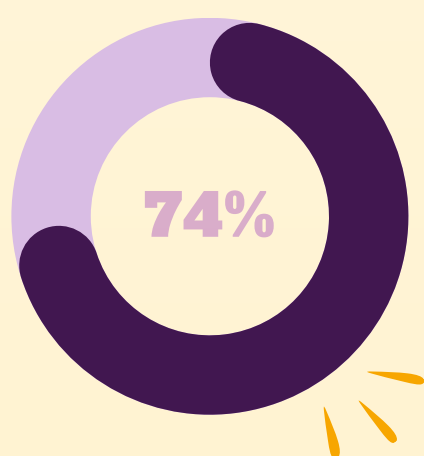


Salford VCSE Pulse Check

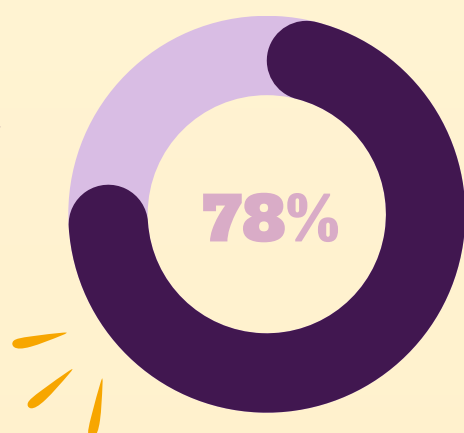
Headline Findings - April 2025

Increases in service demand and operating costs:



74% of VCSEs* reported an **increase in service demand** over the last 3 months.

Over **three-quarters** of VCSEs report increases in operating costs over the same period.

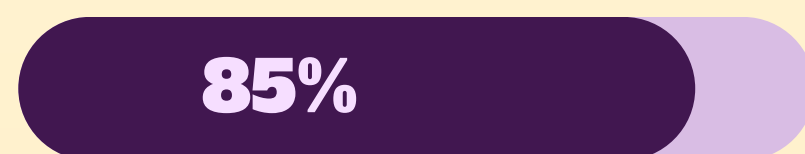


Stagnating income and rising expenditure:

Only 25% of VCSEs report an increase in income over the last 3 months. Just under half (46%) report their income has stayed the same whilst 29% note a decrease.

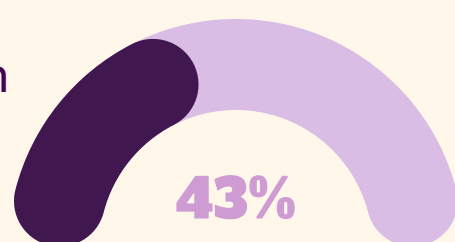


By contrast, **85% of VCSEs** report **increases in expenditure** over the same period.

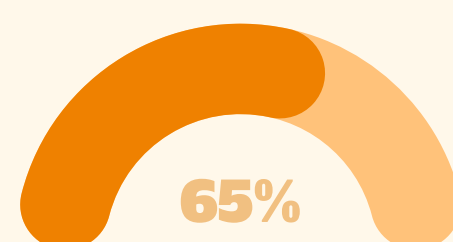


Funding uncertainty over the next 12 and 24 months:

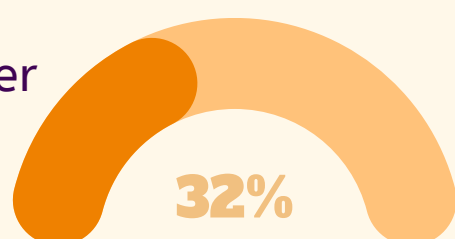
Over **two-fifths (43%)** of VCSEs are uncertain over the security of funding for the next **12 months**.



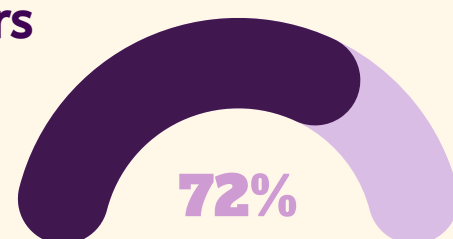
This rises to nearly **two-thirds (65%)** when considering funding security for the next **24 months**.



Less than **one-third (32%)** of VCSEs consider current funding levels sufficient to meet demand.

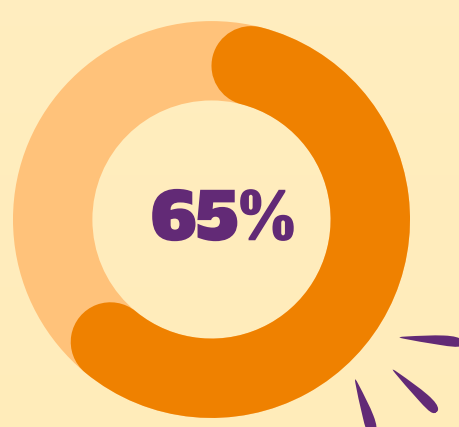


Almost **three-quarters (72%)** of VCSEs have sought support from funders to address cost increases.



Widespread use of organisational reserves:

Nearly **two-thirds** of VCSEs report the use of organisational reserves as a means by which to meet operational costs.



Negative impacts of National Insurance contributions' increases:

VCSEs report overwhelmingly negative expectations regarding the impact of National Insurance contributions, including redundancies, recruitment freezes and substantial cost increases.

Medium and large organisations are those most significantly concerned and impacted.

*Voluntary groups, community groups, charities, community work from faith organisations and social enterprises.