

Cost of living survey Sep/Oct 22

The survey was carried out by FareShare UK to assess the impact of the cost of living crisis on the charities and community groups receiving food from FareShare. Respondents were asked to reflect on the effects of the crisis on their organisations since January 22 and what they anticipated the impact going forward[1].

We have collated the figures for Community Food Members that receive food from FareShare Midlands to see the impact the crisis is having across our region.

Key findings

96%

of CFMs report to have been **affected by the cost of living crises** since January, with **50%** saying that they were **severely affected** (figure 1)

90%

of organisations have seen an increase in demand since January 2022 with **40%** reporting their demand has **more than doubled**

“It is a concern that we are seeing a significant drop in food donations from supermarkets, this may mean that we struggle to have enough food to meet the increased demand, and as it is difficult to get funding we may struggle to purchase food to make up the shortfall and not be able to provide the levels of support that people need.”

Restore Church Boston

The main ways in which charities have been affected:

- 82% Higher demand for services
- 69% Rising food costs
- 60% Rising running costs
- 47% Rising fuel and transport costs
- 46% income reduction

*please note these were multi select options and do not add up to 100%

Increased demand

Over 70% of groups said the main causes behind the increase in demand was the rise in food costs and energy bills (figure 2), followed by mental health and other cost of living issues.

70% (7 in 10) of charities see people accessing **support for the first time** or requiring **increased support (64%)**.

- Looking at who is accessing support for the first time, the split is fairly even across all groups by employment type, from people in full time employment to retired people (figure 3). **This means people are struggling to afford food and energy bills despite being in employment.**
- From the groups new to these services, the majority of charities (48%) report an increase in families with children (figure 4), followed by people on low or no income (33%) and older people (32%).

Christmas Impact

In the run-up to Christmas, 88% of charities anticipate an increase in demand, with 74% anticipating a significant increase (figure 5)

When asked what they are worried about in the run-up to Christmas, charities reported that:

(% below combine replies of 'extremely worried' & 'somewhat worried');

87% worried about meeting demand for services

74% worried about covering operational costs

60% worried about covering fuel and transport costs

79% worried about securing sufficient food volumes

74% worried about securing income

50% worried about securing and maintaining volunteers

53% worried about having to reduce frequency of services

42% worried that they might have to close their services

How to help

When asked what would be most useful to them to deal with the crisis, the top ranking results were:

70%

**Access to more
food**

67%

**Access to more
funding**

(figure 6)

Other concerns

36% reported that there is **nowhere else** for local people experiencing food insecurity to turn to if they had to close their doors.

“We are concerned that more people are coming for donations we have started to do food parcels for those who need it or those who are struggling.”

UK Food Aid

“I am worried about families getting further into debt and not being able to put food on the table for their children.”

Portland Spencer Academy

78% worry that the Cost of Living Crisis will have a larger impact on those they support than that of the coronavirus pandemic (figure 7)



Figure 1

HAS YOUR ORGANISATION BEEN AFFECTED BY THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS SINCE JANUARY 2022?

