



VCS Emergencies
Partnership

VCS EP Pulse Check

Week of 11 January 2021

Results published 18 January 2021

Summary

- 45% of respondents in the London, 28% in the Midlands & East, 41% in the North, 32% in the South East and 53% in the South West reported significant or major **concerns about unmet needs** in their area in the 7 days prior to data collection
- **Service Delivery/Capacity, Mental Health/Isolation and Food Poverty** were the most frequently mentioned unmet needs in the 7 days prior to data collection
- 30% 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
- **Service Delivery/Capacity, Funding and Health** 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 11 – 14 January 2021. Of 198 organisations surveyed, 146 responses were received – a response rate of 74%.

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	8%	51%	38%	3%	0%
Midlands & East	11%	59%	17%	11%	2%
London	0%	50%	39%	6%	6%
South East	9%	59%	27%	5%	0%
South West	5%	43%	48%	5%	0%
England	8%	53%	32%	6%	1%

Areas with major concerns flagged over unmet needs

London
- Bromley

Midlands & East
- Derbyshire
- Worcestershire
- Norfolk
- Derbyshire
- Nottinghamshire

North
- Lancashire

South East
- Kent

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:

- SERVICE DELIVERY/ CAPACITY**
- MENTAL HEALTH/ISOLATION**
- FOOD POVERTY**
- HARDSHIP**
- DIGITAL DIVIDE**

* 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%	46%	36%	5%	3%
Midlands & East	11%	61%	17%	9%	2%
London	6%	44%	39%	6%	6%
South East	9%	73%	14%	5%	0%
South West	10%	71%	14%	5%	0%
England	10%	58%	24%	6%	2%

Areas with major concerns flagged over voluntary sector capacity

London

- Ealing
- Hounslow

Midlands & East

- Derbyshire
- Norfolk
- Derbyshire
- Nottinghamshire

North

- Lancashire
- North Lincolnshire

South East

- 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:

1. SERVICE DELIVERY/CAPACITY	2. FUNDING	3. HEALTH	4. MENTAL HEALTH/ISOLATION	5. FOOD POVERTY
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* Ranking of mentions of each issue in open text answers

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

**MENTAL
HEALTH**

82%

**HARDSHIP &
FINANCIAL
SUPPORT**

62%

FOOD

51%

**IT ACCESS/DIGITAL
DIVIDE**

28%

School closures has put pressure on families and their heating bills.

Huge gap in national government IT scheme for schools - many local schools appealing for IT kit.

Lockdown hitting the retail sector very hard with a number of shops closing down and staff being made unemployed.

Increasing concern from some third sector organisations over loss of income and the impact this will have on 2021/22, particularly for those who have not been able to operate due to COVID e.g. outdoor provision (education and disability group provision).

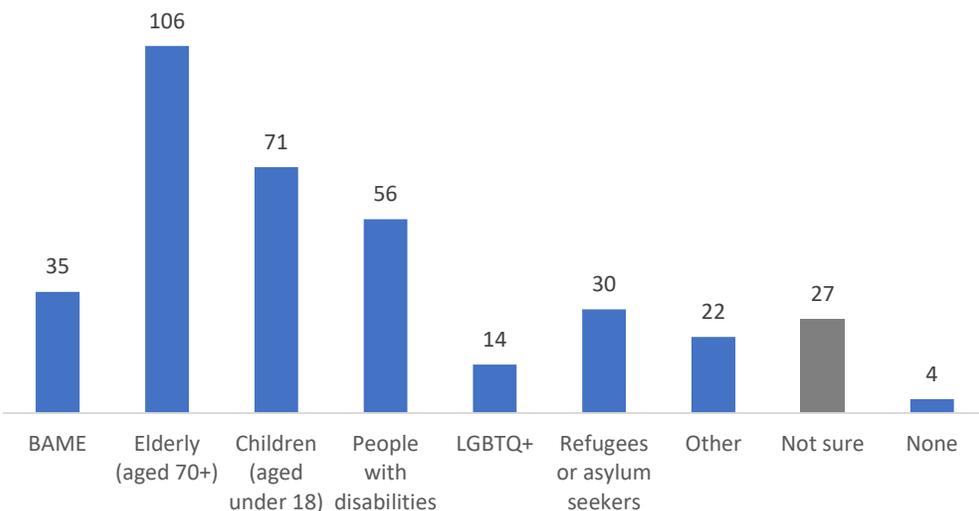
Advice agencies are seeing an increase in new clients facing debt issues due to furlough/redundancy.

Some rural families struggling to home school due to poor internet connections.

* 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.

