

Irish Youth Foundation

Youth Sector Covid-19 Response Survey

March – April 2020

Irish Youth Foundation – Covid-19 Crisis Survey Findings

- In late March 2020, amid the Covid-19 (Corona Virus) crisis, the Irish Youth Foundation sent out a survey to their database of over 700 youth groups, after-school clubs, sports clubs and organisations serving children and young people across Ireland, with the aim to identify the effect the crisis is having on the young people of Ireland.
- Our focus was to understand what the immediate and urgent issues facing these organisations, as well as predicting what the long-term impact may be.

Main issues facing children and young people

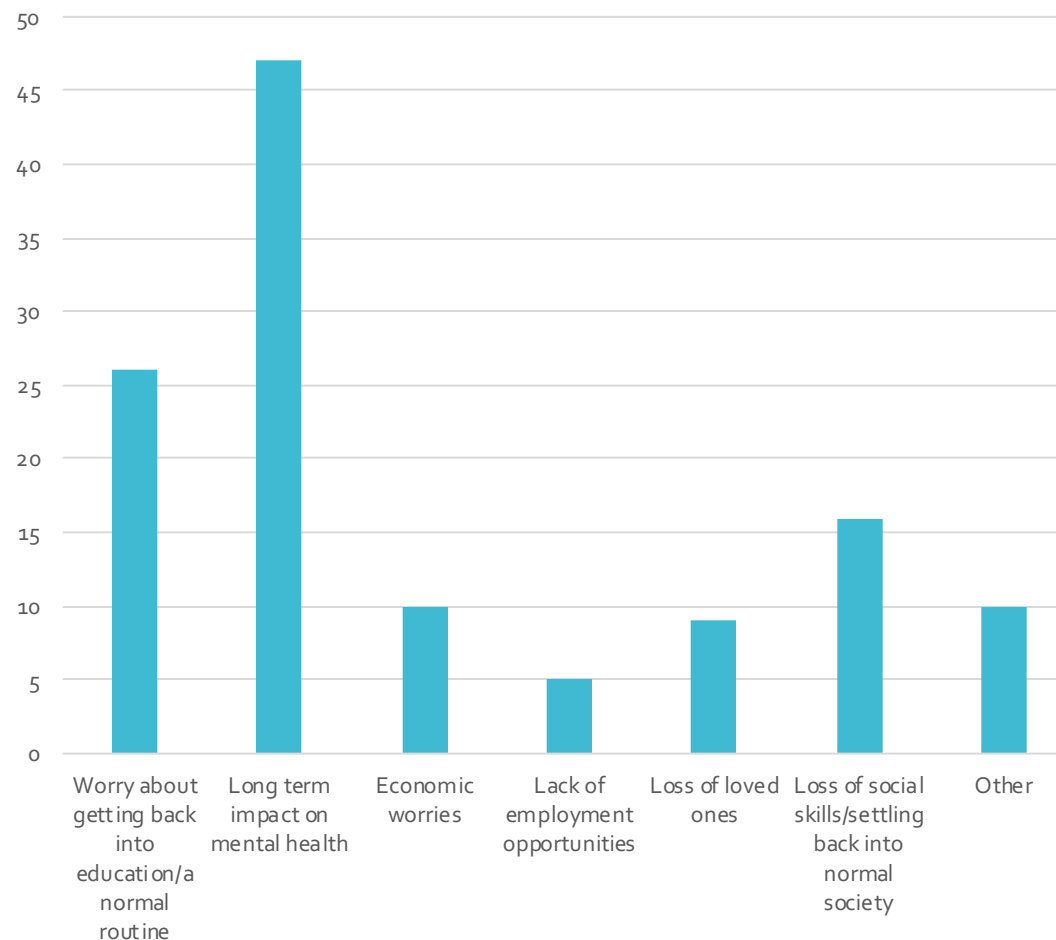
Mental health, isolation and loneliness are the burning issues



- Mental health issues (e.g. anxiety, fear, stress): 22.8%
- Lack of socialising/struggling with loneliness in isolation: 20%
- Lack of resources: 15%
- Maintaining routine: 10.7%
- Lack of education: 7.8%
- Inappropriate housing situations/drug and alcohol abuse in the home: 6.4%
- Lack of reassurance/uncertainty of current situation: 5.7%
- Other: 4.2%
- General risk of Covid-19 and risk of spreading infection: 3.5%
- Inactivity: 3.5%

What are the main issues and needs for the children and young people in your community currently, arising from the Covid-19 pandemic?

