**Ahead of the Game Mental Health Champions**

**Role Description**

Ahead of the Game is the Irish FA Foundation's mental health programme for football clubs.

The programme aims to support clubs and volunteers when dealing with mental health issues, challenging the stigma around mental health, promoting positive mental health and preventative measures.

The programme is a part of the UEFA Hat Trick funding for football and social responsibility and was developed in partnership with TAMHI (Tackling Awareness of Mental Health Issues), Inspire and Train 2B Smart Soccer. As part of the programme the Irish FA Foundation and Sports Chaplaincy UK are working in partnership to support mental health throughout Northern Ireland.

We are looking to appoint 13 volunteers as Ahead of the Game Mental Health Champions across Northern Ireland, as the programme and opportunities for using football to promote mental health awareness have grown. The aim of the Mental Health Champions will be to:

-help promote mental health initiatives through each Football Community Hub

-support the delivery of the IFA Foundation’s Ahead of the Game programme

-sign post football clubs to support services within their area

-share good practice of clubs in that area promoting mental health programmes

-equip more people in football with the tools and skills to benefit mental health in their local clubs and communities.

**Requirements** – **Mental Health Champions must:**

-complete relevant safeguarding and vetting in accordance to the Irish FA’s policy and procedures

-be 18 or over to apply

-be willing to commit time to meet with development officers and/or sports chaplains every couple of months approximately

-have an interest in developing positive mental health through football and have good interpersonal skills.

-be willing to share ideas and support the implementation of mental health projects in their region

**Mental Health Champions will be required to have completed:**

-Irish FA Safeguarding training

-Mental Health First Aid

-Ahead of the Game training

The necessary training will be provided by the IFA Foundation, as well as any necessary resources for the role. Mental Health Champions will also receive their own IFA branded coats for the role.

The Ahead of the Game Mental Health Champions will be a voluntary unremunerated role.

**Application and appointment:**

The application for Mental Health Champions will be open on Monday 31st January and close on Sunday 27th February. You will be able to download the application form from the IFA’s website. All completed applications must be sent to [kyle.robinson@irishfa.com](mailto:kyle.robinson@irishfa.com) before the deadline.

If successful in the application, candidates will be notified via email. If unsuccessful, you will also be notified by email and may be kept on a shortlist of contact for any additional and relevant volunteering opportunities that may arise within the IFA Foundation.

**If you have any additional queries, please contact** [**kyle.robinson@irishfa.com**](mailto:kyle.robinson@irishfa.com) **.**