

**What action needs to be taken to
maintain and develop
the independence of the
NI community and voluntary sector?**

Responses to this question made by participants at the seminar and debate held at NICVA on Friday 5 July 2013

- Info note
- Push the open government agenda
- Consciousness raising and debate
- ACF (Association of Charitable Foundations) will help create “space for debate” through organising debate (Pipers and Payers) around its annual NI conference
- Create a network of those who speak out
- Bring accountability to joint forum between the sector and government through for example an annual meeting
- More essays, papers and debates
- Training and development in advocacy and campaigning especially at CEO level
- Improve the way in which the value and impact of the challenge and dissent function of organisations is expressed outside the sector , specifically to potential non grant financiers
- Identify and publicise organisations which successfully combine a lobbying and advocacy role with an income generating service
- Just talk about independence more in general – to remind others
- Increasing need to make a distinction between the voluntary sector and the community sector. They are not the same and this debate makes this all the more urgent. Not Barry Knight’s suggestion re “ service deliverers” and the rest, but two very different sectors operating in different contexts with different interests and different capabilities
- Honest debate whether the push for consortia working is hindering grass roots community and voluntary work.
- Consider the work of the Baring Foundation in GB and if/how this could be replicated in NI
- Establish a panel on independence for the NI CVS to scope out a series of actions that may be needed to investigate and support independence
- Scope and commission research into the particular issues of procurement as they impact on independence
- Continue to have conversations about the role of independence in the sector