details of every director of the company is available for inspection to the public at the company's registered office for a nominal fee. Scouting Ireland is a company limited by guarantee exempt from using the word "limited". Registered Office: Scouting Ireland National Office, Larch Hill, Dublin 16

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Gearoid Begley, incoming Safeguarding Manager, Scouting Ireland said; “Scouting Ireland is a child centred organisation playing a hugely important role in communities throughout Ireland. I was very impressed with the absolute commitment to safeguarding from volunteers and staff and the dedication of the professional safeguarding team. Extensive work has been undertaken under the guidance of Ian Elliott and I look forward to continuing to advance safeguarding and ensuring Scouting Ireland continues to be a safe organisation for all its members, volunteers and staff”.

John Lawlor, CEO, Scouting Ireland said; “Scouting Ireland has declared its intent to become a centre of excellence for safeguarding and putting children first and I look forward to working with Gearoid Begley on achieving this very important objective. His reputation is exemplary and his seniority and experience in the area of Children First and in dealing with sexual abuse will be of critical importance to the management team and the Board of Scouting Ireland.

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