



VCS Emergencies
Partnership

VCS EP Pulse Check

Week of 08 February 2021

Results published 18 February 2021

Summary

- 46% of respondents in the London, 26% in the Midlands & East, 43% in the North, 13% in the South East and 38% in the South West reported significant or major **concerns about unmet needs** in their area in the 14 days prior to data collection
- **Mental Health/Isolation, Hardship and Food Poverty** were the most frequently mentioned unmet needs in the 14 days prior to data collection
- 31% of respondents reported significant or major concerns about the **capacity** of the voluntary sector to respond to local needs in the 14 days prior to data collection
- **Funding/Sustainability, Volunteers and Mental Health/Wellbeing** were the most frequently mentioned issues affecting voluntary sector capacity in the 14 days prior to data collection

About this survey

This survey was conducted between 08 – 10 February 2021. Of 198 organisations surveyed, 167 responses were received – a response rate of 84%.

Respondents were asked to provide a high-level assessment of unmet needs and voluntary sector capacity in the past 14 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 14 days?

	No concerns	Slight concerns	Significant concerns	Major concerns	Not sure
North	7%	45%	38%	5%	5%
Midlands & East	12%	57%	21%	5%	5%
London	8%	42%	42%	4%	4%
South East	16%	71%	13%	0%	0%
South West	4%	58%	38%	0%	0%
England	10%	54%	30%	3%	3%

Areas with major concerns flagged over unmet needs

London
- Kensington & Chelsea

Midlands & East
- Derbyshire
- Norfolk

North
- Lancashire

Figures are rounded and may exceed 100% in total

Most frequently mentioned needs concerns* in the 14 days prior to data collection:

1. MENTAL HEALTH/ ISOLATION
2. HARDSHIP
3. FOOD POVERTY
4. HEALTH
5. VACCINE

* Ranking of mentions of each issue in open text answers

Concerns about the capacity of the voluntary sector in your area in the last 14 days?

	No concerns	Slight concerns	Significant concerns	Major concerns	Not sure
North	12%	48%	31%	10%	0%
Midlands & East	21%	52%	19%	5%	2%
London	15%	35%	35%	12%	4%
South East	26%	61%	10%	3%	0%
South West	12%	58%	31%	0%	0%
England	17%	51%	25%	6%	1%

Areas with major concerns flagged over voluntary sector capacity

London
- Kensington & Chelsea
- Brent

Midlands & East
- Norfolk
- Nottinghamshire

North
- Redcar and Cleveland
- Lancashire

South East
- Kent

Figures are rounded and may exceed 100% in total

Most frequently mentioned capacity concerns* in the 14 days prior to data collection:

1. FUNDING/ SUSTAINABILITY
2. VOLUNTEERS
3. MENTAL HEALTH/ WELLBEING
4. VACCINATION
5. RESOURCE AVAILABILITY

* Ranking of mentions of each issue in open text answers

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

**MENTAL
HEALTH**

81%

**HARDSHIP &
FINANCIAL
SUPPORT**

60%

FOOD

44%

**IT ACCESS/
DIGITAL DIVIDE**

31%

Confusion about who is eligible from the VCS sector for a vaccine and the process to get a vaccine

An already under resourced VCS is being asked to be part of the solution to the current challenges but without fair access to the available financial resources

An increase in enquiries from groups looking to resource community support work beyond March. There is anxiety around whether there will be any further support available given the realisation that the drop off in funding is not lined up with any return to normal.

