



VCS Emergencies
Partnership

VCS EP Pulse Check

Week of 22 February 2021

Results published 05 March 2021

Summary

- 45% of respondents in the London, 26% in the Midlands & East, 34% in the North, 13% in the South East and 32% 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
- 24% 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
- **Increased Demand, Funding/Sustainability and Volunteers** 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 22 – 24 February 2021. Of 198 organisations surveyed, 150 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 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	11%	50%	31%	3%	5%
Midlands & East	5%	66%	20%	6%	3%
London	5%	45%	36%	9%	5%
South East	9%	72%	13%	0%	6%
South West	8%	56%	32%	0%	4%
England	8%	59%	25%	3%	5%

Areas with major concerns flagged over unmet needs

London
- Brent

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. TESTING & VACCINATION
5. OLDER PEOPLE

* 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	13%	56%	22%	6%	3%
Midlands & East	8%	60%	23%	6%	3%
London	5%	50%	36%	5%	4%
South East	28%	66%	6%	0%	0%
South West	20%	56%	20%	0%	4%
England	15%	58%	21%	3%	3%

Areas with major concerns flagged over voluntary sector capacity

London

- Brent

Midlands & East

- Norfolk

- Derbyshire

North

- North Lincolnshire

- Lancashire

Figures are rounded and may exceed 100% in total

Most frequently mentioned capacity concerns* in the 14 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

89%

HARDSHIP &
FINANCIAL
SUPPORT

69%

FOOD

43%

IT ACCESS/
DIGITAL DIVIDE

27%

With schools opening, this will be a welcome for children. They have been living in a world with little external interaction

The VCS are struggling to support the numbers of people with anxiety and mental health concerns

The pace of work and demands on organisations is not slowing down. BAME led organisations are particularly busy with supporting the drive to get people vaccinated

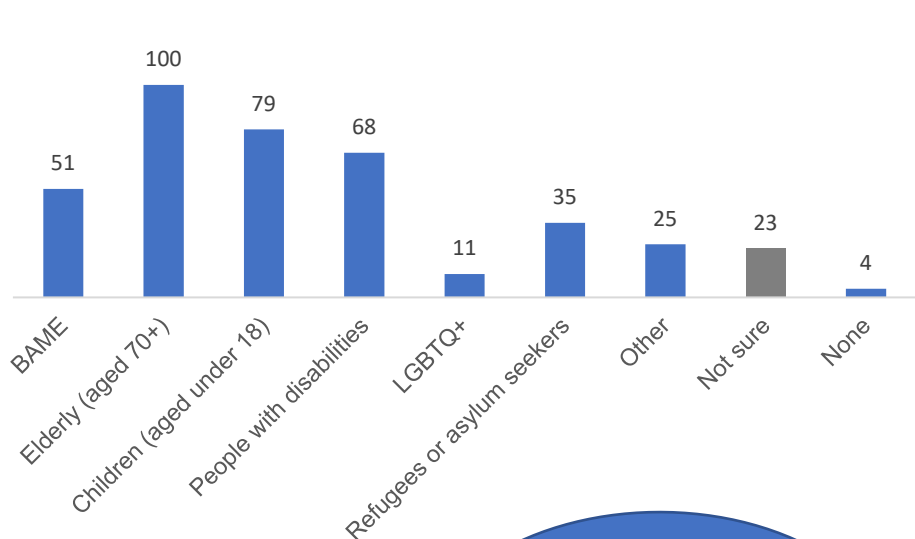
The pressures on the voluntary sector is overwhelming, with many staff and volunteers at breaking point

The lack of funding for next year has left many organisations uncertain about the future, unable to make plans and damaging staff morale

* 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.

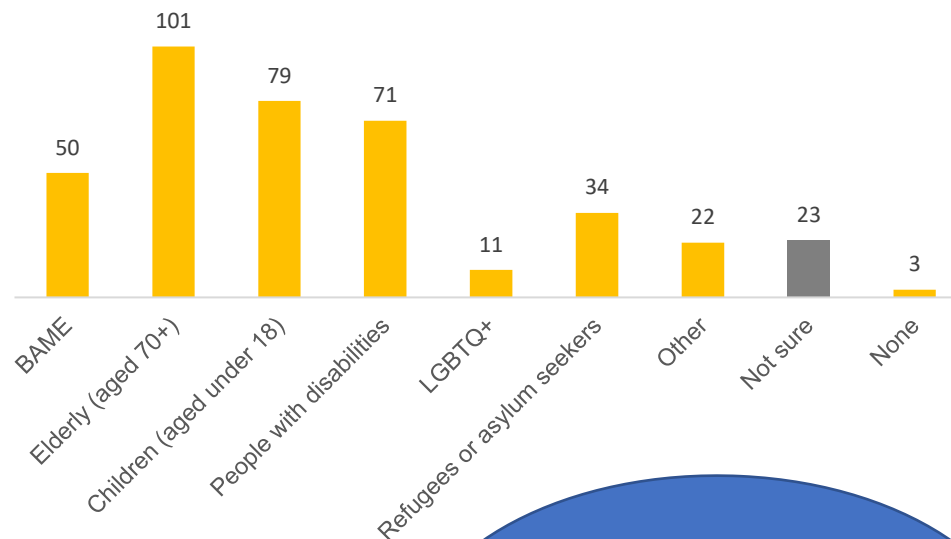
Vulnerable populations

In the last 14 days, do you think any of these populations groups were in particular need of support?



