

Choice
Leslie Morrell House
37 - 41 May Street
Belfast
BT1 4DN

T: 0300 111 2211
choice-housing.org



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**Leadership
Group**
April 2019

Together
we enrich
lives

GROUP BOARD MEMBERS

Together
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lives



Hazel Bell

Group Chair

Vice Chair of Choice Services Board
Oaklee Housing Board Member

Hazel Bell is a graduate in Town and Country Planning from Newcastle University, a retired member of the Royal Town Planning Institute and also holds a post-graduate diploma in Marketing from Ulster University.

Her professional working experience includes three housing associations (Latharna (later Larne and District), Belfast Community and Botanic; Student Accommodation Services at Ulster University; community development, urban regeneration and neighbourhood renewal with Greater Shankill Partnership in Belfast; and Town Development Management with Larne and Mid and East Antrim Borough Councils.

As a resident of Larne, Hazel is also currently involved with a number of local organisations including:

- Board Member of Ledcom – a one stop shop for economic development and enterprise which provides a wide range of services including managed workspace, business incubation/innovation support, business skills training, business and economic development consultancy, community economic development, information and advice, and social enterprise development.
- Chair of Access Employment Ltd (AEL) - a not for profit social enterprise which provides training, employment and work experience for people with learning difficulties or mental health issues. NI Social Enterprise of the Year 2018.
- Vice President of Larne Ladies Hockey Club.



Ciaran McAreavey

Group Vice Chair

Chair of Development & Growth Committee / Maple and May Board
Finance Committee Member
Oaklee Housing Board Member

Ciaran McAreavey is currently Managing Director Ireland for Close Brothers Commercial Finance, a division of Close Brothers Group Plc. which is a provider of finance to SMEs in NI and ROI. Having qualified as a Chartered Accountant with Coopers & Lybrand specialising in the area of Corporate Finance, he then moved into the banking sector and has held a number of senior leadership roles in the banking and financial services sector based in the UK and Ireland. Ciaran has a degree in Law and Accounting and a postgraduate Diploma in Accounting from QUB, is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland and a member of the Institute of Bankers.

He was co-opted as a Non Executive Board Director onto the Choice Group Board in April 2016 and also Chair's the Development & Growth Committee.



John Cullen

Group Board Member

Oaklee Housing Board Member

John Cullen had a lengthy career in the Dept of Environment and Local Government - the Irish Government department with responsibility for Housing. He held senior positions in Planning, Finance, International Environment Policy, and Local Government. He left the Department in 2002 to join the Institute of Public Administration as its Director General. The Institute is Ireland's premier supplier of training, education, research and publications for the Irish public service. It also provides services overseas. John completed his contract with the Institute in 2009.

John has served on many boards during his career, including the board of the company which re-developed the Temple Bar area of Dublin. He joined the board of Oaklee Housing Trust in 2009, serving as Vice Chair and currently Chair. He has been a Board Member of Choice since 2010.

John holds an Honours Commerce degree from University College, Dublin.



Jennifer Donald

Group Board Member

Jennie Donald is currently Head of Strategic Partnerships with Cardiff University. In previous positions Jennie was Deputy Chief Executive of Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Association (2013-2017) and previously Head of Policy and Public Affairs at Chartered Institute of Housing (2010-2013).

Jennie was Chair of the Interim Regulatory Committee in the Republic of Ireland, appointed by the Minister of State for Housing and Planning to chair an independent Committee tasked with developing and implementing regulation of the housing association sector (over 500 organisations) and Advised on and co-produced legislation with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government to establish a statutory regulator.

Previous external appointments include, Board Member and Chair of Business Development Committee of Groundwork NI and a Board Member, Company Secretary and Chair of Housing and Property Services Committee of Helm Housing up to 2013.

Jennie has significant experience in cultivating strategic and senior stakeholder relationships to deliver successful outcomes. With strong influencing and negotiating skills, she has developed a broad network of relationships with diverse individuals, teams and organisations in Northern Ireland, Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland.



