

Working with Andy Benson (see separate entry) my interests focus on the political and strategic direction of the voluntary and community sectors - through independent voluntary action and its critical role in civil society and democratic accountability. We are alarmed, on the one hand, by the increasing co-option of the professionalised voluntary sector as part of privatisation of public services and, on the other, by the relative neglect and under-resourcing of the community sector. We are interested to work with individuals and organisations that wish to assert independence of mind and activity in order to achieve radical and lasting social change.

Specialisms

◆ research, evaluation & feasibility work ◆ service development & quality assurance ◆ feedback from and involvement of those using services ◆ strategic planning & joint work with other agencies
◆ facilitation ◆ Non-managerial supervision ◆ action learning

My work ranges across many issues and topics. However, the fields of work I know most about are independent advice services, palliative care, social care, 'second tier' working, inter-agency work, and approaches to quality and outcomes assessment. I am interested in democratic engagement and finding ways to make services more appropriate to local communities in a way that is co-operative rather than competitive. I have a particular interest in working in areas that remedy exclusion and which enable silent voices to be heard; and in making visible the power structures and relationships which underpin social change and justice.

Geographical area

No restrictions

Work experience

I work only in the voluntary and community sectors, at all levels and across all interests - small local groups, large national agencies, infrastructure organisations, those involved in service delivery and those taking social action. I have experience, at senior management, in voluntary and statutory services. Much of my work has been focused on service delivery and development and in policy influence - through research, evaluation, user and public participation and through management, organisational and team development. I have been a lecturer teaching management theory and practice. I have worked freelance since 1989. I am a founder member of, and actively involved in, the National Coalition for Independent Action. www.independentaction.net

National Coalition for
Independent Action