Long term impact on mental health is the area of greatest concern... followed by education fall out

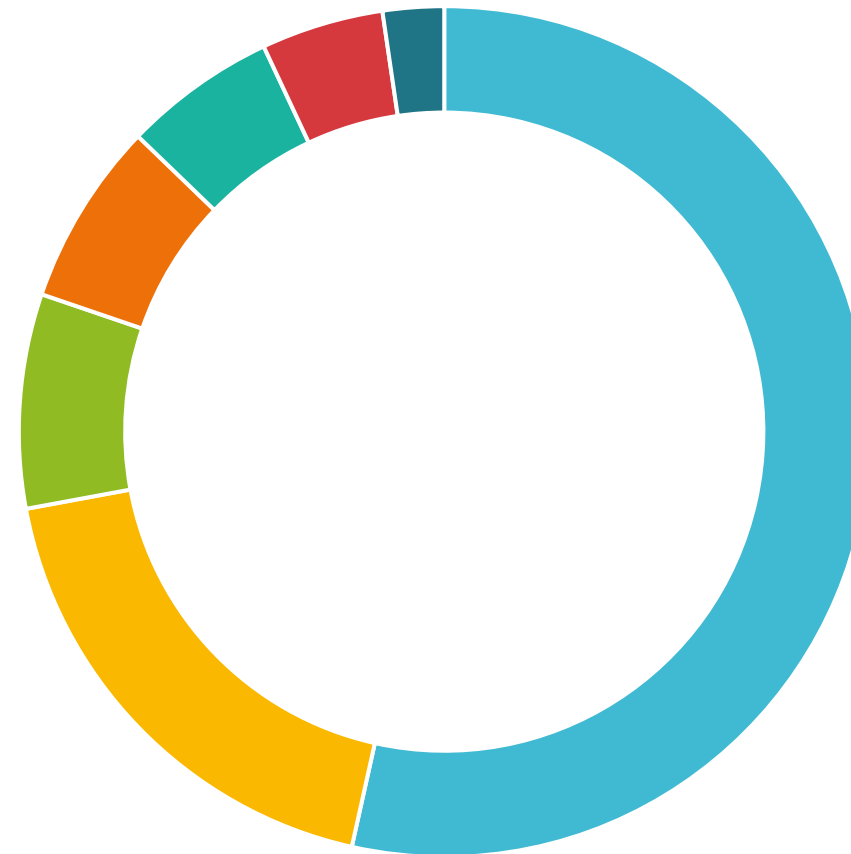


- Long term impact on mental health: 38.2%
- Worry about getting back into education/a normal routine: 21.1%
- Loss of social skills/settling back into normal society: 13%
- Economic worries: 8.1%
- Other: 8.1%
- Loss of loved ones: 7.3%
- Lack of employment opportunities: 4%

What do you see as the longer-term issues for the children and young people you support as a result of Covid-19?

Impact on Education

47% say falling behind with studies and exam stress is the biggest issue for young people

