



VCS Emergencies
Partnership

VCS EP Pulse Check

Week of 14 December 2020

Results published 22 December 2020

Summary

- 16% of respondents in the North, and 23% in Midlands & East, 19% in the South East and 28% in the South West reported significant or major **concerns about unmet needs** in their area in the 7 days prior to data collection
- **Mental health, hardship** and **food** were the most frequently mentioned unmet need in the 7 days prior to data collection
- 24% of respondents reported significant or major concerns about the **capacity** of the voluntary sector to respond to local needs in the 7 days prior to data collection
- **Funding / sustainability, demand** and **volunteers** were the most frequently mentioned issues affecting voluntary sector capacity in the 7 days prior to data collection

About this survey

This survey was conducted between 14–16 December 2020. Of 198 organisations surveyed, 163 responses were received – a response rate of 82%.

Respondents were asked to provide a high-level assessment of unmet needs and voluntary sector capacity in the past 7 days and an indication of priorities in the following 14 days.

Respondents were asked for a general assessment based on existing knowledge of local conditions; responses should be interpreted as a rough indication of where gaps exist.

With this in mind, survey results should be used to highlight areas for further exploration and engagement rather than as a definitive picture of unmet needs in England.

Responses are grouped by VCS EP multi-agency cell (*see map on p.6*).

Contact: vcsep_im@redcross.org.uk

Concerns about the level of unmet needs in your area in the last 7 days?

	No concerns	Slight concerns	Significant concerns	Major concerns	Not sure
North	16%	65%	14%	2%	2%
Midlands & East	13%	63%	19%	4%	0%
London	0%	54%	38%	0%	8%
South East	9%	68%	14%	5%	5%
South West	9%	64%	23%	5%	0%
England	11%	63%	20%	3%	2%

Areas with major concerns flagged over unmet needs

Midlands & East
- Worcestershire
- Norfolk

North
- Lancashire

South East
- Hampshire

South West
- Milton Keynes

Figures are rounded and may exceed 100% in total

Most frequently mentioned needs concerns* in the 7 days prior to data collection:

1. MENTAL HEALTH
2. HARDSHIP
3. FOOD
4. ISOLATION & LONELINESS
5. HEALTH

* Ranking of mentions of each issue in open text answers

Concerns about the capacity of the voluntary sector in your area in the last 7 days?

	No concerns	Slight concerns	Significant concerns	Major concerns	Not sure
North	12%	63%	21%	2%	2%
Midlands & East	13%	62%	21%	4%	0%
London	17%	58%	25%	0%	0%
South East	9%	64%	14%	9%	5%
South West	9%	68%	14%	5%	5%
England	12%	63%	20%	4%	2%

Areas with major concerns flagged over voluntary sector capacity

Midlands & East
- Norfolk
- Nottinghamshire

North
- Lancashire

South East
- Hampshire
- Kent

South West
- Milton Keynes

Figures are rounded and may exceed 100% in total

Most frequently mentioned capacity concerns* in the 7 days prior to data collection:

- FUNDING / SUSTAINABILITY**
- DEMAND**
- VOLUNTEERS**
- MENTAL HEALTH**
- LIMITED RESOURCES**

* Ranking of mentions of each issue in open text answers

Priority concerns* in your area in the next 14 days?

MENTAL
HEALTH

87%

HARDSHIP &
FINANCIAL
SUPPORT

69%

FOOD

55%

DIGITAL DIVIDE

21%

Increase in referrals for support with energy costs

Concerned about people not coming forwards for help, rather than help not being in place

Pressure on food banks and domestic violence services

There are long waiting lists for mental health services like counselling. There is not enough mental health support for young people

