

HURLING DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2024 TO 2026





LANCASHIRE GAA: HURLING DEVELOPMENT PLAN



LANCASHIRE COUNTY BOARD:

HURLING DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2024 TO 2026

2024 - 2027

CONTENTS

1. Introduction:	3
2. Chairperson's Address:	
3. Vision and Values of the GAA:	
4. The GAA Strategic Development Plan (2022-2026):	
5. Lancashire Hurling Development Plan (2024 – 2026)	
6. Plan Summary:	
7. Governance:	
8. Participation:	
9. Development & High Performance:	
10. Monitoring & Completion of this Plan:	

This development plan is intended to map out the development and growth of hurling within our County and region for the next 3 years. The recent success and improvement of our County Hurling team in the National League and in the Lory Meagher championship has seen increased numbers participating however we need to plan ahead to manage and support this growth, and to kick start underage hurling in our region.



HURLING DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2024 TO 2026

1. Introduction:

INTRODUCTION

Lancashire County Board has set about preparing a Grounds Development Plan in order to build and maintain County ground standard pitches at Broughton Park RFC in Manchester, on the back of support from Croke Park for this "special needs case" — these grounds were required 60yrs ago and would have provided the springboard for major development and expansion of the GAA in the north-west of England. This has been witnessed in other regions including London, Birmingham and Scotland.

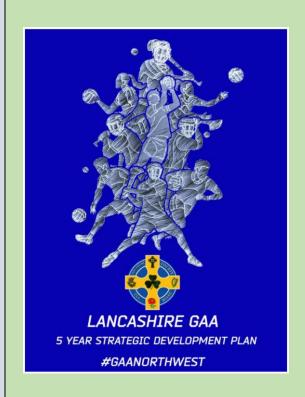
To further support our planned expansion and development, we have prepared and issued a **5yr strategic growth plan** (see elsewhere for details) to promote the wider development of the GAA in our region with six strategic pillars chosen, and examined in detail so that measurable targets can be monitored by the County Board over the next few years.

To bolster the development of hurling in the region, we have also prepared this Hurling Development Plan for the County Board. We are aware of the huge commitment made by the GAA to us as a developing County, including the financial commitment to support us when we travel to Ireland for league and championship games. Without that funding, we simply could not afford to fulfil those fixtures, and not having access to the league and championship competitions in Ireland would destroy interest in adult hurling in the region.

Central to our growth has been the continued provision of a Community Development Coach (CDA) and even though we have had some changes in personnel, their work has continued to flourish within the clubs, underage County teams and within various schools.

Considering these achievements and others, the County was in a buoyant place in 2022 when conversations first began about a Strategic Plan for the County, based upon governance and guidance provided by Croke Park. There was a sense that a lot had been done, yet there was an equal desire to push on even further, this time not only in the area of coaching but across all the clubs and within the County, and with particular focus on the development of a *GAA Centre of Excellence* for the north-west, long overdue in the region.

Lancashire GAA and our clubs have always been a place for all, and this plan reinforces that on behalf of hurling in our region. We look forward to the journey ahead, as we seek to bring our County to a new level, for today's generation and the generations that will follow.



What are the aims of the GAA?

The GAA is a volunteer organisation, we develop and promote Gaelic games at the core of Irish identity and culture. We are dedicated to ensuring that our family of games, and the values we live, enrich the lives of our members, families and the communities we serve.



HURLING DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2024 TO 2026

2. Chairperson's Address:

As Chairperson of Lancashire County Board CLG I welcome the publication of our Hurling Strategic Plan for the next three years. This plan seeks to integrate with and build upon commitments made in our overall *Strategic Plan for 2023 – 2028* – see elsewhere for details.

The key themes of our hurling strategy are described in great detail in this document yet structured in a clear and simple fashion. The inclusive nature of this strategy is illustrated by the fact that it covers hurling development from schools, clubs, academies, right through to inter-county level. The impetus for formulating this plan came from the deliberations of our Hurling Workgroup set up recently ago which has already seen the introduction of under-age hurling in a total of three clubs throughout the County.

Credit is due to the members of this workgroup taken from various clubs across the County, led by George O'Rourke, Richie Barry, Liam Knocker, Stan Murray-Hession, Martin Lonergan and others.

As with any strategy this plan will only be successful if it is carefully monitored to ensure that targets are met. I am confident that the upsurge in hurling within the County presently being experienced will continue greatly assisted by this Development Plan.

