

Some charities gain up to 60% of their income from direct fundraising (eg events, public fundraisers, sponsored runs etc.) and some charities – providers of vital services to vulnerable people – are reporting a 40% drop in income already.

In London:

One in six organisations had staff who have had to self-isolate, impacting on their ability to deliver.

One in five organisations had already seen cuts in capacity because of staffing problems or drops in volunteers. VCS organisations across London are reporting significant drops in volunteers who are often older people, more likely to be at risk from Covid-19.

More than one in seven say their organisation's finances have already been hit, with the situation expected to escalate significantly. This is likely to put a significant strain on smaller charities and organisations providing key support services across London. In many cases it will impact on their ability to operate at all impacting on delivery of support during this crisis but also significantly weakening the long term capacity of the VCS and services available to people in need.

The sector needs urgent financial support from the government:

The inclusion of charities and other civil society organisations in the Government's measures to protect salaries and prevent redundancy is welcome. However, the Government's measures for the charitable sector does not mirror the financial measures for support the business sector despite equivalent financial challenges.

Emergency funding is needed to meet the increased demand created by this crisis. The VCS is facing increased demand for its services (eg domestic violence services, foodbanks / food aid) but significantly reduced income. The sector needs public commitments that offer emergency funding to civil society. Whilst salary support is vital, funding is also needed to enable organisations to provide employee cover and to meet increased demand to ensure the disruption to services for the most vulnerable groups in society is kept to a minimum.

The support available to business, including the £330bn business interruption loan scheme, should also be available to charities. The amount of funding should be increased, as needed, to cover the needs of the VCS.

To support those on the lowest income, and those with specific needs, who are most likely to be impacted by this crisis, specific funding is needed for advice and advocacy services to provide support and guidance on accessing benefits etc. improving support and enabling it to be fully accessible: online, phone, BSL video.

Food Insecurity

A member of the number 10 team, joined a discussion of the London Food Board last week, and GLA teams have since been in touch to highlight key issues around food insecurity as a result of the crisis.