



VCS Emergencies  
Partnership

# VCS EP Pulse Check

Week of 30 November 2020

Results published 07 December 2020

## Summary

- 22% of respondents in the North and 12% in London reported significant or major **concerns about unmet needs** in their area in the 7 days prior to data collection
- **Food, hardship** and **mental health** were the most frequently mentioned unmet need in the 7 days prior to data collection
- 23% 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 **sustainability** 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 30 November – 2 December 2020. Of 198 organisations surveyed, 131 responses were received – a response rate of 66%.

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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# 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	10%	68%	17%	5%	0%
Midlands & East	12%	74%	7%	5%	2%
London	0%	53%	41%	0%	6%
South East	13%	67%	20%	0%	0%
South West	4%	67%	21%	0%	8%
England	9%	68%	18%	3%	2%

Areas with major concerns flagged over unmet needs

## North:

- Gateshead
- Halton
- Knowsley
- Liverpool
- Newcastle upon Tyne
- Sefton
- St. Helens
- Wirral

## Midlands & East:

- Lincolnshire
- Wolverhampton

*Figures are rounded and may exceed 100% in total*

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



\* 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	17%	51%	24%	5%	3%
Midlands & East	19%	64%	14%	0%	3%
London	6%	65%	29%	0%	0%
South East	7%	73%	20%	0%	0%
South West	0%	67%	25%	0%	8%
England	12%	62%	22%	1%	3%

Areas with major concerns flagged over voluntary sector capacity

## North:

- County Durham
- Halton
- Knowsley
- Liverpool
- Sefton
- St. Helens
- Wirral

*Figures are rounded and may exceed 100% in total*

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



\* Percentage of respondents mentioning each issue in open text answers

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

**MENTAL  
HEALTH**

**88%**

**HARDSHIP &  
FINANCIAL  
SUPPORT**

**73%**

**FOOD**

**47%**

**IT access/digital  
divide**

**19%**

Due to hardship and other factors, we are witnessing suicide rates going up.

It has been a tough week helping people navigate through Tiers, bubbles for Christmas and devolution meetings.

Key concerns remains around capacity to provide support to those who are struggling with their mental health and/or loneliness/social isolation.

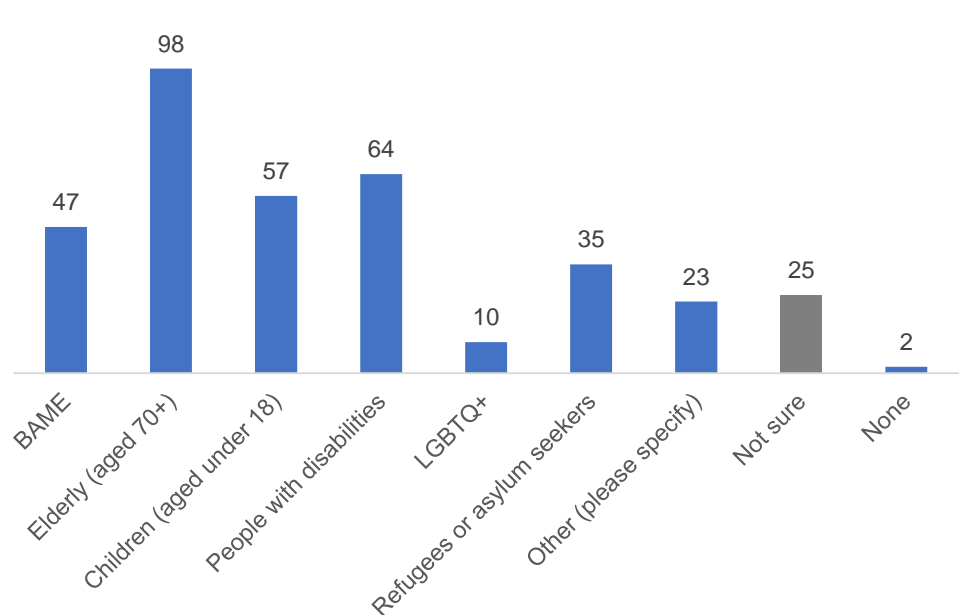
There are increasing divides within communities that bubble to the surface in response to mainly small triggers. This is backed by stats from Police, CAB and anecdotal evidence from refugee action groups supporting local families. As we approach Brexit, parts of the country are deeply divided and it is likely to be a significant trigger for community tensions.

We have seen an increase in foodbank usage but not from the usual clients. The new referrals are from those who have mortgages and financial commitments who have lost their jobs.

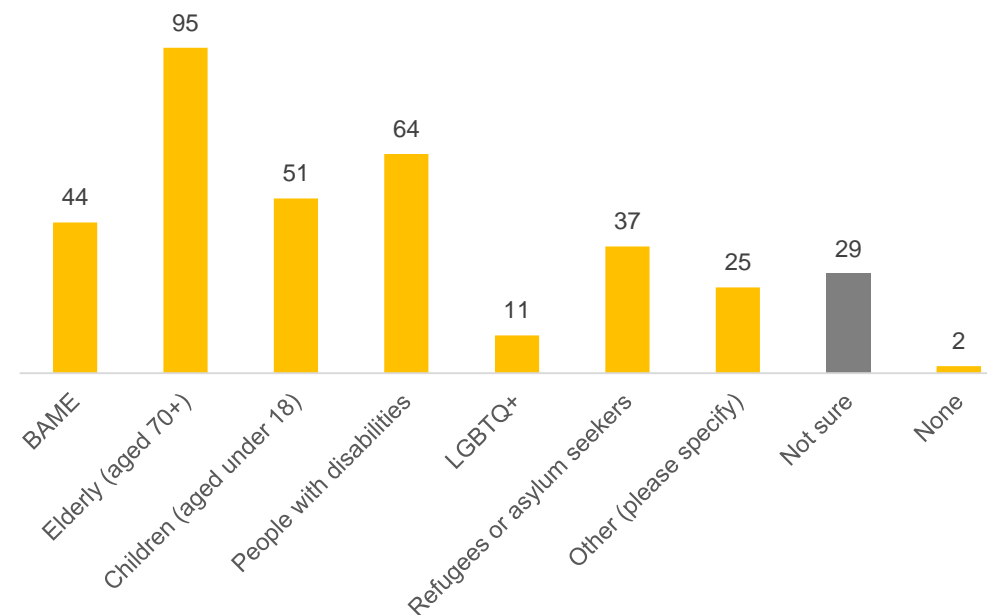
Rural isolation may be masking some of the worst effects.

# 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:

- Homeless
- Isolated and living alone
- Migrant workers
- Carers
- Financial hardship
- Isolated people in rural communities
- Clinically extremely vulnerable
- Single adult families
- Those who are shielding
- Gypsy and traveller communities

We are hearing from organisations that supporting children within the deaf community that isolation continues to be an issue. This is a community that feels isolated under 'normal' circumstances.

Getting the information in different languages is a challenge. Local Authorities have different mechanisms in terms of translating their information for their residents.

# Requests for support

Status of open requests for support as of 07 December



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VCS EP open requests for support as of 07 December

By category:

Transportation & delivery	1
Personal protective equipment	2
Funding advice	1
Guidance	1
Specialist training	1
Mental health or well-being	1
Volunteers	12
Other	6

By region:

Midlands & East	2
London	6
North	1
South East	5
South West	3

## RE:ACT unmet needs requests in 30 days to 07 December\*

By category:

Food	1
Mortuary	2
Testing	1
Welfare	1
Strategic planning & analysis	3
Vaccinations	1

By region:

North	1
Midlands & East	1
South East	3
South West	6
London	0

\* Requests from England only