Mary Donnelly

Group Board Member

Vice Chair of Audit & Risk Committee

Mary Donnelly is currently the HR Director Workforce Planning at Bank of Ireland. In 1994, Mary was recognised as Personnel Manager of the Year. Mary has over 30 years experience in HR and previous positions include; Senior HR Programme and Operations Manager for Ulster Bank, HR Director for O2, Head of Leadership Development for BT and Vice President Human Resources for Bombardier Aerospace Shorts.

Previous external appointments include Board Member for NI Cancer Fund for Children, NI Labour Relations Agency and Civil Service Commissioner.

Mary has successfully obtained an MBA in Business Administration from Roffey Park Management College in Sussex.



Catriona Gibson

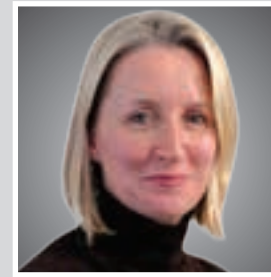
Group Board Member

Vice Chair of Tenant & Client Services Committee

Catriona Gibson is Managing Partner and Head of the Dispute Resolution practice for leading law firm Arthur Cox in Northern Ireland. She specialises in Litigation and deals with all aspects of contracts, construction and planning dispute resolution.

The first woman to be appointed Managing Partner of a leading law firm in Northern Ireland, Catriona is unparalleled within professional services locally for the strength of her capabilities and the international locus that she has brought right to the heart of Northern Ireland's professional service community.

A passionate advocate for good governance and leadership, Catriona serves on the Institute of Directors' Northern Ireland Committee.



Helen Harrison

Group Board Member

Development & Growth Committee / Maple and May Board Member

Helen Harrison is Director of JUNO Planning & Environmental Ltd. With over 20 years in the industry, Helen was previously all-Ireland Director of Planning at BDP, Head of Planning at Ferguson McIlveen (now Aecom) and spent 4 years as a Senior Planner in local planning authorities in England.

Helen is currently a Board Member of the Chartered Institute of Housing, an Executive Committee Member (former Chair) of the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) and is highly respected in the planning industry acting as RTPI Professional Accreditation Advisor to Queen's University Planning School and External Examiner to Ulster University Planning School.



Joe Higgins

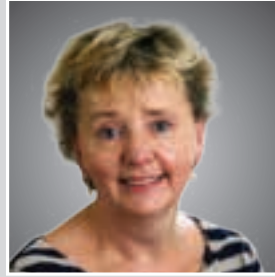
Group Board Member

Chair of Audit & Risk Committee
Vice Chair of Finance Committee

Joe Higgins spent over 25 years in accountancy and financial services. He qualified as a Chartered Accountant with PWC, Dublin in 1990 before moving to Bank of Ireland, Belfast. After a short spell as Finance Director of an IT company, he established a Belfast office for part of Bank of Scotland in 1996.

In late 2008, after numerous roles within the Group, he was appointed CEO of Bank of Scotland (Ireland) ("BoSI") which was by then part of Lloyds Banking Group ("LBG"). As CEO, he instigated the merger of BoSI with Bank of Scotland, and then established Certus to take on the 850 staff and manage the run-off of the €33bn BoSI loan book for LBG. Since this work completed in 2016, he has taken on a number of non-executive positions with Charitable organisations whilst also investing in a number of IT start-ups.

Joe is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland, a Certified Bank Director and holds a BA Mod in Computer Science from Trinity College, Dublin.



Janet Hunter

Group Board Member

Tenant & Client Services Committee Member

Janet Hunter is the Director of Housing Rights, the leading specialist provider of independent housing advice, advocacy and representation services in NI.

She is involved in various government advisory groups in relation to housing and homelessness issues in NI. These have included a Ministerial Housing Repossession Taskforce which investigated the impact of arrears, repossession and negative equity in NI. She is currently a member of the “Rethinking social housing in NI” steering group which has been set up to consider the role and purpose of social housing in NI and an Inter Departmental Action Group which aims to tackle Homelessness in NI.