Like all plans, there are factors outside of our control to consider and one of the main ones for Lancashire is progress with the **GAA Centre of Excellence** proposed for Broughton Park, Manchester as this will be the key to our growth and development in the future.

This plan will continue to build on Lancashire's strengths and address challenges in a positive manner. It is a living document that will need to be reviewed at regular intervals and updated where required and as things develop.

I appeal to the future Executive to embrace this document and build on the work that has been done to date to make this plan the success it deserves to be.

Ní neart go cur le chéile. Is mise, le meas, Feargail McCiarnain

Fergal Kiernan Chairperson Lancashire County Board (2019-2024)









HURLING DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2024 TO 2026

3. Vision and Values of the GAA:

Our Purpose

Our purpose is to promote Gaelic games, culture and lifelong participation as a community-based, volunteer-led organisation which enriches lives and communities.

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"The GAA is a community-based volunteer organisation promoting Gaelic games, culture and lifelong participation."

We develop and promote Gaelic games at the core of Irish identity and culture.

We are dedicated to ensuring that our family of games, and the values we live, enrich the lives of our members, families, and the communities we serve.

We are committed to active lifelong participation for all and to providing the best facilities.

We reach out to and include all members of our society.

We promote individual Development, health, and well-being and strive to enable all our members achieve their full potential.

VISION

Our vision is that everybody will be welcomed to take part in our games and culture, to participate fully, to grow and develop and to be inspired to keep a lifelong engagement with our Club and our Association.

VALUE	What this Means				
Community Identity	 Community is at the heart of our Association Everything we do helps to enrich the communities we serve We foster a clear sense of identity and place. 				
Amateur Status	 We are a volunteer led organisation All our members play and engage in our games as amateurs We provide a games programme at all levels to meet the needs of all our players 				
Inclusiveness	 We welcome everybody to be part of our Association We are anti-sectarian We are anti-racist 				
Respect	 We respect each other on and off the playing fields We operate with integrity at all levels We listen and respect the views of all players 				
Welfare	 We provide the best playing experience for all our players We structure our games to allow players of all abilities reach their potential 				
Teamwork	 Effective teamwork on and off the field is the cornerstone of our Association Ní neart go cur le chéile (There is no strength without working together) 				

We are dedicated to ensuring that our games and values enrich the lives of our members, families, and the communities we serve.



HURLING DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2024 TO 2026

4. The GAA Strategic Development Plan (2022-2026):



The GAA Strategic Plan 2022-2026 issued by the GAA management in Croke Park represents the long-term vision and strategy for sustaining and growing the Association. Our vision represents 'where we want to be by 2026' and our strategy gives direction on 'how we plan to get there.'

This strategy builds on Fís Shóiléir 2021 (the GAA Strategic Plan 2018-2021) which expired in the spring of 2021. The implementation of the previous strategy was vigorously pursued, and significant progress has and continues to be made towards achieving its objectives.

Naturally, there is a strong level of alignment between the policy directions set out in both documents because the fundamental goals that the Association seeks to deliver remain the same. For example, providing games opportunities, enriching Clubs and communities, developing our people, telling the GAA story in modern ways, and managing our resources in an efficient and sustainable manner. This strategic plan covers a longer time horizon - five years as opposed to three - and is more focused on providing a sense of vision for the future, as opposed to setting out the detail of the specific actions we will undertake. Both changes were deemed important to give all units of the Association an opportunity to align their plans and actions with the Association's overarching strategic vision.



HURLING DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2024 TO 2026

This GAA strategic plan describes:

- 1) The Association's strategic context how we are governed, our current position and how this strategy can make a difference.
- 2) Our approach the process we followed in developing this strategy.
- 3) Our purpose and values why we exist and what core enduring principles guide how we should operate as an Association.
- 4) Our vision and strategy where we want the GAA to be by 2026 and how we plan to get there.
- 5) Our implementation plan how we plan to implement the strategy.
- 6) Appendices the Steering Group member profiles, a detailed overview of the process, a selection of research findings, and the list of consultees.

The overarching GAA strategy can be used by Counties and Clubs to development bespoke plans to meet their needs, location, facilities, capacity and their members whilst also including the local communities and opening our facilities up to other revenue streams, subject to compliance with Insurances & Policies.

5. Lancashire Hurling Development Plan (2024 – 2026)

Vision: To continue to support hurling in Lancashire at all levels.