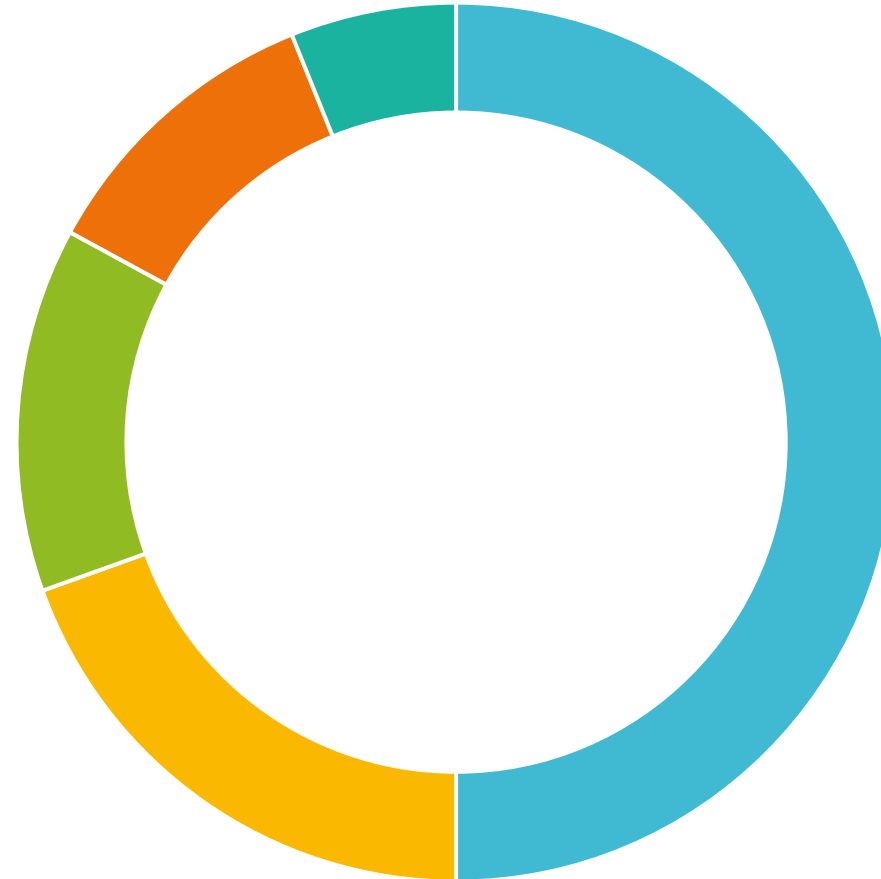


- Falling behind in education/worry about exams: 46.6%
- Not have resources at home for remote learning: 21.3%
- Lack of routine and engagement: 9.3%
- Higher rate of school leavers: 8%
- Lack of social interaction: 6.6%
- Lack of confidence/understanding/support: 5.3%
- Other: 2.6%

What do you see as the longer term challenges for the children and young people you support in education, as a result of Covid-19?

Impact on Health and Wellbeing

70% predict that mental and physical health issues will be areas for major concern

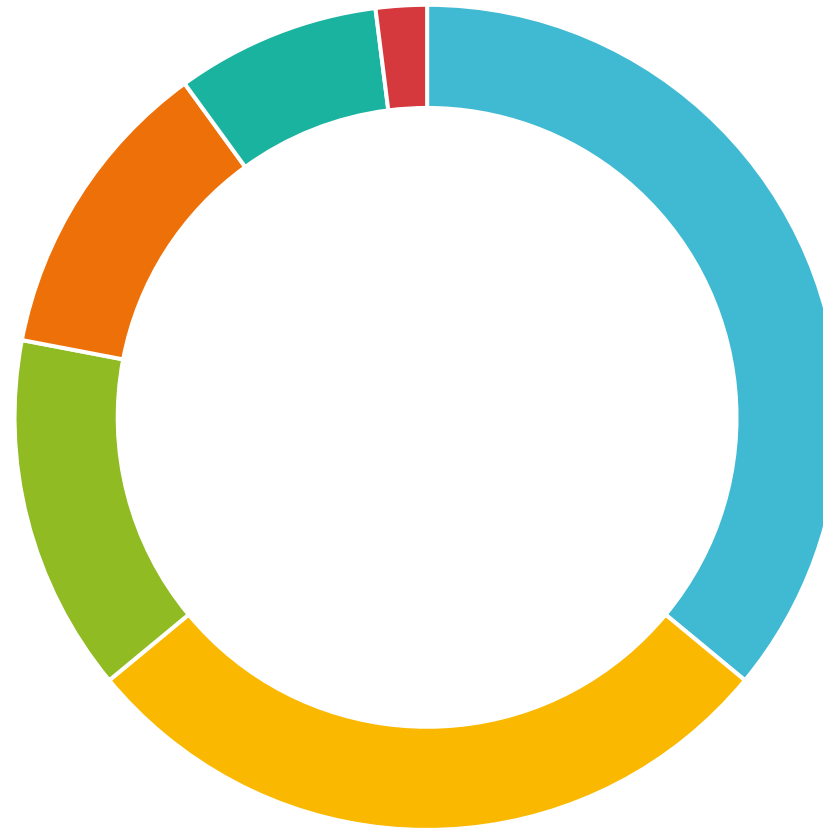


- Mental health issues (e.g. anxiety, loneliness, depression): 50%
- Physical issues (weight gain, poor diet): 19.5%
- Lack of social: 13.4%
- Lack of routine/motivation: 10.9%
- Other: 6%

What do you see as the longer term challenges for the children and young people you support in health & wellbeing, as a result of Covid-19?