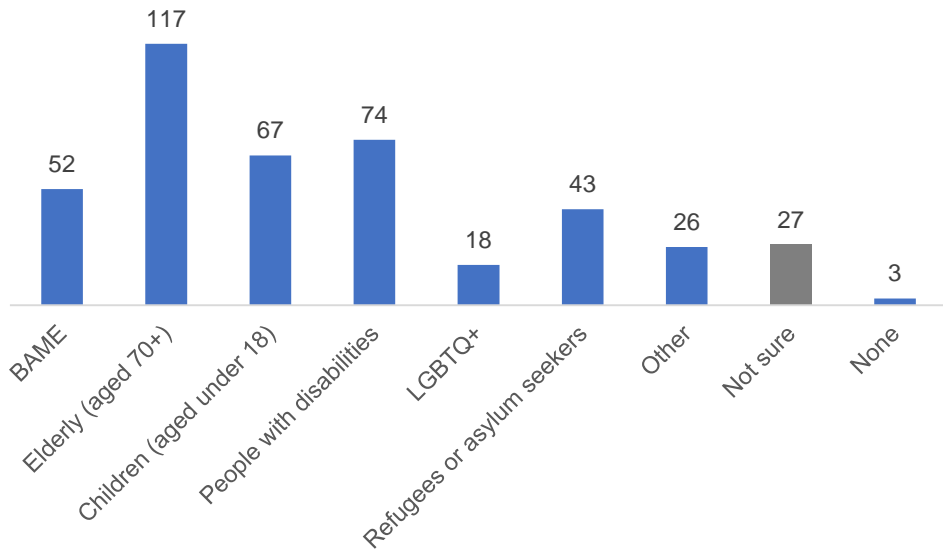
We are seeing an increase in the need for homeless support, and local shelters are closed

Number of families with children requiring support with food parcels

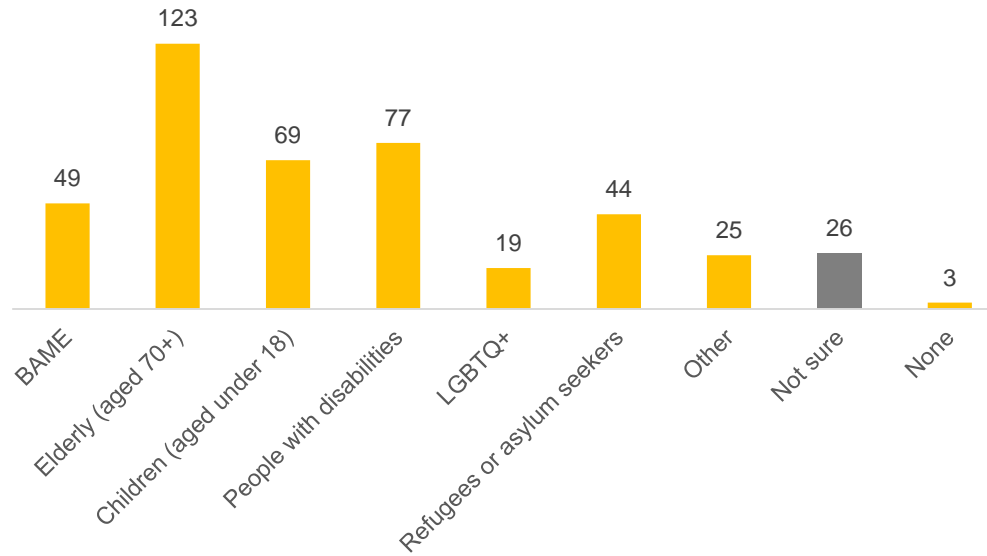
* Percentage of total respondents that answered this as one of the top three sectors of concern in the next 14 days. The list available to select from was: food, housing/temporary accommodation, mental health, healthcare, hardship & financial support, protection & safeguarding, employment advice & support, IT access/digital divide, fuel poverty, other, none, not sure.

Vulnerable populations

In the last 7 days, do you think any of these populations groups were in particular need of support?



In the next 14 days, do you think any of these population groups will be in particular need of support?



Other groups mentioned:

- Isolated and living alone
- Single parents
- Migrant workers
- Carers
- Isolated people in rural communities
- Clinically extremely vulnerable
- Those who are shielding
- Single adults
- Those with no recourse to public funds
- Refugees/asylum seekers
- Eastern European communities
- People without transport for vaccination

Closure and changes to day service provision is affecting both individuals and carers

Single parents are among the highest we've seen.

Requests for support

Status of open requests** for support as of 18 December



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VCS EP open requests** for support as of 18 December

By category:

Transportation & delivery	3
Personal protective equipment	3
Funding advice	3
Guidance	1
Specialist training	1
Mental health or well-being	2
Volunteers	13
Other	5

By region:

Midlands & East	3
London	6
North	0
South East	7
South West	3

RE:ACT unmet needs requests in 30 days to 22 December*

By category:

Food	1
Strategic planning & analysis	2
Vaccinations	1

By region:

North	0
Midlands & East	0
South East	2
South West	1
London	1

* Requests from England only

** Open requests on the VCS EP request for support sharepoint