



VCS Emergencies
Partnership

VCS EP Pulse Check

Week of 23 November 2020

Results published 30 November 2020

Summary

- 46% of respondents in London and 29% in the North reported significant or major **concerns about unmet needs** in their area in the 7 days prior to data collection
- **Mental health** and **hardship** 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** and **increased demand** 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 23–25 November 2020. Of 198 organisations surveyed, 151 responses were received – a response rate of 76%.

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	12%	59%	27%	2%	0%
Midlands & East	22%	58%	13%	7%	0%
London	0%	50%	41%	5%	5%
South East	32%	42%	26%	0%	0%
South West	0%	71%	13%	4%	13%
England	14%	57%	23%	4%	3%

Areas with major concerns flagged over unmet needs

North:

- Lancashire

Midlands & East:

- Northamptonshire
- Cambridgeshire
- Worcestershire

London:

- Brent

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. HEALTHCARE
5. SOCIAL ISOLATION / LONELINESS

* Percentage of respondents mentioning 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	15%	63%	20%	2%	0%
Midlands & East	29%	51%	13%	7%	0%
London	5%	50%	32%	14%	0%
South East	42%	47%	11%	0%	0%
South West	8%	63%	21%	0%	8%
England	20%	56%	19%	5%	1%

Areas with major concerns flagged over voluntary sector capacity

North:

- Lancashire

Midlands & East:

- Northamptonshire
- Cambridgeshire
- Worcestershire

London:

- Brent
- Ealing

Figures are rounded and may exceed 100% in total

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

- FUNDING**
- INCREASED DEMAND**
- VOLUNTEERS**
- REDUCTION OF SERVICES**
- LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS**

* Percentage of respondents mentioning each issue in open text answers

Priority concerns in your area in the next 14 days?

**MENTAL
HEALTH**

87%

**HARDSHIP &
FINANCIAL
SUPPORT**

66%

FOOD

50%

**IT access/digital
divide**

23%

Number of suicides have radically escalated

More food bank vouchers being issued especially for the first time - more families using this service

Concerns still about financial vulnerability of residents and access to food/paying bills

Homeless shelters are already at 95% occupancy

Mental health wait times are still too long, and the help limited in many cases

Provision for those who are digitally excluded / people with disabilities being included in the planning for mass testing

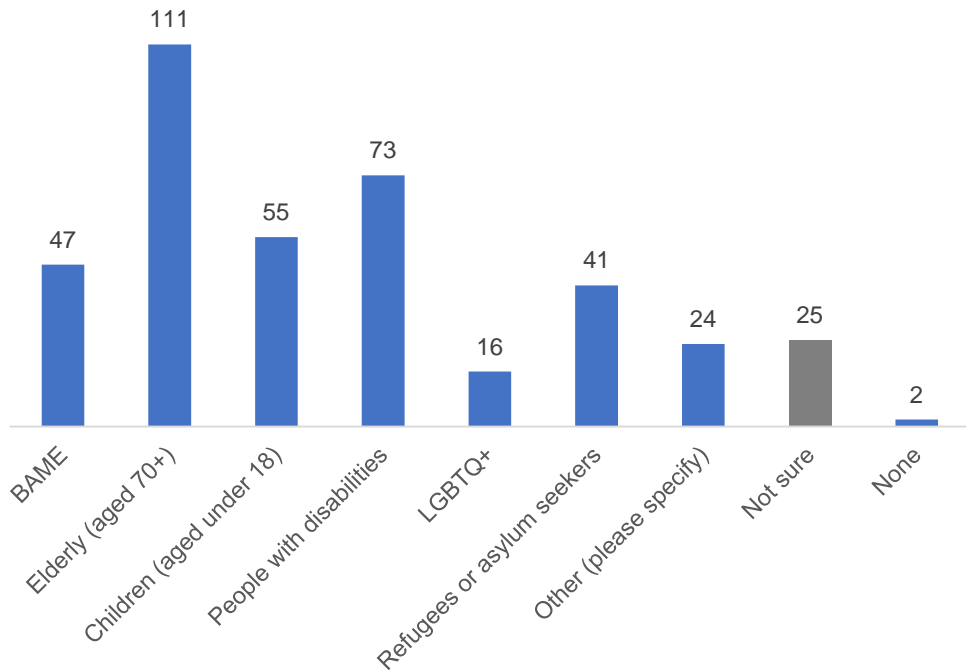
We are seeing an increase in calls for financial help from people who have exhausted all other sources