Three key themes will drive our strategy:

- 1. Coaching, Games and Games Promotion including underage activity
- 2. County Hurling Committee and Club Governance
- 3. County Player and Management Pathways

Outcomes: By the end of 2026 we will have:

- 1. Increased participation in hurling across the County, with new clubs & underage units.
- 2. A strong hurling culture embedded in primary and post primary schools.
- 3. Club and County hurling coaches upskilled.
- 4. Integrated hurling and football fixtures with the County fixtures calendar.



HURLING DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2024 TO 2026

6. Plan Summary:

For this there are three key areas of work.

1. Governance: Hurling Committee governance

- To ensure that hurling development is kept on the radar of all the relevant committees including the Lancashire CCC, Lancashire County committee, County Demographics Committee, Lancashire youth Committee and the Lancashire management committee and that there is an established procedure for dealing with any issues which may arise.
- Compliance at all levels in the county in relation to the Associations Code of Conduct in Youth Sport and Safeguarding. Ensure going forward that individual clubs are compliant with GAA administration rules and procedures.
- Set out the hurling fixtures early in the year to avoid clashes with the football fixtures to protect our dual
 players better and to ensure hurling is given its own space to promote the game. Fixtures list to be built
 whereby one week is for hurling and the next week is for football, to help dual players also.
- To continue the relationship with Yorkshire & Scotland and include them in our league and championship whilst looking to start new hurling clubs within Lancashire for adult and youth games.

2. Participation: Coaching and Games Promotion

- We currently have two dual and two hurling only referees, as we progress and have more teams entering competitions at all age groups there will be a need to recruit and train new hurling referees.
- o To alleviate fixture congestion with the aim to have a longer playing season.
- o To promote indoor hurling to ensure that skills and interest are both maintained throughout the year.
- o To increase the number of adult teams within the County while still making games competitive
- To ensure adult clubs have sufficient time to prepare before playing in various competitions at different age groups, with Division 1 and Division 2 hurling leagues set up to provide more adult games.
- o To allow the more social side of hurling to flourish in quieter parts of the year.
- To promote and develop hurling within the existing clubs and schools and to assist in the setting up of any newly formed clubs.

3. Development & High Performance: Management/players at all levels in Lancashire:

- o County Managers and Players to be invited to more events.
- Establish a County U20/21 team.
- o Discuss opportunities with Warwickshire and others about regional leagues / blitzes.
- Create and maintain an U15 development squads.
- Have a quarterly U13 skills camp.



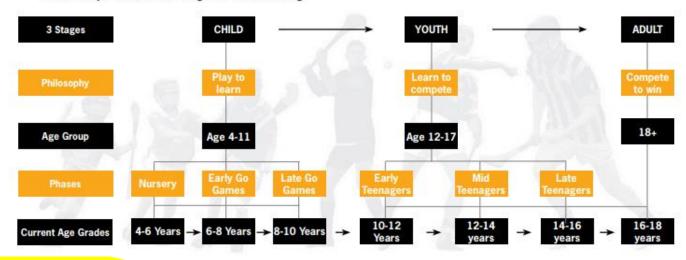
HURLING DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2024 TO 2026

We will look to create a Player Pathway process to include all the hurling managers and coaches in our region, and with the support of our County CDA so we have a consistant approach in the schools and clubs.



Child / Youth Player Pathway





HURLING DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2024 TO 2026

High Performance Structures



The graph above represents the numerous factors involved for club and County level to maximise performance and player welfare. Whilst we have some of this structure in place currently, we recognise we are weak on several sections of this and it is in those areas we will look to improve during the life cycle of this plan.