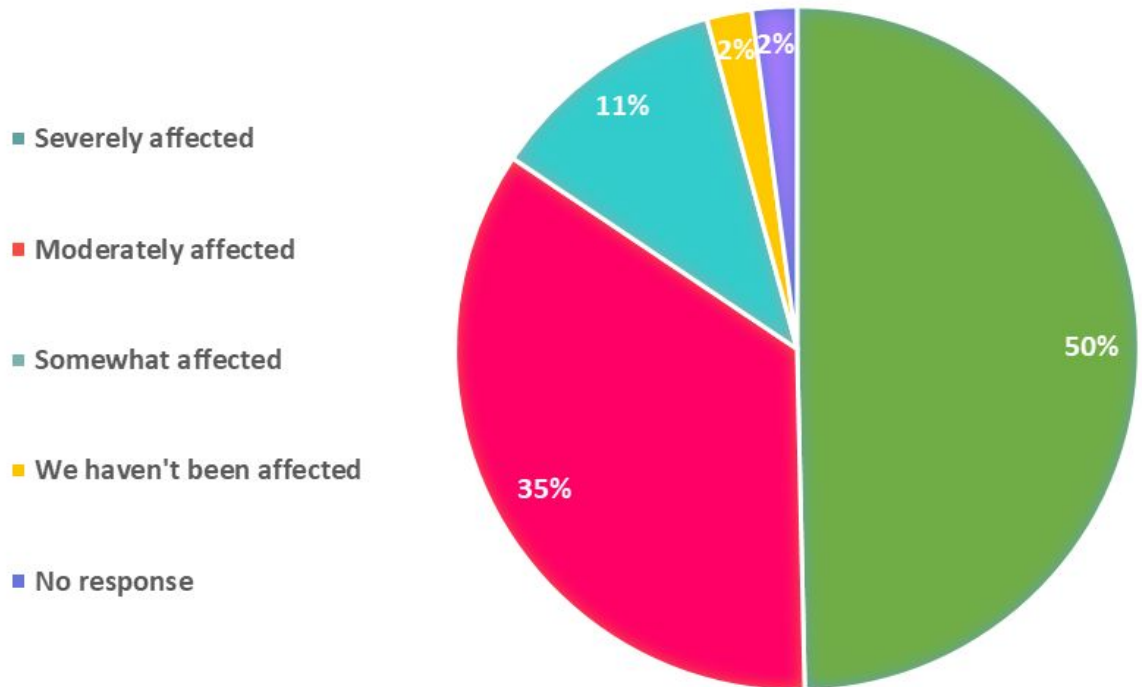


Figure 2

WHAT HAS BEEN THE MAIN REASONS FOR DEMAND FOR YOUR SERVICES? PLEASE SELECT ALL RELEVANT OPTIONS

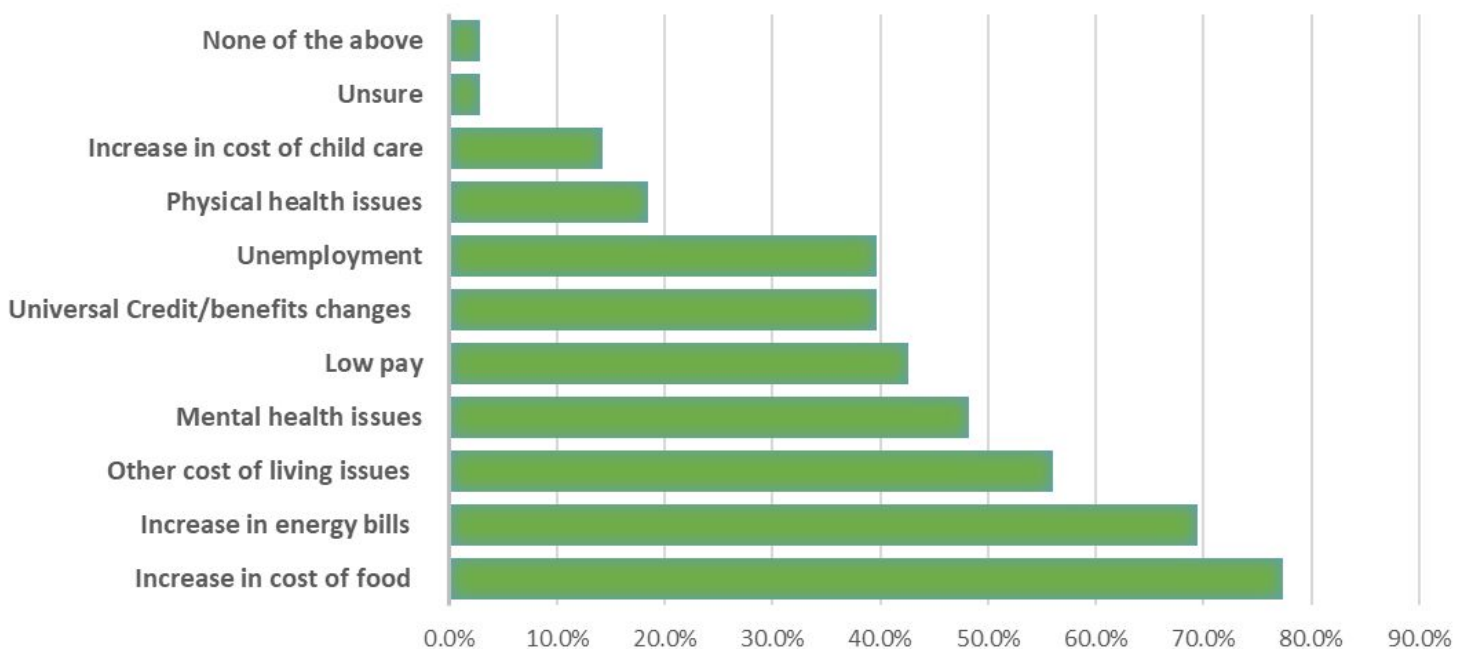


Figure 3