In a voluntary capacity, she serves on the Board of a number of voluntary and statutory organisations. These include a primary school, a social justice organisation and an environmental heritage charity. Janet was awarded an OBE for her services to the community in 2016.



Paul Leonard

Group Board Member

Chair of Choice Services Board
Vice Chair of Development & Growth Committee / Maple and May Board

Paul Leonard is a graduate of Queens University Belfast, holds a M.Sc. in Executive Leadership from the University of Ulster and qualified as a Chartered Accountant with KPMG Ireland. He is a former Chairman of the Ulster Society of Chartered Accountants.

He has commercial, property and financial experience gained over more than 35 years working in banking, venture capital, and corporate finance. Most of his career was spent with Bank of Ireland where, until recently, he was Chief Credit Officer, Commercial, with responsibility for credit risk oversight of the Bank’s commercial lending activities across the whole of the UK.

He has regulatory, Board level and senior committee experience and has held non-executive director positions in a number of companies. He is currently non-executive chairman of the NI Committee of UK Finance, the banking trade association. He is a member of the disciplinary panel of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland.



Andrew Logan

Group Board Member

Audit & Risk Committee Member

Andrew Logan graduated from QUB with a degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering. Over the past 30 years he has held a wide variety of managerial and directorial roles working across a range of sectors as both Managing Director and IT Director and for employers such as Short Brothers, Digital Equipment Company, Deloitte, PriceWaterhouseCoopers and the Henderson Group. He is currently the CEO of Kelsius, the world-leading supplier of automation technology for product safety and compliance to the food services and healthcare industries.



Ken Slattery

Group Board Member

Chair of Oaklee Housing
Chair of Finance Committee

Ken Slattery was a career banker with the Bank of Ireland Group for 40 years during which time he held a number of very senior leadership positions including Corporate Banking, Marketing and Operations.

Following retirement in 2006, he took up the post of Credit & Operations Director with Social Finance Foundation, a wholesale funder to the Community & Voluntary and Social Enterprise sectors in Ireland. He was in that role until 2016.

He now holds a number of Non-Executive Director positions including Permanent TSB Group Holdings plc and Permanent TSB plc where he also sits on the Audit and Remuneration Committees. He is also on the Board of the National Shared Services Office, the Irish Government’s operations centre for HR and Payroll. He also chairs their Audit & Risk Committee. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Bankers where he also holds the designation of ‘Certified Bank Director’ and a member of the Institute of Directors.

He joined the board of Choice in April 2016 and is the Chair of the Finance Committee having been a previous chair of the Audit & Risk Committee. He is also Chairperson of Oaklee Housing, Dublin.



Noreen Taggart

Group Board Member

Chair of Tenant & Client Services Committee

A graduate of Queen's University, Belfast, Noreen Taggart worked for several years with the NI Housing Executive in planning and information roles, before moving to a communications post with the British Overseas Trade Board. She then worked at the University of Ulster for nearly 30 years in a variety of administrative and communications roles, reaching Director level in 2002.

She retired in 2009 from her final position as Director of Communication and Development. She holds a Diploma in Public Relations and is a member of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations. She was previously a member of the Trinity Housing Committee and Board.

At present, Noreen is a Governor at Coleraine Grammar School which is a Voluntary Grammar School.



Valerie Watts

Group Board Member

Tenant & Client Services Committee Member

Valerie took up post as Chief Executive of the Health and Social Care Board in July 2014 and is responsible for the commissioning of health and social care in Northern Ireland (£5.5bn).

With over 30 years' public sector experience, Valerie began her career at the Royal Victoria Hospital overseeing competitive tendering for ancillary support services, and having worked in local government since 1989.

Most recently, Valerie was Chief Executive of Aberdeen City Council (2011-2014) and formerly Town Clerk and Chief Executive of Derry City Council (2009-2011) where she was instrumental in securing the UK City of Culture for 2013 and developing a strategic economic masterplan for the North West region.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Finance Committee
- Audit and Risk Committee
- Development and Growth Committee
- Maple and May Board
- Tenant and Client Services Committee



Roy Bell
Choice Services Board Member

Roy has an extensive and varied career. As a Strategic Advisor for the Strategic Investment Board and has been involved in various projects: EnergyWise, gas introduction to the West and Northern Ireland Broadband.