Impact on Skills and Employability

64% are concerned about lack of employment opportunities and/or access to learning new skills that will arise with the inevitable recession.

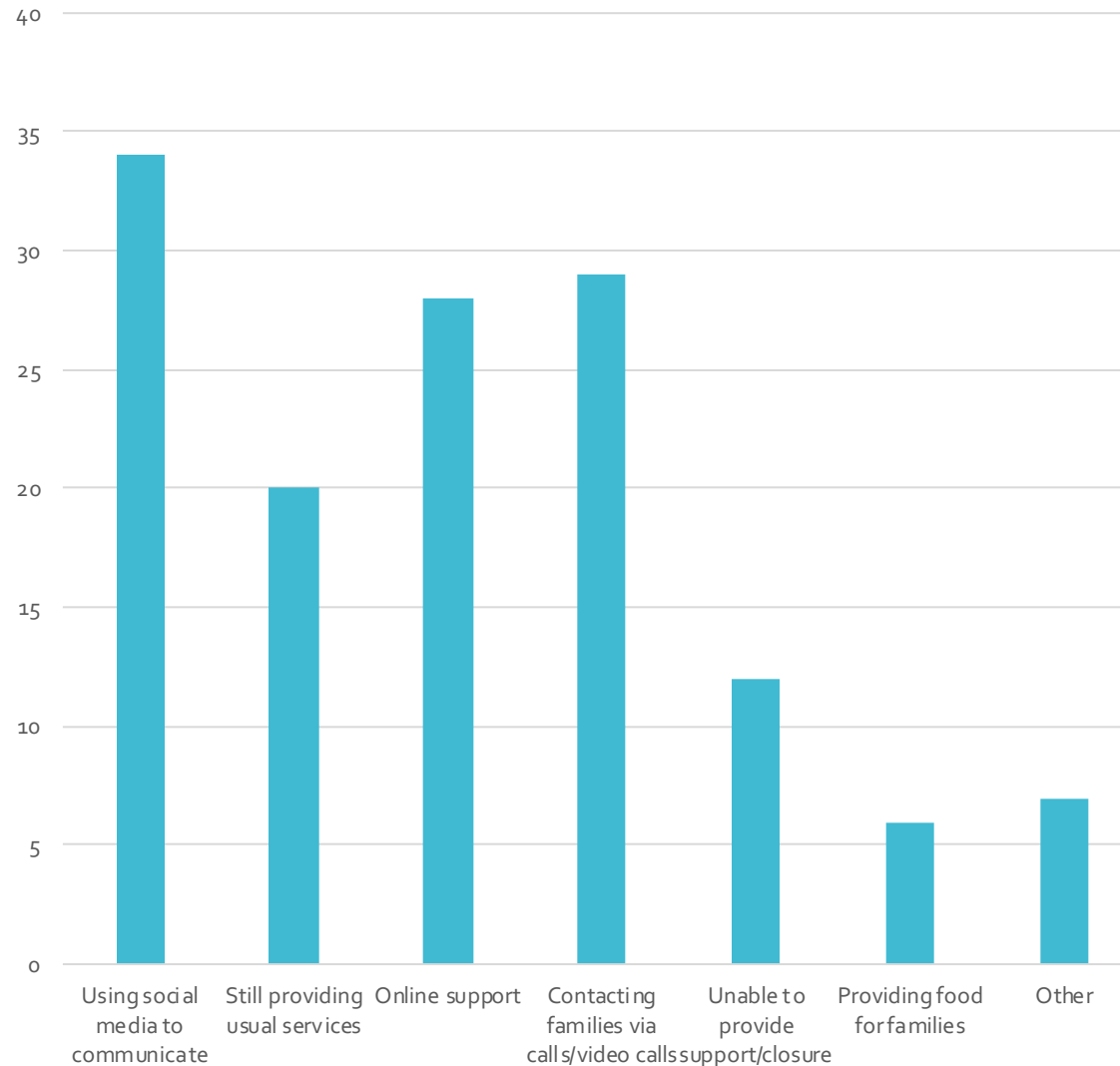


- No employment opportunities/economic worries: 36%
- Lack of skills/not learning new skills: 28%
- Lack of motivation to find employment: 14%
- Lack of social skills: 12%
- Loss of existing jobs: 8%
- Other: 2%

What do you see as the longer term challenges for the children and young people you support in skills & employability, as a result of Covid-19?