WHO ARE THE PEOPLE ACCESSING SUPPORT FOR THE FIRST TIME? PLEASE SELECT ALL RELEVANT OPTIONS

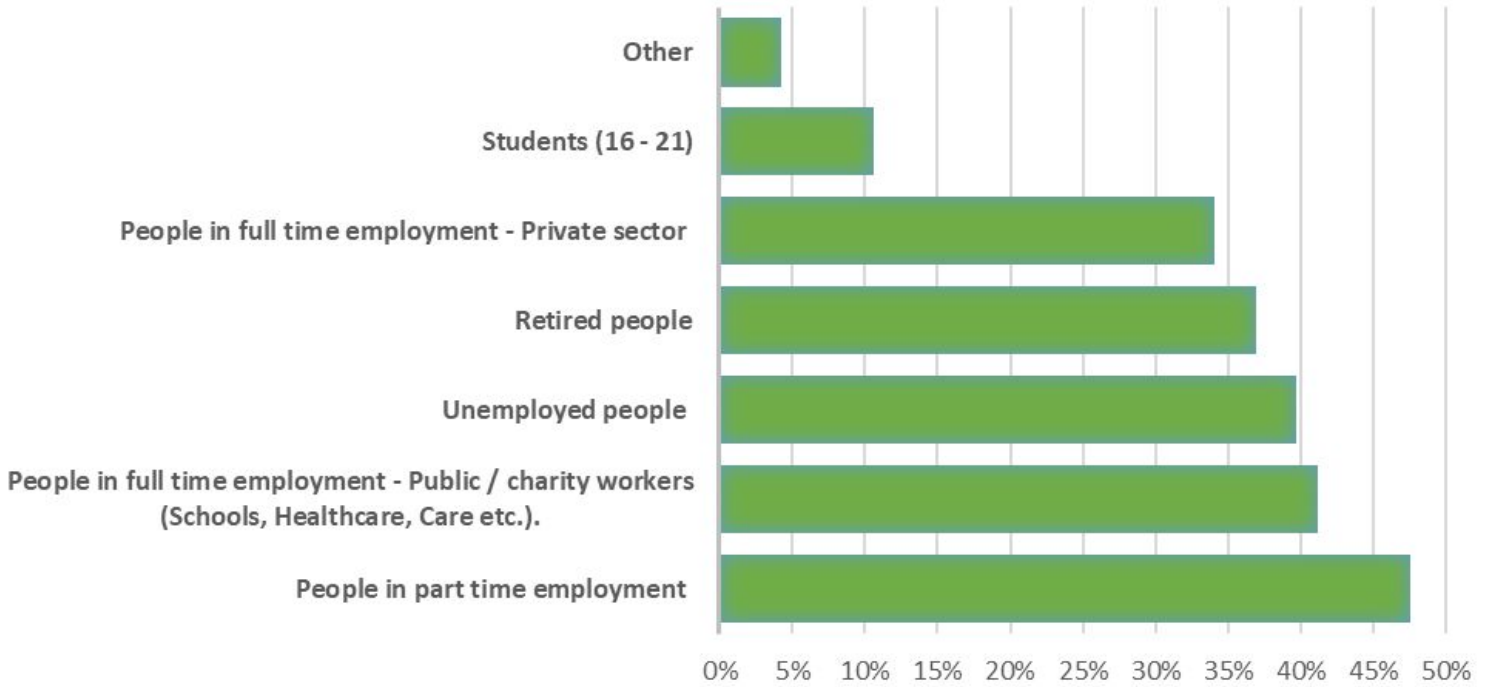


Figure 4

WHO ARE THE GROUPS OF PEOPLE, WHICH ARE NEW TO USING