As a Divisional Director within the Northern Ireland Central Procurement Directorate he has been responsible for the strategic shaping of the profession across all central government departments and arm's length bodies.

Through his career he assisted several "not for profit" organisations with their procurement planning and implementation of new process and systems to ensure more effective value for money solutions in line with these organisations social objectives

Roy holds an MBA, is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing & Supply and is a past Member of the Institute of Logistics and a past Member of the Institute of Builders.



Cathal Browne
Audit & Risk Committee Member

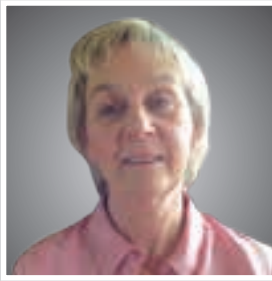
Cathal Browne recently retired from Bank of Ireland after 40 years having held a variety of senior management positions in: Finance, Lending Operations and Risk and Compliance. Cathal graduated from Dublin City University in 1989 as a Bachelor of Business Studies and qualified as a Cost and Management Accountant (CIMA) in 1994.

Cathal is married with two adult children and his interests include reading, golf and cars.



John Buckley
Choice Services Board Member
Oaklee Housing Board Member

John Buckley is an independent semi-retired management consultant. Outside of Choice he has a wealth of experience across a number of industries ranging from bio-technology manufacturing to financial and management services for startup companies. John has worked across the globe, spending considerable time in the US and France. Having moved to Donegal from Nice, France, John offers skills to organisations - particularly Irish - that could benefit from his expertise and experience in management.



Elizabeth Clarke
Audit & Risk Committee Member

Elizabeth Clarke was employed in the Northern Ireland Civil Service for 33 years in various Departments until March 2016. Elizabeth is a member of the Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors and gained her qualification in 2005 while working for the Northern Ireland Policing Board. Since 2005 she has worked as a senior internal audit professional within the public sector in Northern Ireland and has significant experience in risk management, internal control and corporate governance. For over 10 of those years she managed and delivered an internal audit service including a seven month temporary position in 2016 as Head of Internal Audit and Assurance in the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

Her experience extends to delivering value for money reviews, business improvement, fraud and whistle blowing investigations as well as consulting services. Prior to her retirement from full time work in 2017 Elizabeth had a 6 month appointment with Tourism NI as their Capital Funding Manager.

Elizabeth has proven leadership credentials and a record of achievement most recently gaining the new global qualification in Internal Audit Leadership (QIAL) from the Institute of Internal Auditors in 2016.



Danny Cochrane
Tenant & Client Services Committee Member

Danny Cochrane joined the Housing Executive as it was established on the 1st September 1971 as a Trainee Housing Manager.

After the amalgamation of all housing functions to the Housing Executive from Councils and the Housing Trust, Danny was appointed as a District Visitor to the Belfast District (Andersonstown) where he was responsible for visiting and assessing all applicants under the new Housing Selection Scheme. In 1980 Danny was appointed as District Manager to the Lisburn 3 District Office, which was later renamed as the Lisburn Dairy Farm District where he remained until retirement.

Within this role, Danny returned to his roots and was responsible for over 3,500 dwellings in the Twinbrook, Poleglass and Lagmore estates. When the new build function was transferred to Housing Associations, Danny liaised with a number of Housing Associations and was responsible for deciding on the housing mix for new developments within the District.



Seamus Corrigan
Finance Committee Member

Seamus Corrigan was a career banker with the AIB UK Group for over 40 years before retiring in 2012 having reached Executive level. His career, while working for AIB was mainly in Business Banking but also spanned into operations for the AIB (UK) Division. After his retirement from AIB he joined an alternative funding company, providing funding solutions through arranging bank, mezzanine and equity finance. He has been assisting a local charity for the past 4 years in managing and developing their Social Economy businesses creating community wealth through job creation and developing healthy lifestyles and communities.