Growing demand for domestic violence support services

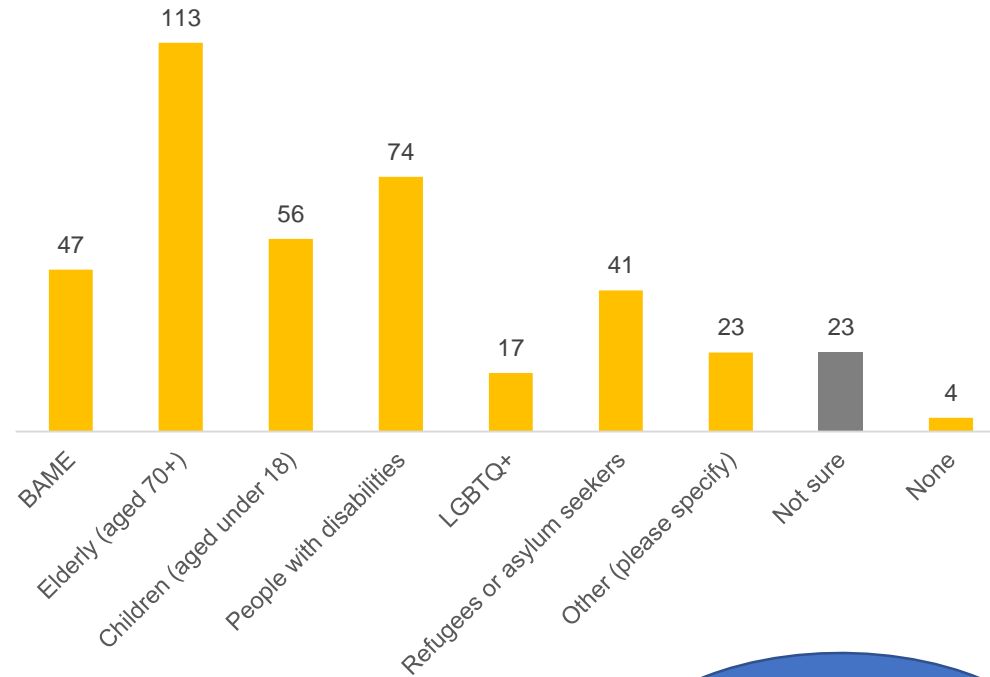
* Percentage of total respondents that answered this as one of the top three sectors of concern in the next 14 days. The list available to select from was: food, housing/temporary accommodation, mental health, healthcare, hardship & financial support, protection & safeguarding, employment advice & support, 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:

- Working age population suffering from mental health
- Homeless
- Isolated and living alone
- Migrant workers
- Carers
- Financial hardship
- Isolated people in rural communities
- Chronically ill individuals
- Those with no recourse to public funds
- Clinically extremely vulnerable

People are having to cope as carers without or with only very limited support

Second death amongst local homeless in two weeks (one of those suicide)

Youth are presenting with multiple and complex issues now and case loads 3 times higher

Requests for support

Status of open requests for support as of 30 November



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2018

VCS EP open requests for support as of 30 November

By category:

Transportation & delivery	1
Personal protective equipment	2
Funding advice	2
Guidance	1
Specialist training	1
Mental health or well-being	1
Volunteers	10
Other	4

By region:

Midlands & East	1
London	6
North	1
South East	5
South West	1

RE:ACT unmet needs requests in 30 days to 30 November*

By category:

Food	1
Mortuary	1
Testing	1
Welfare	1
Strategic planning & analysis	4

By region:

North	1
Midlands & East	0
South East	4
South West	3

* Requests from England only