

Did you know that there's a Local Government Shared Service called Age Friendly Ireland?

The national office for the shared service is hosted in Meath County Council.

Age Friendly Ireland manages Ireland's affiliation to the World Health Organisation's Global Network for Age Friendly Cities and Communities. In 2019, the WHO announced that Ireland was the first country in the world to be Age Friendly because all local authority areas have signed up to their global framework and we are at an advance stage of implementing age friendly strategies.

Each local authority has a local Age Friendly Programme that manages a local strategy to support older people in the community as part of a multi-stakeholder response to population ageing.

All local authorities work closely with the age friendly shared service (Age Friendly Ireland) under an MOU agreement.

Your Local Age Friendly Programme



For More Information

Age Friendly Ireland
Meath County Council
T. +353 46 9032170
agefriendlyireland@meathcoco.ie

www.agefriendlyireland.ie

www.agefriendlyhomes.ie

Your Age Friendly Alliance

The Age Friendly Alliance is a high level interagency group, usually chaired by the Chief Executive of the local authority. Members include senior management representation from local government, An Garda Síochána, the Health Service Executive, the Education and Training Board, Transport services, universities and the business community through the Chamber of Commerce. The Alliance is responsible for the development, implementation and monitoring of the local Age Friendly Strategy.

Your Age Friendly Older People's Council (OPC)

Chair of your OPC: Aileen Heverin

The Older People's Council [OPC] is a citizen-based forum that provides an opportunity for older people to work with the local authority and Age Friendly Alliance to identify issues for older people and co-design solutions. The OPC has an elected Executive Committee that serves a two year term, and a wider membership base that is renewed at the Annual General Meeting. OPC representatives sit on the Age friendly Alliance and on other committees, representing the voice of older people in the community. They also feed into a National Network of Older People's Councils which holds a National Convention in May every year.

Your Age Friendly Programme Manager

Name: Mary McGann

Email: mmcgann@GalwayCoCo.ie

Each local authority has an Age Friendly Programme Manager based in the Community Section. This role is usually assigned to an Administrative Officer grade. The Programme Manager is responsible for co-ordinating all age friendly activity within the local authority and with the partners on the Alliance. The Programme Manager takes a lead role in development and overseeing the implementation of the local Age friendly Strategy. They also work closely with the local Older People's Council to ensure that older people are active as co-design partners in any local projects and initiatives being rolled out.

If you want to refer
someone onto the
Healthy Age Friendly
Homes Programme:

Email Referrals:
referralshafh@meathcoco.ie

Your Age Friendly Housing Technical Advisor

Name: Jason Lavelle

Email: jlavelle@galwaycoco.ie

The Age Friendly Technical Advisor acts as the key point with each local authority for matters relating to age friendly housing and public realm technical queries specifically around design and delivery of infrastructure Ireland ageing population utilising universal design principles. They provide support to colleagues in housing, planning and transportation directives, private sector developers, Approved Housing Bodies and individuals on solutions regarding age friendly housing and public realm works. The work collaboratively with the local Age Friendly Programme Managers and the Age Friendly Ireland shared service team in relation to strategy development, planning, implementation and monitoring of objectives at local level. Adopting best practice and using national technical standards and guidance they provide technical assistance in relation to universal design principles and crime prevention through environmental design principles to all relevant stakeholders.

Your Healthy Age Friendly Homes Coordinator

Name: Dónal Clancy

Email: dclancy@meathcoco.ie

The Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme aims to support older people to live in their own home with dignity and independence, for as long as possible. The programme's ambition is to enable everyone to live longer healthier lives by keeping care close to home and expanding a range of health and social care services in the community. It is about providing a range of alternatives for older people who may otherwise transition into long term residential care prematurely.

There is a Local Healthy Age Friendly Homes Coordinator in all 31 Local Authorities. An older person (65 years +) can self-refer into the programme or can be referred in by family/friends, elected representatives, GP's, community groups, etc. The local coordinators undertake home visits to older people living in the community and carry out assessments aligned to the six domains of housing, health, community/social supports, finance, climate energy and technology to assist ageing in place. The coordinators agree a personal plan with each individual older participant and support them to access a range of services which include housing adaptation grants, home energy improvements, health appointments, befriending or other community services, or technology supports.

The programme collaborates with a broad spectrum of agencies and services, including personnel in local government, health services, transport, community and voluntary groups, Gardaí, elected members and others.

Your Age Friendly Ambassador

Name: Keith Finnegan

As part of this national programme we have identified the opportunity for each local programme area, hosted by each local authority, to have their own Age Friendly Ambassador. This role is carried out by a local high profile person who represents the Age Friendly Programme on behalf of older people in their City/County. Their personal endorsement of the programme will be of enormous benefit and influence plus it provides significant value to this work .

This is an honorary position that has the potential to have a big impact but with a modest demand on time. The role of our Ambassadors is:

- **Promote** the need to be age friendly, and support the local Age Friendly Programme to raise awareness of Age Friendly practices
- Support the local Age Friendly Programme by **encouraging local involvement in Age Friendly initiatives**
- Attend launch events when possible, this may translate to c. 4 events per year and include the yearly National Age Friendly Recognition Awards (if calendar allows).
- Provide quotes for local press releases, e.g. the launch of the local Age Friendly Strategy
- Occasionally speak to media about the importance of the Age Friendly Programme

For More Information

Age Friendly Ireland

Meath County Council

T. +353 46 9032170

agefriendlyireland@meathcoco.ie

www.agefriendlyireland.ie

www.agefriendlyhomes.ie