



AONTAS Board – 2026 Open Positions and Role Descriptions

Background to AONTAS

AONTAS is the Irish National Adult Learning Organisation. As an umbrella body committed to advocating and lobbying for the development of a quality service for adult learners and promoting the value and benefits of lifelong learning, AONTAS works on behalf of its 500 strong membership and regards them as a key resource which provides the organisation with a grassroots, authentic understanding of adult and community education practice and learner perspective. The membership profile comprises a rich mix of statutory, voluntary and community organisations involved in the provision of further education and training, as well as individuals who are deeply involved in and committed to the concept and practice of lifelong learning.

Since its foundation in 1969 AONTAS has a long track record of support for adult learners, practitioners and providers. It has played a pivotal role in advocating for the recognition of adult learning as a key pillar of the education service and lifelong learning as a whole, contributing to policy development and making a case for sustainable funding.

Further information on AONTAS can be found on the website: <https://www.aontas.com/>

Profile for Organisational Member Position (General)

Must be a paid up AONTAS Organisational member who **does not fit** the below criteria of an Organisational Member (Community Education).

For assistance, the definition of Community Education is:

Must be a paid up AONTAS Organisational member who is a local, self-managed, independent community education organisation committed to social change.

"Community education" means a process of personal and community transformation, empowerment, challenge, social change and collective responsiveness. It is community led, reflecting and valuing the lived experiences of individuals and their community.

Through its ethos and holistic approach community education builds the capacity of groups to develop a social teaching and learning process that is creative, participative and needs-based. Community education is grounded on principles of justice, equality and inclusiveness. It differs from formal adult education provision due to its political and radical methodologies.

Company Directors: John D’Arcy – Chairperson, Lilian Nwanze – Vice Chairperson, Martin Flynn – Director, Anne Whelan – Director, Charis Hughes – Director, Deirdre Arnold – Director, Fergus Craddock – Director, Deborah Oniah – Director, Cora Rafter – Director, Imelda Gaffney – Director, Pamela Latimer – Director, Lynn Simpson – Director, Stephanie Kirwan – Director, Chidiogo Blessing Ebeledike – Director.

Profile for Adult Learner Position

The learner candidate will have preferably undertaken formal or non-formal learning in the last 3 years and be passionate about advocating for the value and benefits of adult learning. Previous experience of local, national, or European learner representation and/or participation on a Board is an advantage. AONTAS will provide support to successful Learner Directors in their new role on the Board.

Process for Nomination & Key Return Date

For each of the open positions/role there are forms that needs to be completed by the applicant. In addition, each candidate seeking a position/role must seek nominations.

Position/Role	Document	Member Nominations Needed
Director (Organisational Member / Community Education)	Nomination Form Organisational Member for AONTAS Board (2026) <i>Please tick the Community Education box</i>	1
Director (Organisational Member / General)	Nomination Form Organisational Member for AONTAS Board (2026) <i>Please tick the General box</i>	1
Director (Adult Learner)	Nomination Form Adult Learner for AONTAS Board (2026)	1

Fully completed forms need to be returned by email to the Company Secretary Marta Feragalli (mferagalli@aontas.com) by 5:00pm Wednesday 6th May 2026.

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