

Situational update – South West

Government list of local restriction tiers by area (starting Dec 2, 2020)

Tier 1: Medium alert

Cornwall
Isles of Scilly

Tier 2: High alert

Bath and North East Somerset
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole
Devon, including Plymouth and Torbay
Dorset
Gloucestershire (Cheltenham, Cotswold, Forest of Dean, Gloucester, Stroud and Tewkesbury)
Somerset (South Somerset, Somerset West and Taunton, Mendip and Sedgemoor)
Wiltshire and Swindon

Tier 3: Very High alert

Bristol
North Somerset
South Gloucestershire

Key points from the Pulse Check Week 8 results (16-18 November, 2020)

- **13%** of respondents in the South West said that they had **significant concerns** about the level of unmet needs in their area in the last 7 days.
- **21%** of respondents in the South West said that they had said that they had **significant concerns** about the capacity of the voluntary sector in their area in the last 7 days.
- **Funding** has been raised **in the last four weeks** of Pulse Check surveys as a **concern** about the ability of voluntary sector organisations to provide assistance to people in need?
 - Question: Is this normal or related to COVID? Does this need escalating to the national team and the government?

Concerns about the level of unmet needs in the South West in the last 7 days?

1 Dec 2020

Bristol	" Adult social care under "increased pressure." Schools and childcare isolating in rotation, creating challenges for families at home ."	Somerset	We have seen a general increase in demand for support , more broadly, over the past week, although Covid cases are beginning to level off. Despite this, no specific concerns about unmet need, as systems continue to hold up. A lot of demand for support around finances and debt, but has been additional investment into local Citizens Advice orgs . Continuing issues around lack of community connections and social isolation - will be an ongoing priority.
Cornwall	Youth are presenting with multiple and complex issues now and case loads 3 times higher.		
Devon	Demand for food banks - lack of seasonal work - increase in demand for support services such as mental health and domestic abuse .		
Devon	Volunteer support for shopping and prescriptions, demand was slow to start but has picked up considerably. The cadre of volunteers is far smaller than 1st Lockdown .	Torbay	Confusion around information and accessing relevant covid support, particularly is develop symptoms.
Devon	Food, mental health, loneliness	Wokingham	Apart from minimal social activities the only continuing needs relate to digital issues for both people that deliver groups as well as those that need to attend them.
Dorset	Needs are changing as the pandemic evolves and Government guidance changes, we want to ensure that no-one falls through the cracks. Concern with Citizen's Advice , people struggling to access the code for financial support.		
Milton Keynes	Mental Health support for volunteers and VCS staff . Wider access to core funds for infrastructure organisations over multi years.		
North Somerset	Demands on health, primary and community health services are a real concern . In addition, people are reducing cases of increased isolation through Lockdown2		

Concerns about the capacity of the voluntary sector in the South West in the last 7 days? 1 Dec 2020

Bristol	Interim funding for short-term priorities that have been identified (e.g. domestic abuse) appear to have been utilised very quickly, indicating further unmet demand.	Dorset	I think the sector is more than able to provide the assistance, but there needs to be strong collaboration and communication to ensure that all people receive the help and support required.
Cornwall	Many reporting funding only until march 21 they haven't got emergency funding beyond this and have struggled to fund raise	North Somerset	Services are being stretched and demand on voluntary services is increasing , especially within check and chat type services
Devon	A number of key support organisations are struggling with increased demand and lack of funding	Oxfordshire	Capacity to deliver
Devon	Still very limited face to face support.	Somerset	As previous weeks, consistent and continuing concerns around the resilience of the sector. Many organisations reporting that their frontline staff and volunteers are exhausted by the intensity of the work . Office-based equally impacted and jaded by remote working. Local funding achieved for a resilience hub that will include provision for VCSE colleagues. Also working with LA and health colleagues to take a more joined up approach to staff resilience and wellbeing.
Devon	The size of the volunteer cohort is still smaller than lock down 1 and pre-existing volunteers are more reluctant to become involved for health reasons. The demand on volunteers is significantly reduced from lock down 1 but increasing daily.	South Gloucestershire	Food banks restricting referrals-in whist needs are rising although local feeding groups covering this at the moment
Devon	"Concerns: Volunteers not coming back after the lockdown break. Age of volunteers. New clients 'assessments are behind. Digital access. "	Torbay	Lower capacity due to people having to self isolate and ongoing anxiety
		Wokingham	Digital issues , particularly for small community groups as per last comment.