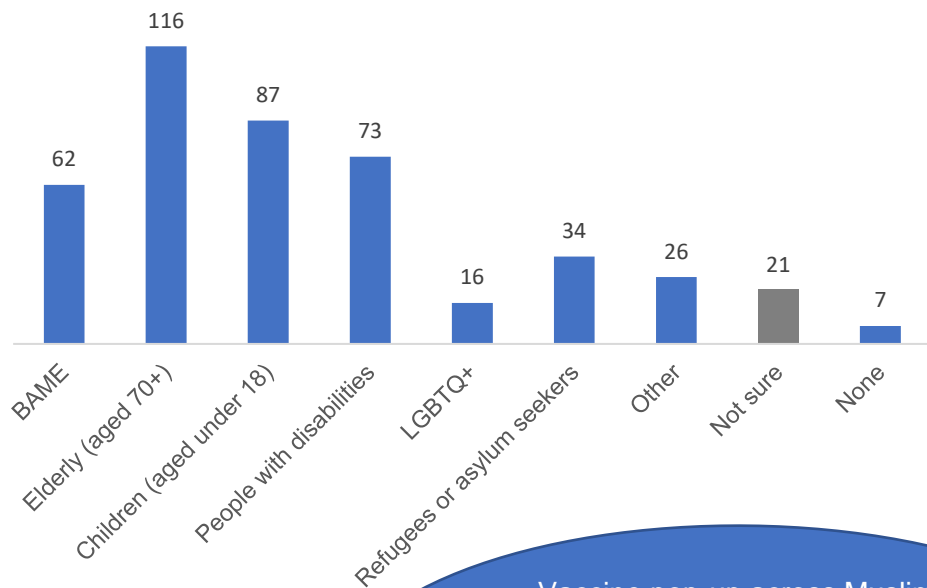
More people with learning difficulties turning up at food banks and soup kitchens. There has been an increase in over-55s accessing food banks because their Universal Credit do not stretch far enough.

We need to focus on our front line staff. The pandemic is relentless and impacting on wellbeing/mental health.

* 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.

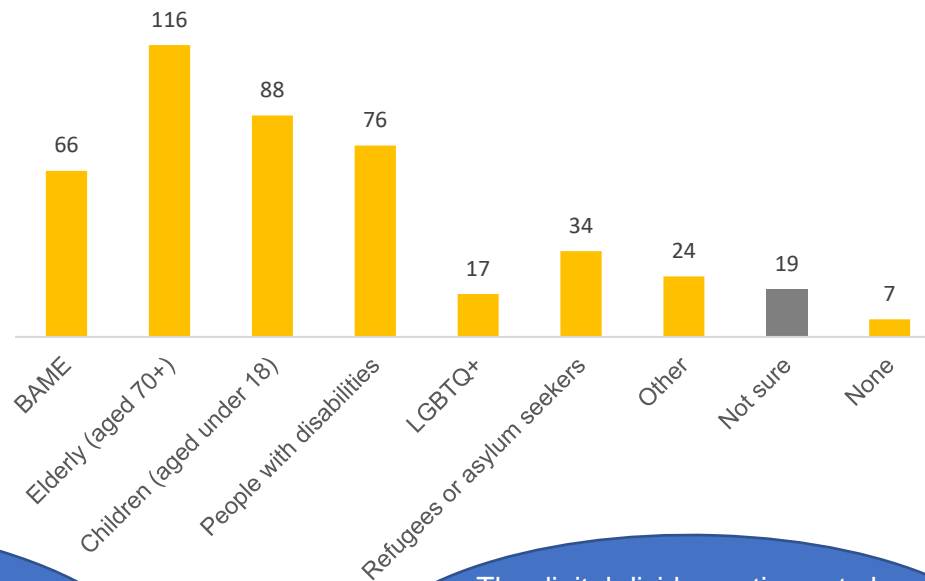
Vulnerable populations

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



Vaccine pop-up across Muslim Communities are taking traction, the positive role of community messaging is working at a slow pace. Over 60 mosques and community centres are ready to be setup as vaccine hubs.