Liam Dempsey
Finance Committee Member

Liam Dempsey was Finance Director for Dunbia (2007-2018). Up until its sale, Dunbia was one of the largest meat processing companies in Europe with a turnover of £826m. As Group Finance Director, Liam sat on the Executive and Management Boards and had full responsibility for the Finance and IT functions.

He also led all merger and acquisition activity as well as the integration of new companies. Significant achievements included a full tendering of all banking requirements, putting in facilities in excess of £100m with multiple banks and leading the process around the final sale of the business.

Previous Finance appointments include Powerscreen and Nortel. Liam is ACMA qualified and has been a Confederation of British Industry NI council member for the last 6 years, playing an active part in setting the regional priorities.



Karen Doran
Audit & Risk Committee Member

Karen Doran is part of the senior leadership team at the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH) and, as Assistant Director Investigation & Enforcement, deals with the most complex and serious regulatory cases as well as leading the RSH's consumer regulation role. Prior to joining the regulator at the end of 2013, Karen worked at CIH and for the Council of Mortgage Lenders leading work on affordable housing lending as chair to the panel of social housing lenders. With previous experience in housing in a LA and HA context as well as in central and regional government in policy and operational roles, Karen has a range of perspectives and insight into the housing sector.



Bill Kennedy

Development & Growth Committee / Maple and May Board Member

Bill Kennedy has almost 40 years experience in the property sector, having qualified as a Chartered Surveyor in 1982. He founded his own property consultancy/estate agency in 1992 which later evolved to become Colliers International Belfast of which he was Managing Director until leaving in 2015.

The company had a staff of 50+ and was involved in all aspects of the property market. Bill's role was investment and development, but he also had a supervisory/ managerial role in property management, professional services, agency and valuation.

Since 2015, Bill has operated his own property advisory consultancy, Kenridge Ltd. Bill was also formerly Head of Commercial Faculty of NI RICS and RICS Representative on RICS/University of Ulster Consultation body. Personally, Bill has a keen interest in most sports, music, food and wine, cities, architecture and the environment.



Mark Lowry

Development & Growth Committee / Maple and May Board Member

Mark Lowry has recently taken up the post of Managing Director with McAvoy Group. He is accomplished and experienced senior industry executive with 31 years of experience in building products and construction with CRH, 14 years of which were at Operating Company (OpCo) MD, Country MD and, most recently, at Group Function Director level responsibility, in which he reported directly to the Global Leadership Team (GLT) and CEO Chief of Staff.

Has unique practical insight into both the needs and expectations of operational and group management in a successful international company spanning 31 countries. Has a strong track record of delivery on objectives in each role throughout his career and is flexible, both in geographical and role terms, having worked in four different countries.

He is a Chartered Civil Engineer, CEng, Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers, London, FICE and Fellow of the Academy of Engineers in Ireland.



Gerry Millar

Development & Growth Committee / Maple and May Board Member

Gerry Millar is the Belfast City Council's Director of Property and Projects and he previously worked as the Director of Improvement.

During his time with the Council Mr Millar has gained experience in Building Control, CCT, Change Management and in Strategic Management within the Chief Executive's Department before moving to Development.

Mr Millar is a chartered surveyor by profession and was Chairman of the RICS (NI) 2007/2008, he was also a Board Member of the RICS UK World Regional Board. Gerry has previous experience in public sector housing and private sector commercial property and construction and holds an MBA from the University of Ulster at Jordanstown. He is also a graduate of the Belfast Common Purpose programme.



Rita Murray

Tenant representative on Tenant & Client Services Committee

Rita Murray has been an active member of Choice Tenants' Forum for the last 11 years and is currently the Chair of the Tenants' Forum. Rita is an avid volunteer for the last 65 years and is a member of the Greater Belfast Seniors and the 50+ Group. Outside of Rita's busy volunteering, she is a cat enthusiast!



Tim Nelson

Development & Growth Committee / Maple and May Board Member

Tim Nelson is a Chartered Surveyor with over 10 years experience within the Construction, Property and Estates Management sectors responsible for developing strategic objectives and delivering improvement programmes across a variety of facilities in Northern Ireland.

