

SALFORD CVS

SECTOR PULSE REPORT FEB 21



HEADLINES

HEADLINE FINDINGS BASED ON VCSE RESPONDENTS IN SALFORD

88%

OF VCSE ORGANISATIONS
ARE STILL OPEN AND
PROVIDING SUPPORT

61%

HAVE HAD SIGNIFICANT OR
MAJOR CONCERNS ABOUT
THE LEVEL OF UNMET NEED
IN THEIR AREA

PRIORITY AREAS OF NEED

72%

MENTAL
HEALTH

38%

FOOD

33%

FINANCIAL
SUPPORT

27%

ACCESS TO
HEALTHCARE

KEY FINDINGS

The Salford CVS Pulse Check is an online survey circulated over two weeks in February 2021. The pulse is designed to gather a real-time snapshot of some of the issues affecting the city. So, first of all, a huge thank you to every single group and organisation who completed it!

WE ARE STILL SUPPORTING THOSE WHO NEED US

As mentioned in the headline findings **88%** of the organisations who responded are still open to help people in Salford. **16%** were delivering new services specifically in response to Covid.

LOCKDOWN HAS CAUSED CONCERNS ABOUT UNMET NEEDS IN SALFORD

61% of organisations have had significant or major concerns about the level of unmet need in their area. The top four priority concerns came out clearly as:

- Mental health – **72%**
- Food – **38%**
- Hardship and financial support – **33%**
- Healthcare and access to healthcare - **27%**

Although digital poverty didn't feature in the top priorities when the comments regarding mental health were reviewed a clear theme emerged around loneliness, which had been compounded by digital exclusion.

“I am concerned about people with no access to online groups. For many people, these groups are social and help to tackle loneliness and unfortunately, the move online means some people will be lonelier than ever.”

With regards to healthcare and access to healthcare, the impacts were unsurprising as a result of the impacts of lockdown and Covid.

“Some visually impaired people have had some Dr appointment postponed or cancelled, and there have been instances where they have avoided contacting their GP when there was a real need to get further support with their sight.”

KEY FINDINGS

The second half of the pulse focused on what support the sector needed over the coming months.

AREAS OF VCSE ORGANISATIONAL SUPPORT

The top four areas of support identified by respondents were:

- Help with finding and applying for funding opportunities - **44%**
- Funding for Covid response / new services - **33%**
- Support regarding suitable and safe operating spaces - **27%**
- Support to develop a recovery plan or revise their business plan - **22%**

Looking more specifically at training requests the top areas raised were:

- Volunteer management and recruitment - **28%**
- Funding / Win that Bid - **22%**
- Risk assessment training for building and activities - **16%**

”Support with opportunities for innovation and incubation - There is real scope for innovation and incubating new approaches, with the potential to develop the role of the VCSE sector, not least social enterprise and the wider social economy, to have a different and more prominent role in Salford in the future. The window of opportunity for this is, however, limited. We hope that it is not missed!”

SALFORD CVS AND THE SECTOR’S RESPONSE

We'll shortly be publishing what the Salford CVS and the sector has done in response to this insight. We'll also be re-running the pulse survey in April 2021 so please watch this space!