

Active Retirement Network Ireland (ARNI)

Active Retirement Network Ireland is a national network of over 550 local Active Retirement Associations (ARAs) with a regional structure of nine regions and an elected national board of charity trustees comprising members of the ARAs who are elected annually at the national AGM.

At Active Retirement Network Ireland, we would like to assure you that we believe transparency, accountability and trust are core to all our work and activities. We are committed to maintaining the highest standards of governance and our board has ensured that all codes of best practice which take us beyond minimum requirements are not only in place but practised at all levels of the organisation.

Active Retirement Network Ireland began its governance journey by becoming a company limited by guarantee in 2008.

We rely on your support and on public and philanthropic funding to carry out our work on achieving the mission of ending loneliness for older people through friendship and support.

What we do to ensure your funds are well used.

- Our Strategic Plan 2020 - 2024 sets out our goals and objectives for the coming years.
- Our accounts are externally audited, published on our website and sent to all members.
- We are a registered charity both with the Charities Section of the Revenue Commissioners (CHY15090) and the Charities Regulatory Authority (No. 20051136);
- We prepare our financial statements in accordance with FRS102 and the Charities SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice) (FRS102)
- Thanks to our compliance with The Governance Code for Community and Voluntary Organisations in Ireland since 14th April 2015, we are already materially compliant with the new Charities Regulatory Authority Governance Code and will be fully compliant before December 2020;
- We are also compliant with the 'Guidelines for Charitable Organisations on Fundraising from the Public', issued by the Charities Regulatory Authority. We respond fully to every public and media query we receive on our funding;
- We are governed by a Board of Directors (Charity Trustees) all are volunteers and members of Active Retirement Network Ireland and donate freely of their time, skills and experience.
- At every Board meeting, Directors and CEO present are asked to declare any conflict of interests;

Structure, Governance and Management

The organisation is a company limited by guarantee and does not have any share capital. Therefore, the directors who serve during the year did not have a beneficial interest in the company. All directors serve in a voluntary capacity.

The Board

Board of Active Retirement Network Ireland for 2019 The board met 12 times in 2019 and participated in governance training and a board evaluation in this period.

Board members sit on the various subcommittee of the organisation including the nine regional subcommittees.

The National Forum is made up of the 10 elected board members, the chair of each of the 9 regions and the regional development officers and supports the activities of the organisation.

Within each region of the organisation there is a regional committee elected by the members. This committee is supported to deliver its programme of work by voluntary development officers and outreach workers.

The regional committees are best placed to strengthen and support the connection between the local ARA and the national structure of ARI.

The National Forum met 3 times during 2019.

Each region has a committee elected at a regional AGM and is the mechanism for delivering a range of activities that bring local Active Retirement Association (ARA) members together.

The local ARAs enable older people lead a full, happy and healthy life. They do this by offering organised opportunities for participation in a wide range of activities. Each local ARA plans and delivers a range of social, cultural, learning and physical activities based on what members like to do and their ability to participate.

All activities are designed to reduce isolation and are aimed at keeping older people independent, active and healthy. ARI is a voluntary organisation whose voluntary committee members plan, organise and deliver activities at local, regional and national levels.

Active Retirement Ireland has a central support office that supports the overall work of the organisation.

The Board is the governing body of the organisation and therefore ultimately responsible for what happens within it. The Directors are committed to maintaining the highest standards of governance, providing leadership, strategy, policy and ensuring control. The Directors, through their governance roles, cover four areas:

- Keeping an overview of the organisation and its direction
- Ensuring that the assets of the organisation are protected
- Ensuring that the organisation is accountable
- Ensuring that the organisation is operating legally

The company has a comprehensive process for reporting management information to the Board, its focus being on continuous improvement and development.

The Directors are elected by the membership of the organisation and receive briefing documents in the Board Induction Pack to ensure they have clarity on their roles and responsibilities

Board Subcommittees

Sub-committees of the board are established for specific purposes as designed by the board.

- 9 regional subcommittees
- Finance subcommittee
- Audit subcommittee
- Rules, Procedures and Standing orders subcommittee
- Development subcommittee
- Fundraising subcommittee
- HR subcommittee



Maureen Kavanagh
CEO
Active Retirement Ireland