Tim is currently a Regional Head of Estates and Facilities Management for a central government department responsible for the development and management of National Infrastructure. Tim is also a member of Mutual Energy Ltd who oversee the management and development of the critical utility infrastructure connecting Northern Ireland with Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland.



Caralyn Scales

Audit & Risk Committee Member

Caralyn Scales is currently Head of Operational Risk - Group Transformation with Lloyds Banking Group. With over 20 years' experience in Financial services, she brings over 10 years' experience in managing risk (operational and compliance) within a Retail Banking Operational environment – laterally within the Digital Division.

As Head of Operational & Conduct Risk – Digital & Transformation – she is responsible for the identification of current & future strategic risks within Retail and Digital areas of what is now the UK's largest Bank. Her remit is to ensure the management of all identified and realised risks i.e. recording, identifying a treatment solution (accept the risk, minimise it or close it) and to provide strategic recommendations to the Directorate

Caralyn has a genuine interest in actively building additional skills through many ways including keeping involved in the local community, recently chairing the Board of Governors at a local school, setting up and running the local junior parkrun and regularly fundraising for various causes.



Damien Toner

Choice Services Board Member

Damien Toner – Director of Estates – Queen's University Belfast

Damien joined Queen's as Director of Estates in March 2015. Prior to joining Queen's Damien was a senior Director for one of the UK's largest infrastructure support service companies and has worked in both the public and private sectors. Damien is a Member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and a graduate of the University of Ulster with over twenty years' experience in the construction, estates and facilities management industries.



Caroline Young
Tenant & Client Services Committee Member

Caroline is currently Director of Student Plus at Queen's University Belfast, with responsibility for Campus Life and the Student Experience.

Her remit involves the leadership of a portfolio of business units which includes the University's Staff and Student accommodation, Campus Food and Drink, Events and Conferencing, Culture and Arts, Childcare, Sport and the Students' Union. Having joined Queen's in 2005 as Director of Accommodation and Hospitality, she has overseen the growth of student accommodation at Queen's from 1,600 – 3,500 rooms with investment of over £100m.

Prior to joining Queen's, Caroline worked in Sales, Marketing and Business Development as Regional Director for Hilton Hotels in Scotland and Ireland and with a variety of other Hotel Companies and Golf Resorts throughout the UK, Ireland and in Europe. She has extensive senior management experience in the hospitality, service and leisure industry within both commercial and Higher Education sectors, and places focus on growing revenues and the customer experience and on the delivery of the student experience, including supporting student wellbeing.

Caroline is a member of Queen's University Belfast Operating Board and the Students' Union Management Board and is a Governor of Victoria College Belfast, Voluntary Grammar School.





Michael McDonnell

Group Chief Executive

Michael McDonnell qualified as a Chartered Accountant with KPMG in 1989 and worked for many years as a partner in BDO, a leading global professional services firm. He has worked in leadership roles within both the private and not-for-profit sectors across the British Isles, including time with PA Consulting Group and G4S plc. He joined Choice in January 2016 having been Chief Executive of Helm Housing.

Michael has a First Class Honours degree in Accounting & Financial Analysis from the University of Warwick, and a Post-graduate Diploma from Queen's University Belfast. He has attended a number of leading business schools across Europe and North America.



Jon Anderson

Group Director of Growth

Jon Anderson is Group Director of Growth within Choice. He joined the organisation in January 2017 with a remit to expand our operations into both the private rental sector and within the residential development market. He qualified as a Chartered Surveyor in 2004 and worked for many years as a Director in Colliers International, a leading global property consultancy. He has primarily worked within the private sector with roles including commercial and residential property management, development consultancy, investment appraisal and land acquisition. Latterly, he has acted as property / investment advisor to a number of global financial institutions and investment firms.

Maple and May, a wholly owned subsidiary of Choice was launched in February 2018 and is exploring opportunities to expand its private rental and sales portfolio throughout Northern Ireland.