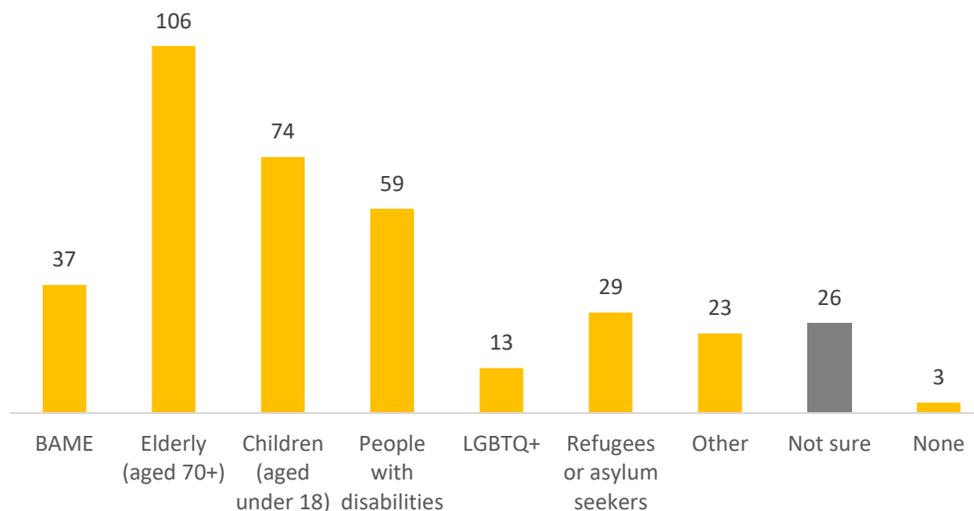
Vulnerable populations

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



Although meals are still being provided for children who qualify for free school meals, households are struggling, with children being at home all day, families go through more groceries.

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



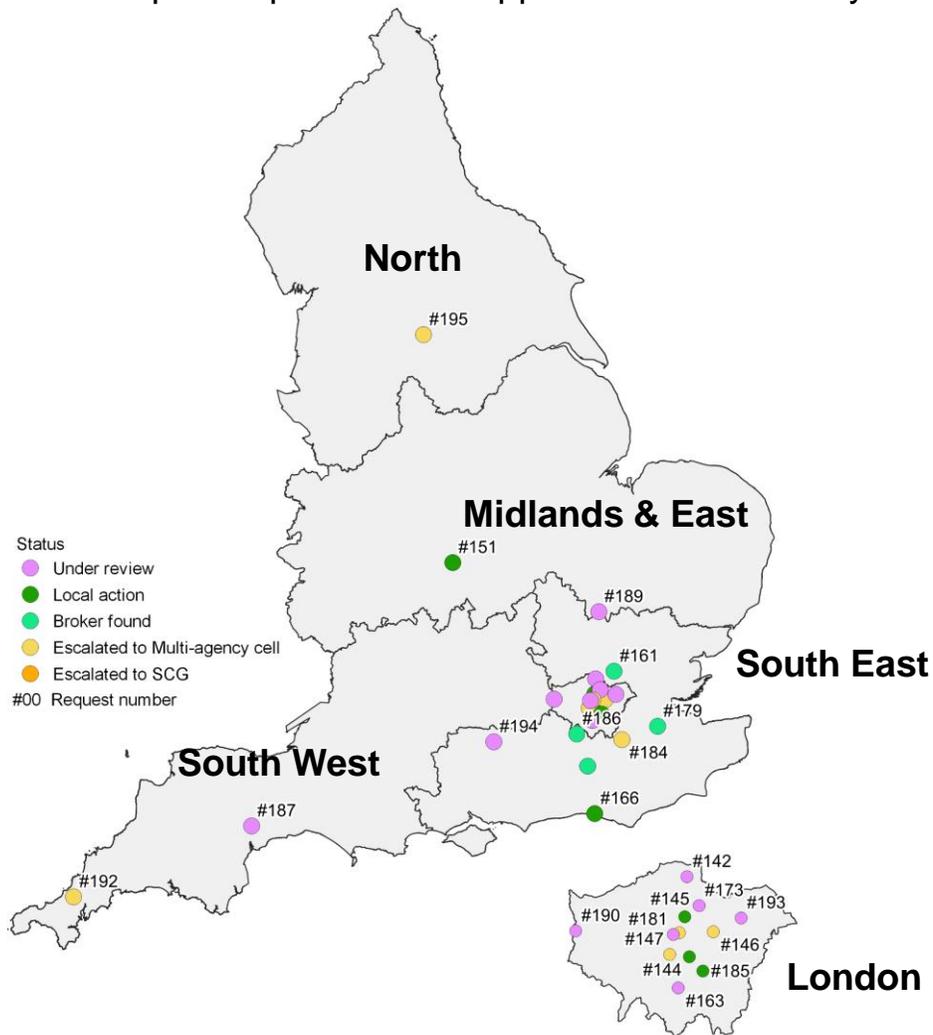
Emergency hardship funds for families and single households are urgently needed. The financial struggle is breaking families and causing an upsurge in mental health issues and domestic abuse.

Other groups mentioned:

- People in rural communities
- Eligibility for vaccines
- Domestic abuse
- Home-schooling and working parents
- Families furloughed
- Mental health
- Low income families/financial hardship
- Migrant workers
- Carers
- Isolated people
- Those with no recourse to public funds
- Refugees/asylum seekers
- Digitally excluded
- Clinically extremely vulnerable

Requests for support

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



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

By category:

Transportation & delivery	4
Personal protective equipment	4
Funding advice	4
Guidance	1
Specialist training	3
Mental health or well-being	3
Volunteers	20
Other	4

By region:

Midlands & East	2
London	12
North	1
South East	7
South West	4

RE:ACT unmet needs requests in 30 days to 18 January*

By category:

Food	1
Strategic planning	2
Testing	1
Vaccinations	3

By region:

South East	2
South West	4
London	1

* Requests from England only

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