YOUR SERVICE? PLEASE SELECT ALL RELEVANT OPTIONS

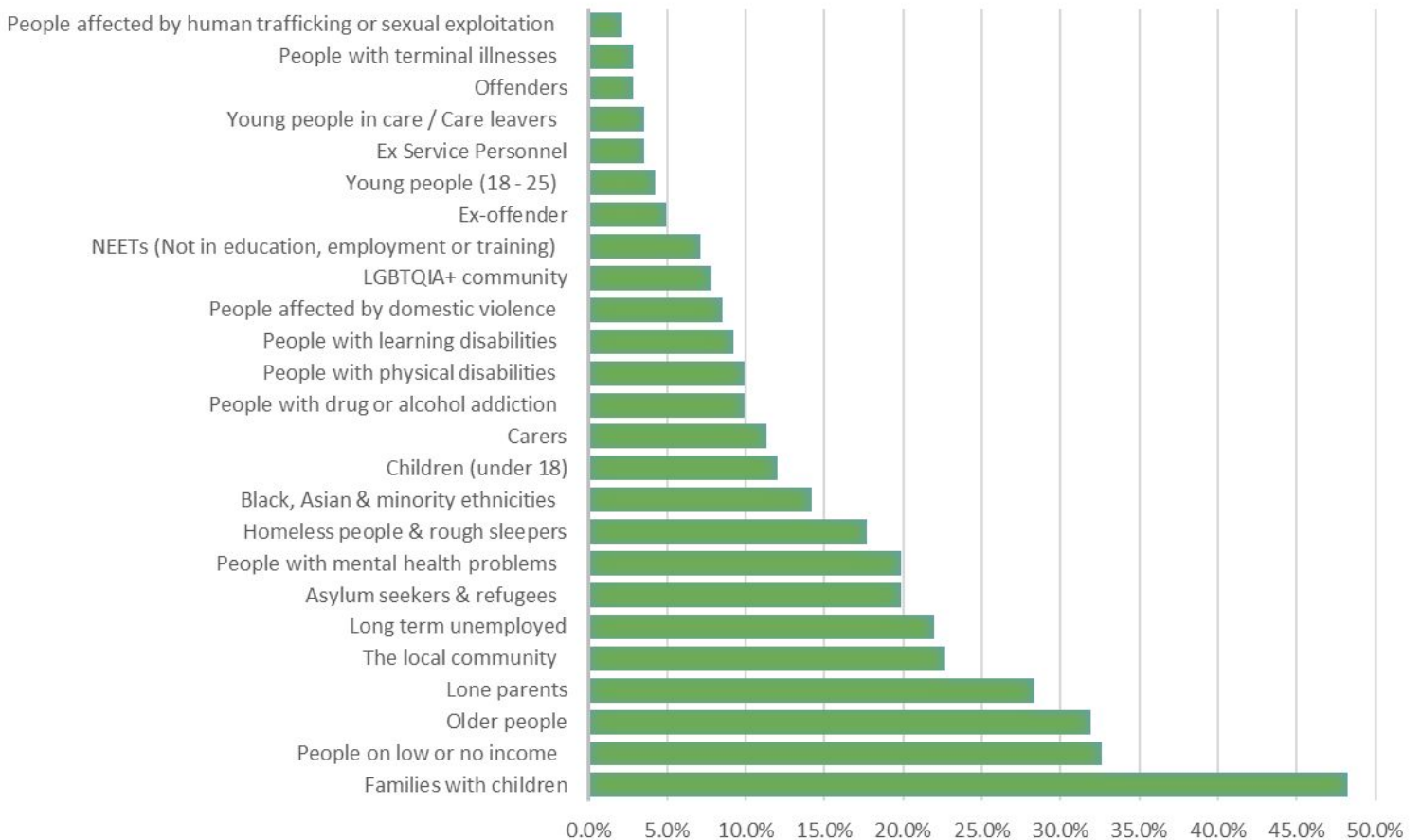


Figure 5

IN THE RUN UP TO & INCLUDING THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD, HOW DO