

24/25 Our Year in Review

An overview of how we
worked to empower
the sector.



Support

Empowering Communities Through
Innovation and Development



924

sector queries
answered.



863,840

visits across our
family of websites.



1,015

81 training sessions
delivered to **1,015**
participants.



559

97 tailored support
sessions delivered
to organisations to
559 participants.



13

ILM/TQUK accredited
courses in Leadership
and Management,
Coaching and
Mentoring, Education
and Training and
Quality Assurance
delivered.



1,487

1,487 members
supported, **45%** of
which are small
organisations
earning under
£20,000 annually.



10

Home to 10
voluntary,
community and
social enterprise
organisations as
sector tenants at
the NICVA building.



Over 1,107

room bookings at
NICVA's state-of-
the-art conference
facilities.

Influence

Amplifying Our Sector's Voice

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Over **50** policy engagement events held, attended by **1,408** people.



Over **300** advocacy meetings held with NI Government Ministers, senior UK Government representatives, and key stakeholders.



NICVA staff represented the sector on **50+ committees** to ensure their voices were heard.



Hosted 3 meetings of the All-Party Group (APG) for the Voluntary and Community Sector.



Campaigned on key issues:

- The value and impact of the voluntary and community sector
- Advocating for sustainable and fair funding
- Strengthening the relationship with government
- Addressing the challenges with charity banking
- Advocating for a charity registration threshold
- Shaping a robust Anti-Poverty Strategy for Northern Ireland.
- Highlighting the impact of Employer NIC increases and the cost-of-living crisis on sector organisations



Coordinated and led the **NICVA Economic Inactivity Coalition** to demand clarity on future funding arrangements after the end of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.



Supported the **Joint Forum** in developing and agreeing the new draft **Partnership Agreement** between Government and the VCS, including **Fair Funding Principles**.



As Secretariat to the **Community Faiths' Forum**, facilitated multi-faith dialogue on poverty, disadvantage, and social inclusion, fostering collaboration between the faith sector and the Department for Communities.

Develop

Empowering the Voluntary and Community Sector to Innovate, Develop, and Thrive



Hosted the first **Future Thinking Summit** for voluntary, community, and social enterprise organisations, attended by **378 people**, with 55 sector organisations leading **14 Engagement Hubs**.



Delivered a **Capacity Building Accelerator and Mentoring Programme** for Community Foundation Northern Ireland grant holders. The programme engaged **133 organisations** and **over 500 staff**.



Delivered **IFI Transforming Local Leadership** cross-border programme to 10 organisations in partnership with The Wheel.



Delivered 10 collaborative support sessions through Halifax Foundation, who also sponsored our **Funding Fayre (145 attendees)**, with **95% rating it Excellent–Good** and **96% reporting increased knowledge**.



Conducted sector-wide surveys on financial stability, income diversification, and transformation of the voluntary and community sector.

Quotes

“It is important for NICVA to be involved in facilitating the Joint Forum, from the point of view of having a ‘trusted and experienced’ organisation who has the knowledge, experience and reputation to ‘do the job’ and hopefully the capacity as well which the other members don’t possess.”

Colm McDaid

CEO, Supporting Communities

“NICVA’s advice was instrumental — it helped us develop a strong pipeline and ultimately led us to apply to the NI Thriving Futures Fund. We’re thrilled to share that our application was successful! Thank you again for your encouragement and insight. We’re excited for the work ahead and deeply appreciate your role in helping us get here.”

Mercedes Hunt

Project Coordinator, CRJI Newry/ Armagh

“Our governance session was far more than just training – it felt like a Governance Surgery. As MSCNI transitions from a charity to a company limited by guarantee, it provided us with the deep, strategic insight we needed. It was a timely intervention, helping us navigate complex governance challenges with clarity and confidence.”

Jahswill Emmanuel

CEO, Multi-Ethnic Sports & Cultures NI (MSCNI)

We believe the voluntary
and community sector is a
force for good. That's why
we do everything we can
to empower it.



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