HURLING DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2024 TO 2026

7. Governance:

Objectives	Specific Action	Progress Indicators (Outcomes)	Timeline	Responsibility
1.1 Hurling committee representatives on county	1.1.1 Hurling Officer to sit on:	A motion to be made at the next Lancashire County convention.	January 2024	Hurling Committee
committees, hurling development officer appointed at AGM.	I. Lancashire CCC II. Lancashire GAA management Committee	Officer to be chair or secretary of Hurling Committee	January 2024	Chair or Secretary of the hurling Committee
	III. Provincial Hurling Committee	Rep will hold an official Lancashire GAA email address.	February 2024	Lancashire GAA Secretary/IT officer/PRO
1.2 All adult personnel	1.2.1 Club officers and Coaches are	All club officers and coaches undergo UK	March 2024	Lancashire Child protection
dealing with young people are suitably vetted and	suitably qualified.	DBS assessments with support from Children's Officer & BPC.	January 2024	officer and hurling committee.
qualified.	1.2.2 Club officers to complete relevant training and coaching courses.	Survey of all hurling club coaches completed.	April 2024	Hurling committee Regional
		Foundation Hurling course		Hurling Development Officer
		Level 1 Hurling course	May 2024	(RHDO)
		Level 2 Hurling course	March 2025	RHDO BPC GAA
1.3 Fixtures list to be built to	1.3.1 Fixtures meeting in January to focus	Combined fixtures list issued early in the	January 202s4	Hurling Committee
focus on hurling one week and football the other week	on a combined fixtures list, with separate weeks for hurling & football.	year. Create new hurling competitions with variable panel sizes to promote games, and host blitzes in different cities to promote	December 2024	All Clubs
	1.3.2 Priority given to dual players and those from single code clubs for hurling	hurling and help weaker clubs to field.	December 2025	All Clubs
1.4 Greater promotion of	1.4.1 Appoint a Hurling PRO	Priority to feed information to County PRO to	January 2024	Hurling committee and
hurling activity within Lancashire.		promote games		Lancashire GAA PRO.
1.5 Establish Youth /	1.5.1 To ensure focus on underage hurling	Underage hurling camps to be ran in	March 2024	Hurling Committee
Underage Board to include	development, provision of equipment and	Liverpool and Manchester, and support		
hurling representatives	support from CDA with hurling camps.	developments in Warrington too.		



HURLING DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2024 TO 2026

8. Participation:

Objectives	Specific Action	Progress Indicators (Outcomes)	Timeline	Responsibility
2.1 Increase the number of hurling referees within the	2.1.1 Each of the hurling clubs participating in Lancashire to provide 2 active referees.	GO games/Young Whistlers course. Adult Referees' course	March 2024	Referee Committee
County	2.1.2 Minor players (U-17) to become young whistlers and referee u9 and u11 etc age groups.	Clubs need to nominate minor player(s) to the hurling committee who will liaise with the referees' administrator to offer training and support required	March 2024	Referee Committee
2.2 Standardise the hurling calendar to reflect football fixtures (adult & youth)	2.2.1 Administrator for hurling fixtures be appointed to the CCC and Youth committee	A member of the hurling committee should sit on the youth committee and CCC for the sole purpose of ensuring games are fixed in conjunction with ongoing games activities in the county.	January 2024	Hurling Committee CCC Youth Committee
2.3 Increase the number of hurling fixtures, consider	2.3.1 Organise GO games fixture plan for U7, U9 and U11.	Each club will be given a date between April and October to organise a blitz.	April 2024	Hurling committee
running the senior and junior hurling championships concurrently.	2.3.2 Organise underage hurling camps in Liverpool, Warrington and Manchester as	Introduction of super games once a month to balance games and participation.		All Clubs
concurrently.	open competitions: players arrive and get	Return of U9/U11.5 half time exhibition	May 2024	Hurling Committee
	randomly placed into teams (not named after our existing clubs) and encouraged to	matches at national league and championship matches.	,	Hurling Committee and GDM
	play in different teams and at different levels. County Board to seek finding for a	Each club to organise indoor hurling training.		All Clubs
	pool of hurling equipment that the CDA can control and loan to players initially.	Each club to organise an annual indoor blitz for U11.5 and U13 age groups.		All Clubs
2.4 Development of adult Hurling	2.4.1 Using football clubs as clear feeder zones as to where each player should play adult hurling.	County Bye Law for disputed area's to be implemented. Fixtures calendar to host hurling one week and football the other,	2024 Season	County management committee