YOU ANTICIPATE DEMAND TO CHANGE?

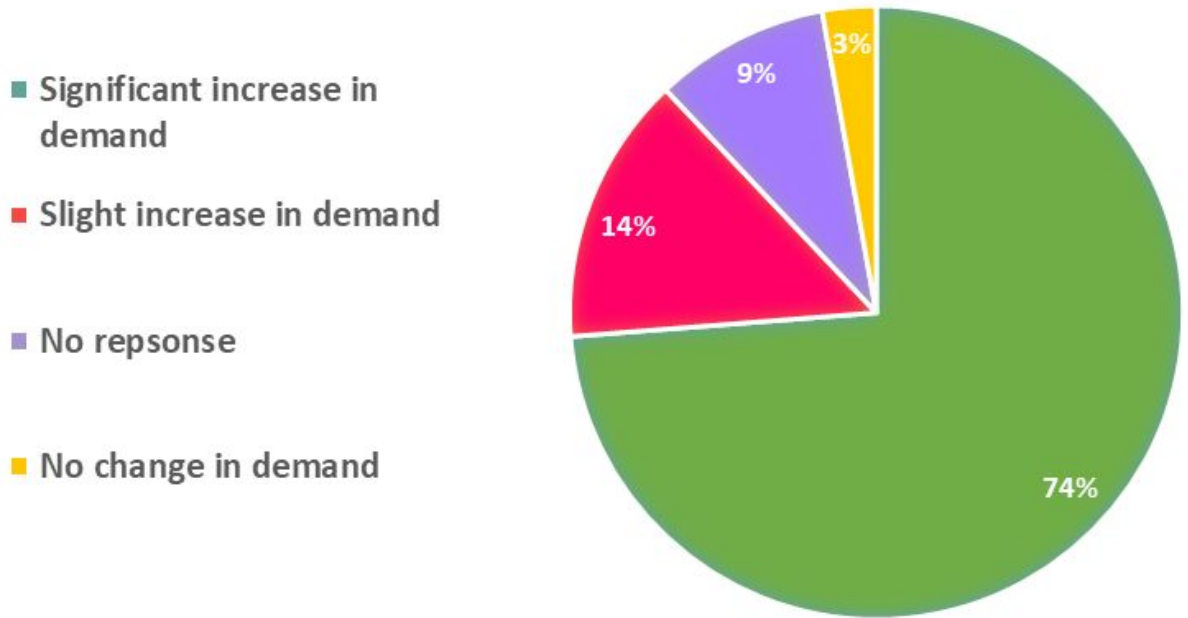


Figure 6

AS A RESULT THE COST OF LIVING CRISES HAVE YOU OR ARE YOU PLANNING TO CHANGE/ADAPT YOUR SERVICES GOING FORWARD?