Overnight shift in how the sector is communicating

There has been a massive switch to online support in an extremely short period – 66%

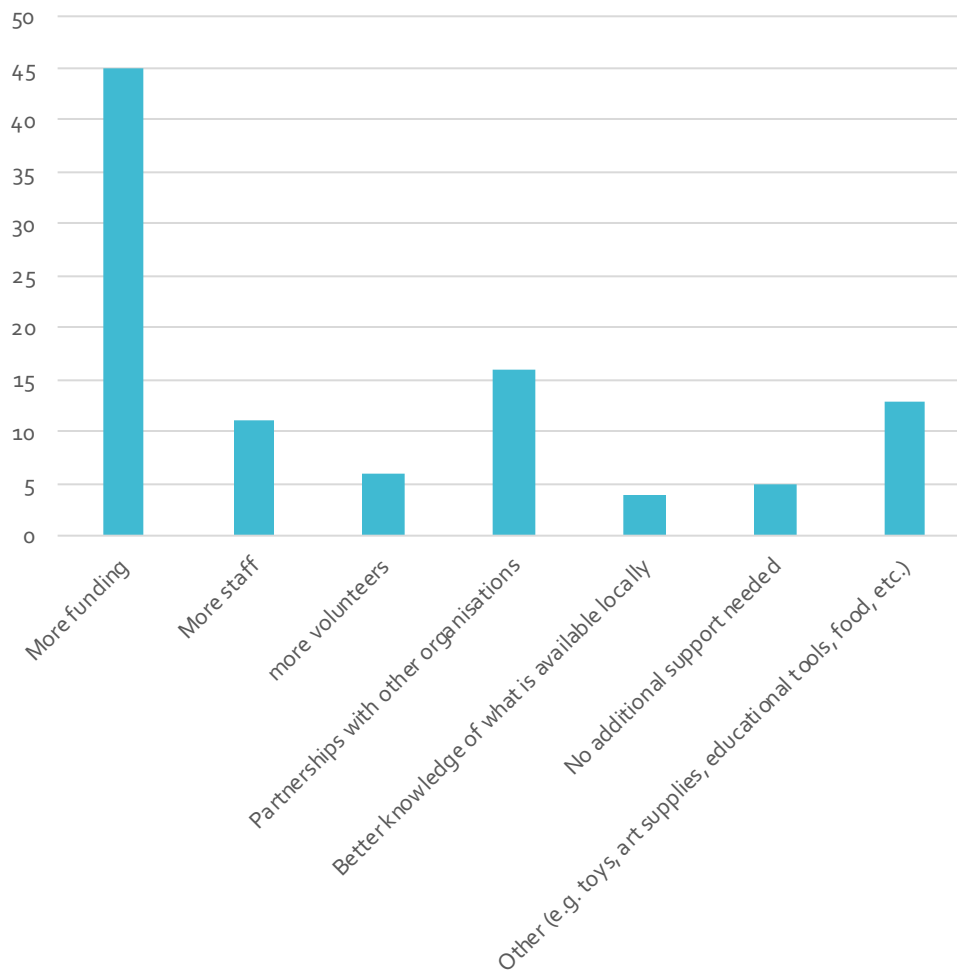


- Using social media to communicate: 25%
- Contacting families via calls/video calls: 21.3%
- Online support: 20.5%
- Still providing usual services: 14.7%
- Unable to provide support/closure: 8.8%
- Other: 5.1%
- Providing food for families: 4.4%

[How is your organisation supporting children and young people in your community in responding to Covid-19?](#)