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



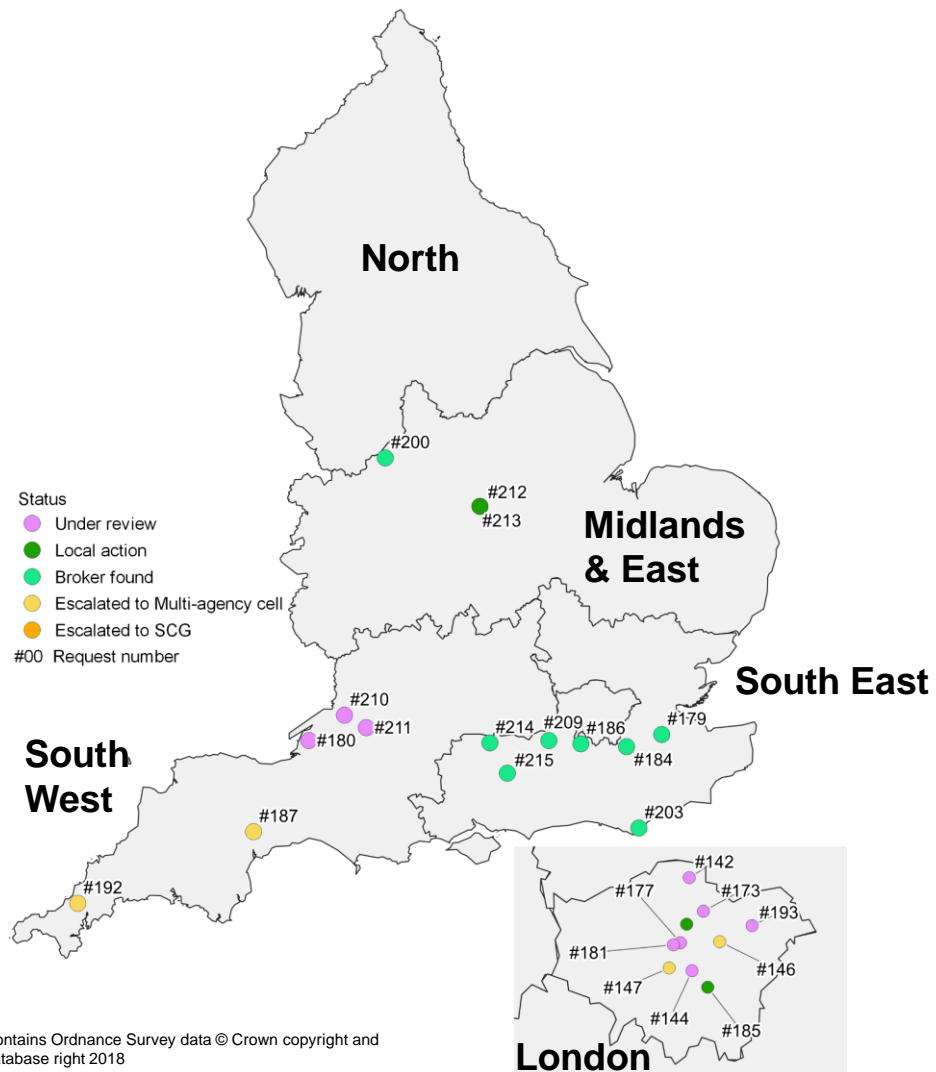
The digital divide continues to be a major concern for children/elderly who are not able to join remote school classes due to unavailability of device, broadband, and IT literacy.

Other groups mentioned:

- New parents
- Pregnant women
- Those facing redundancy
- People in rural communities
- Home-schooling and working parents
- 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
- Homeless
- Irish community
- Victims of domestic abuse

Requests for support

Status of open requests** for support as of 16 February



VCS EP open requests** for support as of 16 February

By category:

Transportation & delivery	3
Personal protective equipment	4
Funding advice	3
Guidance	1
Specialist training	3
Mental health or well-being	2
Volunteers	17
Other	5

By region:

Midlands & East	3
London	12
North	0
South East	7
South West	5

RE:ACT unmet needs requests in 30 days to 16 February*

By category:

Testing	4
Welfare	1
Vaccinations	7
Hospital/ambulance support	1

By region:

Midlands & East	4
South East	3
South West	6

* Requests from England only

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