



ANNA MCCAFFREY

AGE: 15 years old **FROM:** Northern Ireland

TOP FIVE CHARACTER VALUES: LEADERSHIP | COURAGE | RESILIENCE, PERSEVERANCE & DETERMINATION | COOPERATION | PROBLEM-SOLVING

"I decided to take social action in Gaelic sports as there is not much funding provided to the clubs in Northern Ireland. I think it is so important to get young people, especially girls, involved with sports and volunteering."

There is a strong volunteering ethos in my local Gaelic sports club, so it was natural I came to think about doing some myself, and I decided to take part in social action in Gaelic sports as there is not much funding provided to the clubs in Northern Ireland. I think it is so important to get young people, especially girls, involved with sports and volunteering. I began by mentoring and managing younger girls playing sports when I was 13 and have carried this on as well as helping out with other aspects of work at my local club. I have recently started volunteering in my school, coaching first to third year camogie, teaching them essential skills and encouraging them to stay in sport as well as encouraging other girls to start sport and volunteering. On top of this I help run the two shops in my sports club, a café and a match day shop.

I am grateful that Maria, the health and wellbeing officer at our Gaelic club, inspired and encouraged me to get involved in volunteering and give up my time for others.

Taking part in social action has taught me how to listen to and work with people of different ages and gender to me and I have learnt how to be courageous and take charge of younger children and lead them in the right direction. I have also enhanced my skills of talking to people of all ages in the shops and during training sessions and matches.



... try to get more girls involved with sport because I think equality is important in all aspects of life, especially sports, and also try to help more young people get involved in social action because I think it is stigmatised and many would not know where to look to get involved.