PLEASE SELECT ALL RELEVANT OPTIONS

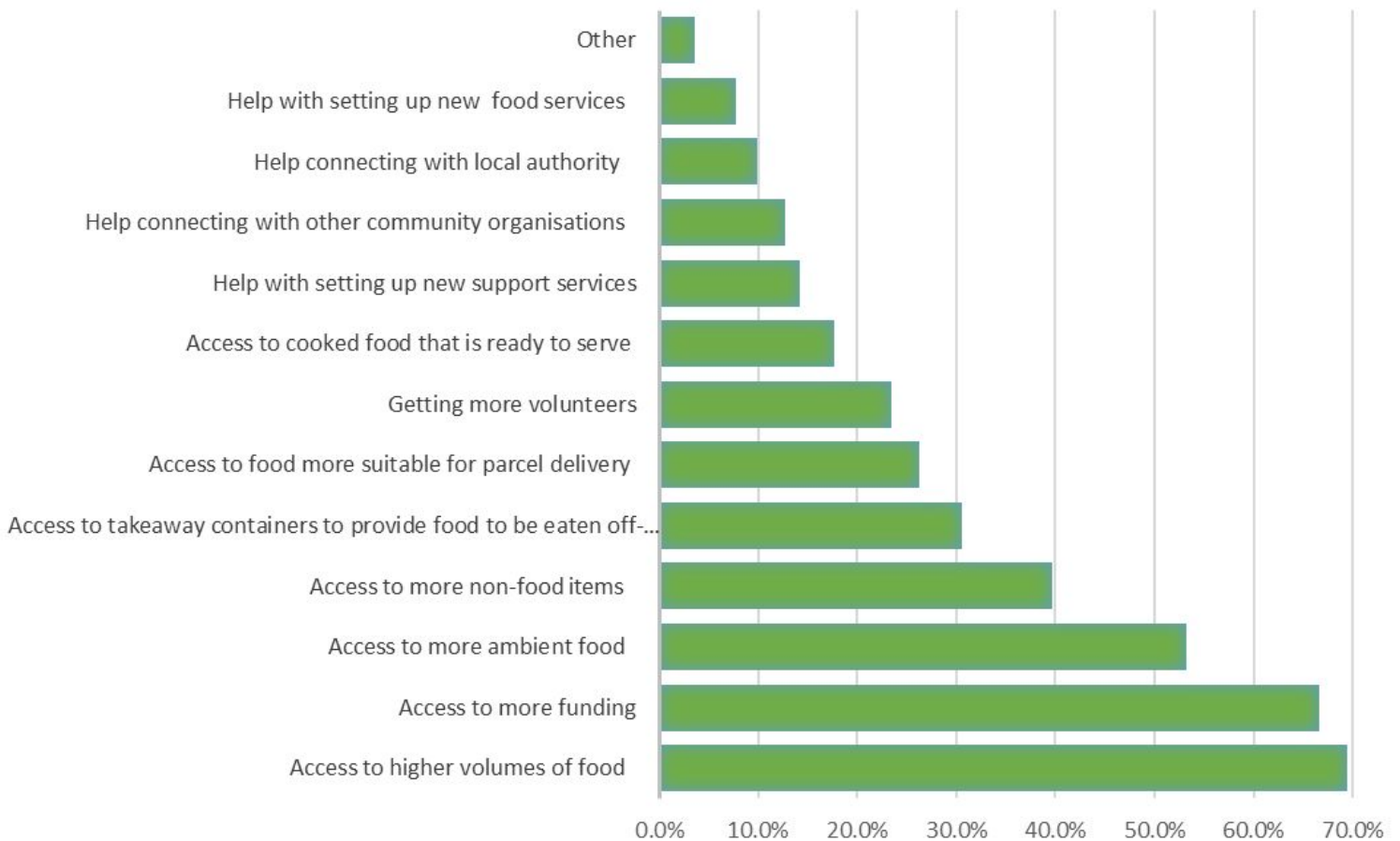


Figure 7

DO YOU WORRY THE IMPACT OF THE COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS ON THOSE YOU SUPPORT WILL BE BIGGER THAN THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC?