HURLING DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2024 TO 2026

	2.4.2 Working towards more team entering our senior championship finals.	provide access for single code clubs & players to allow them to play hurling.	2025 Season	CCC
	2.4.3 Development of social hurling	Hurling clubs playing Division 1 and 2 to promote developing clubs and those senior clubs with a large pool of players. Look at an amalgamated team of junior teams to form a senior team and enter senior championship. Other clubs to replicate the success from Na	End of 2024 season	Hurling Committee
2.5 Appointment of	2.5.1 Hurling GPO to work closely with the	Mhac Tire in Warrington. To support volunteer coaches and improve	April 2024	National GAA
Lancashire Hurling Games	County CDA and ensure part-time coaches	the uptake in hurling especially at primary	April 2024	BPC GAA
Promotion officer	are brought in to support club sessions.	and post primary school level.		Lancashire GAA Hurling Committee
2.6 Each club will identify 'Feeder' school(s) and using	2.6.1 To enthuse new players for your club but to also start creating schools'	New schools' competitions with the help and support of the local club(s) will increase	September 2024	Regional schools
the support of their clubs,	competitions within the region.	hurling numbers.		GAA
will offer taster session and information evenings.	2.6.2 Work with our CDA and the clubs to create competitions and encourage schools to enter the Northern GAAmes where	Schools entering Northern GAAmes or County / Club blitzes & competitions.	September 2024	All Clubs
	possible. 2.6.3 Encourage secondary schools to	Schools should be encouraged and supported when attempting to field in	September 2024	Hurling committee
	establish teams at all levels to participate in regional schools' competitions	regional schools' competitions.		RHDO
2.7 Set up new hurling clubs	2.7.1 Set up new clubs as junior hurling clubs	Build up the number of clubs in our region,	2024	BPC GAA
in Liverpool and Manchester, with flexibility on sourcing players or even sharing players to ensure games	at adult level, to capture new areas/players. 2.7.2 Players from other clubs towards the end of the season can then choose to play senior or junior hurling C'ship.	introduce hurling in new regions and offer clubs a chance to play games at the correct level and ability meaning players are enthused about playing every match.		Lancashire GAA Hurling Committee CCC



HURLING DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2024 TO 2026

9. Development & High Performance:

Objectives	Specific Action	Progress Indicators	Timeline	Responsibility
		(Outcomes)		
3.1 County Managers and	3.1.1 All youth trophies should be	Young players become more aware of who is	2024	Hurling committee
Players to be invited to more	presented by members of the senior	representing the county at senior level and therefore		
events.	management or players.	naturally offer more support to teams		
3.2 Establish a county	3.2.1 Appoint an U20/21 management	Have a management team in place using the	2022	Lancashire Management
U20/21 team	team.	continuity of the minor team management and		committee
		senior team management where possible.		
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	3.2.2 Enter the Provincial & All-Ireland	To offer players competitive games when they are	2024	BPC GAA
	hurling 'B' Championship	between u17 and senior and also to strengthen the		
2.2 County Due Louis to be	2 4 4 NAire de la hilitar te constituent te	county senior team	2024	Carrian Managanant
3.3 County Bye-Laws to be	3.4.1 Mixed ability team to continue to	Continued support for various competitions in	2024	Senior Management
reviewed to provide pathway	compete in their allocated division.	preparation for playing games.		U20 Management
int adult hurling for home-	3.4.2 Allow players to follow the correct	Guide players from development squads into the		Lancashire GAA
grown players.	player pathway through development	U20 team setup and eventually as senior intercounty	2024	RHDO
	squads and onto U20 and Senior hurling	hurlers		
3.4 Create and maintain an	3.5.1 Have the U15 Squad compete in	Preparing U-15 for by training and playing as a	2025	BPC GAA
U15 development squads	provincial level competitions.	development squad and provide funding to support		Lancashire GAA
	·	this including equipment & coaching.		RHDO
3.5 Have a quarterly U13	3.5.1 Host a central U13 skills camp and	3.5.2 Increased skill levels for players joining the U15	2025	Hurling committee,
skills camp	small sided games	Development squad and improve skill levels		RHDO
		throughout the clubs within Lancashire.		



HURLING DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2024 TO 2026

10. Monitoring & Completion of this Plan:

IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS HURLING DEVELOPMENT PLAN:

The plan is intended to be a living document, not one that sits on a shelf (either virtual or real) gathering dust. If it needs to be adjusted an adapted, it should be. The success of the plan with depend on the effectiveness of the implementation process and level of effort. To achieve this, the following implementation approach has been agreed.

Implementation of the plan will ultimately be the responsibility of the County Committee, and members and clubs should hold them accountable.

Each year of the three-year plan, someone will be appointed at the AGM as the implementation lead. The role of this individual will be to work with the various recommendations to check on progress on their implementation, to adjust priorities if

necessary and to report back to the County Board once a quarter. Towards the end of each year, a dedicated meeting will take place to review how the County performed in implementing the priority actions that were targeted for that year and to identify the priorities for the following year. In some cases, specific years have already been identified for implementation of certain actions, but these may need to be adjusted for various reasons. If you have any ideas or suggestions in relation to the implementation of any of the plan's recommendations, or would like to be involved in its implementation, please contact the County Secretary at secretary.lancashire@gaa.ie