Concerned for young people from BAME communities. There will be greater levels of poverty to contend with

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



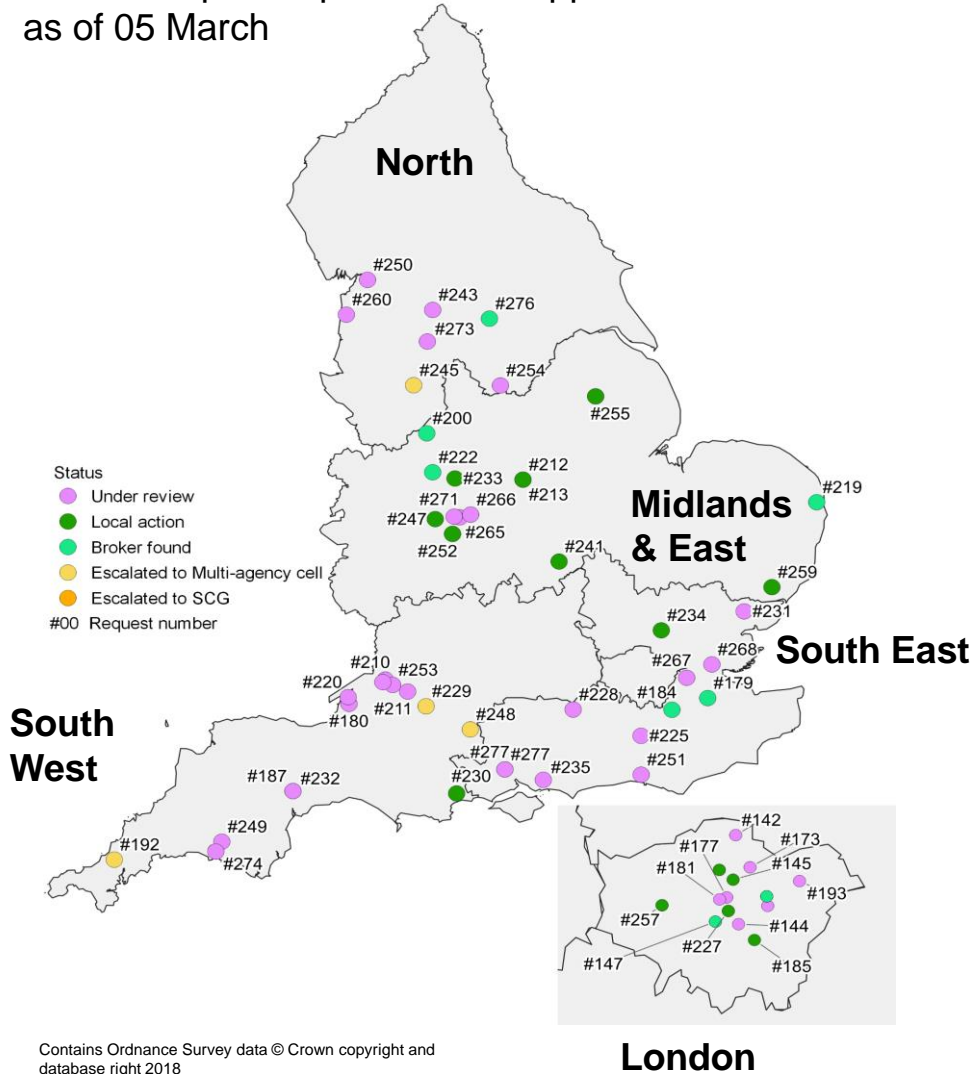
Carers organisations and those supporting disabled people are reporting pressures due to long term lockdown and reduced services available to provide support

Other groups mentioned:

- Those facing redundancy
- Unemployed
- 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
- Victims of domestic abuse

Requests for support

Status of open requests** for support as of 05 March



VCS EP open requests** for support as of 05 March

By category:

Transportation & delivery	1
Personal protective equipment	4
Funding advice	1
Guidance	0
Specialist training	1
Mental health or well-being	0
Volunteers	59
Other	48

By region:

Midlands & East	14
London	18
North	5
South East	10
South West	15

RE:ACT unmet needs requests in 30 days to 01 March*

By category:

Testing	9
Welfare	1
Vaccinations	3
Hospital/ambulance support	1

By region:

Midlands & East	3
South East	8
South West	2
London	1
North	

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* Requests from England only

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