



VCS Emergencies
Partnership

VCS EP Pulse Check

Week of 4 January 2021

Results published 11 January 2021

Summary

- 47% of respondents in the London, 27% in the Midlands & East, 33% in the North, 35% in the South East and 65% in the South West reported significant or major **concerns about unmet needs** in their area in the 7 days prior to data collection
- **Heath, Service Delivery/Capacity** and **Hardship** were the most frequently mentioned unmet needs in the 7 days prior to data collection
- 36% 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
- **Healthcare** is now one of the top 4 priority concerns* across England in the next 14 days (slide 4)

About this survey

This survey was conducted between 4 – 6 January 2021. Of 198 organisations surveyed, 138 responses were received – a response rate of 70%.

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*).

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*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.

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	7%	43%	31%	2%	17%
Midlands & East	12%	49%	20%	7%	12%
London	7%	40%	40%	7%	7%
South East	10%	40%	30%	5%	15%
South West	5%	25%	60%	5%	5%
England	9%	41%	33%	5%	12%

Areas with major concerns flagged over unmet needs

London
- Sutton

Midlands & East
- Derbyshire
- Peterborough
- Nottinghamshire

North
- Redcar and Cleveland

South East
- Surrey

South West
- Plymouth

Figures are rounded and may exceed 100% in total

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

1. HEALTH
2. SERVICE DELIVERY/CAPACITY
3. HARDSHIP
4. MENTAL HEALTH
5. FOOD

* 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	10%	38%	36%	7%	10%
Midlands & East	24%	37%	17%	12%	10%
London	7%	47%	47%	0%	0%
South East	15%	55%	15%	10%	5%
South West	20%	30%	25%	10%	15%
England	16%	40%	27%	9%	9%

Areas with major concerns flagged over voluntary sector capacity

Midlands & East

- Shropshire
- Nottinghamshire
- Derbyshire
- Peterborough

North

- Lancashire
- North Lincolnshire
- Redcar and Cleveland

South East

- Kent
- Surrey

South West

- Devon
- Plymouth

Figures are rounded and may exceed 100% in total

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



* Ranking of mentions of each issue in open text answers

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

MENTAL
HEALTH

79%

HARDSHIP &
FINANCIAL
SUPPORT

62%

FOOD

55%

HEALTHCARE

24%

Due to entering a new national lockdown, there are likely to be delays for new benefits claimants.

The COVID rates are very high, this is having an effect on mental health and the service provision of many organisations.

Groups and individuals are stretched to breaking point. Ongoing food poverty and logistics of getting food to people during lockdown continues to be a problem.

Schools being closed is having an effect on people working and their availability to fulfil their roles.

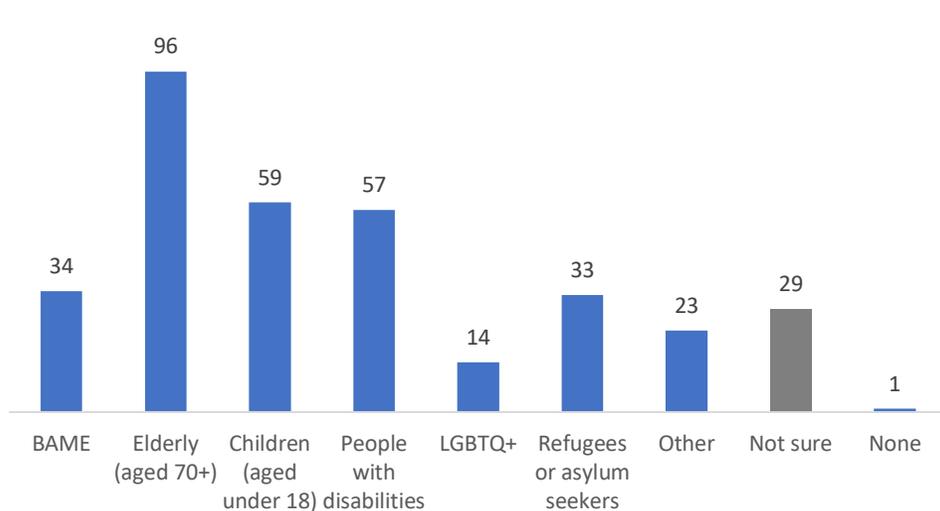
The support requests to funders from front line organisations have been in relation to food poverty, mental health and financial advice.

Organisations are reporting increased nervousness from volunteers. Going into Lockdown 3.0, most people know someone who has died of COVID, and the information on high and rising infection rates is very visible.

* 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.

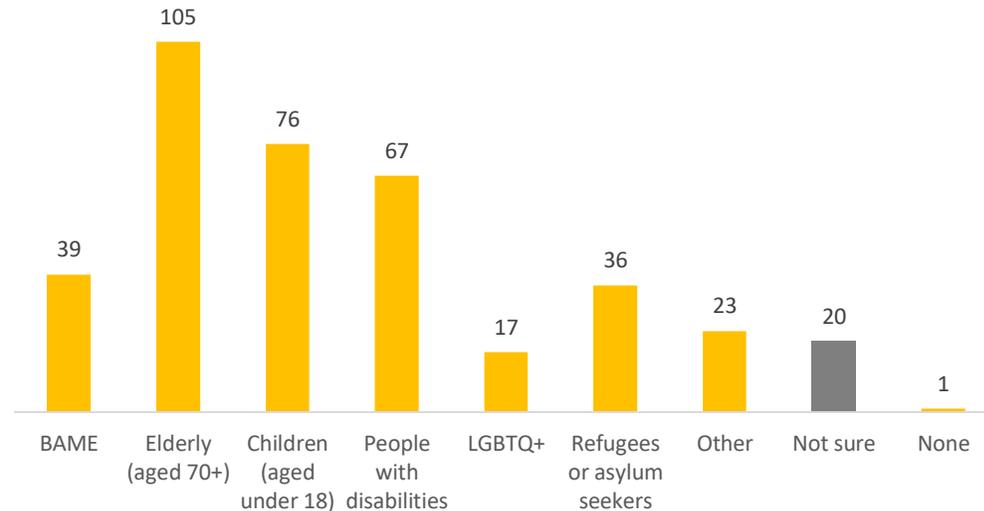
Vulnerable populations

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



Vaccination centres are largely being set up in urban settings. Many older people who will be first to receive a vaccination live in remote areas. Transportation is a concern.

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



COVID deaths are soaring amongst BAME and Muslim communities across the UK.

Other groups mentioned:

- Domestic abuse
- Families with school-age children
- Mental health
- Low income families/financial hardship
- Single parents
- Migrant workers
- Carers
- Isolated people
- Those who are shielding
- Those with no recourse to public funds
- Refugees/asylum seekers
- Substance abuse

Requests for support

Status of open requests** for support as of 11 January



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VCS EP open requests** for support as of 11 January

By category:

Transportation & delivery	3
Personal protective equipment	2
Funding advice	2
Guidance	1
Specialist training	1
Mental health or well-being	2
Volunteers	19
Other	3

By region:

Midlands & East	2
London	10
North	0
South East	13
South West	0

RE:ACT unmet needs requests in 30 days to 11 January*

By category:

Food	1
Vaccinations	1

By region:

South West	1
London	1

* Requests from England only

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