Sharon Cosgrove

Chief Executive Officer of Oaklee Housing

Sharon Cosgrove is an Environmental Health graduate, with a MA in Housing Studies. She joined Oaklee Housing in 2016, having previously held a number of senior roles over the course of her career, including 4 years as the CEO of the Asthma Society of Ireland, 5 years as CEO of Sonas Housing, and a period as interim Head of Projects in the Combat Poverty Agency.

Sharon has led urban multi-disciplinary regeneration teams in south Dublin and in Bristol City. As a freelance consultant for 6 years she worked with a range of Irish government agencies; assisted local authorities in the development of Local Anti-Poverty Strategies, drafted service plans for the health authorities, facilitated strategic planning processes for community and voluntary organisations and evaluated regeneration initiatives.



Carol Ervine

Group Director of Tenant & Client Services

Carol Ervine has 26 years' experience in the social housing arena and holds an MBA and BA (Hons) from the Ulster University.

Starting her housing career with Ulidia Housing Association in 1992, Carol held various positions within the organisation as her responsibilities grew.

As a member of the Senior Management Team, Carol held the post of Director of Corporate Services & Finance for over 15 years, until the organisation merged with OakleeTrinity in June 2015. Carol's current position is Group Director of Tenant & Client Services which encompasses Property Services, Housing Management, Services Centre and the Tenants' Forum.



Wilton Farrelly

Managing Director of Choice Services

Wilton Farrelly is an experienced property and services professional. With a BSc in Estate Management he subsequently qualified as a Chartered Surveyor and following a career in the Facilities Management industry, is a Fellow of the Institute of Workplace and Facilities Management (IWFM). In his previous role he developed a services business in H&J Martin, which over 15 years grew to an annual turnover of £35m and a team of 250+ staff. He has worked in both the public and private sectors as well as having spent four years self-employed. In 2017 he helped set up Choice Services and is focused on developing it in to the leading Direct Services Organisation in Ireland. Wilton has experience of servicing clients in the public, commercial and private sectors and has a strong commercial and customer focus.



Lawrence Jackson

Group Director of Organisational Development and Acting Group Director of Governance and Communications

Lawrence Jackson is a HR Professional with over 22 years experience gained both in consultancy and in-house positions. He has held senior HR roles within multi-site, blue chip private, public and semi-state organisations in Ireland including the BBC, Bank of Ireland, Guinness and Harland and Wolff.

He joined Choice in July 2016 after running his own consultancy business for a number of years. Lawrence attained a PhD in Psychology from Queen's University Belfast.



Michael Rafferty

Group Director of Finance & Resources

Michael Rafferty has over 25 years experience of working in senior finance positions across the public, private and not-for-profit sectors. He holds an accountancy degree and postgraduate diploma in accounting from Queen's University. He qualified as a Chartered Accountant with PWC in 1990 and was awarded the Northern Bank prize as the top Northern Ireland student. He also holds an MBA from Queen's University, Belfast. He worked as a senior consultant for both PWC and Deloitte where he specialised in financial management, financial systems and PPP/PFI projects.

He has supported many large organisations through significant change processes, with particular emphasis on improving value for money. Since 2003 he has been Finance Director for Choice (and its predecessors) where he has played a key role in leading change through introducing innovative funding, improving systems and developing a strategy based on organisational change.



Niall Sheridan

Group Director of Development & Assets

Niall Sheridan has worked for 36 years in social housing in Ireland, currently as Group Director of Development & Assets for Choice with overall responsibility for development and asset management. He has an MBA from Ulster University, he also has a BA (Hons) and a Postgraduate Diploma in Town and Country Planning from Queen's University, Belfast. Niall is also a graduate of the Leadership for a Democratic Society programme from the Federal Executive Institute, USA.

Niall is a former Chair of the Simon Community N. Ireland (2008-2011) and is currently a Board Member of Skainos (Urban Reperation, Inner East Belfast) and Vice Chair of the Chartered Institute of Housing Northern Ireland, Advisory Board.

Choice Group Corporate Governance Structure