Fears over future support and sustainability

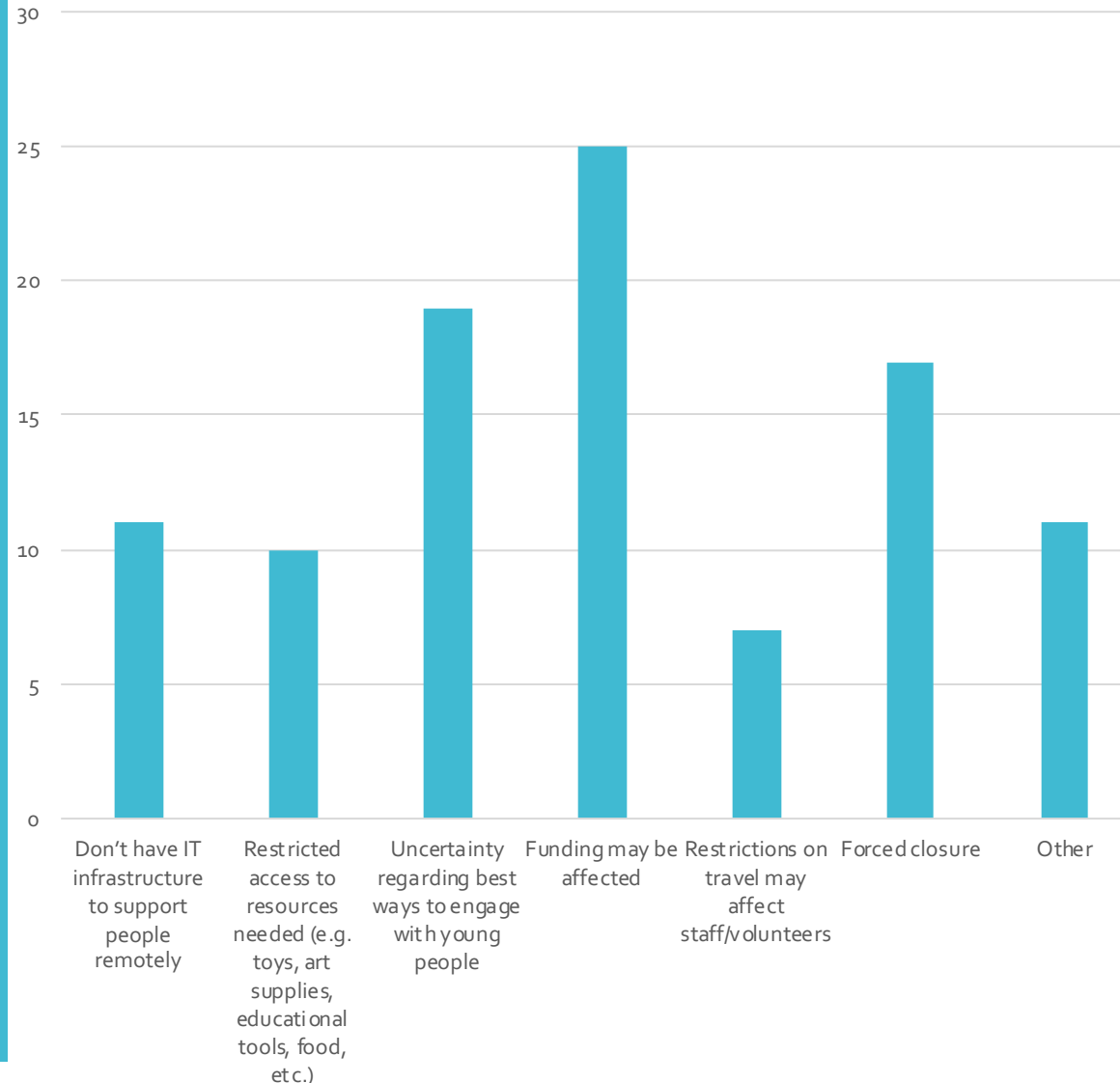
45% of youth workers say that they desperately need additional funding during the Covid-19 crisis....



- More funding: 45%
- Partnerships with other organisations: 16%
- Other (e.g. toys, art supplies, educational tools, food, etc.): 13%
- More staff: 11%
- More volunteers: 6%
- No additional support needed: 5%
- Better knowledge of what is available locally: 4%

WHAT SUPPORT ARE YOU LIKELY TO NEED TO HELP CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE, BOTH ON A FINANCIAL AND PRO-BONO SERVICES BASIS?

..conversely
42% report that
lack of funding
or forced
closure is the
greatest threat
to their future



- Funding may be affected: 25%
- Uncertainty regarding best ways to engage with young people: 19%
- Forced closure: 17%
- Don't have IT infrastructure to support people remotely: 11%
- Other: 11%
- Restricted access to resources needed 10%
- Restrictions on travel may affect staff/volunteers: 7%

WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE MAIN RISKS TO YOUR ORGANISATION?