

Cuts Watch The findings so far



Background and rationale

Respect is aware that both the recession and potential future public service cuts are putting some of our members under significant financial pressure. We already know of five organisations that have closed or will close by the end of this year. Respect wants to do all we can to support members to survive this rocky time. Our first step is to find out the extent of the problem. We asked all Respect member organisations to fill out a short survey to give us a snapshot of how things are and help inform both our lobbying and member support activities.

Number of responses

So far we have had 15 responses to Cuts Watch Survey. 14 completed the survey in its entirety. Of the 15 responses we received, 9 people disclosed their identity and 6 did not disclose. All of those that disclosed are Respect members. Without knowing the identity of the other 6 respondents it is difficult for us to confirm they are Respect members and determine whether they skew this sample and so in this analysis we have only included findings from the group of 9 confirmed Respect member organisations.

Findings

1. **Current Situation - We asked, how financially secure is your organisation now, compared to 1 year ago?**

	Response per cent	Response count
More secure	0%	0
About the same	55.6%	5
Less secure	44.4%	4
Answered question		9
Skipped question		0

Comments from this group included:

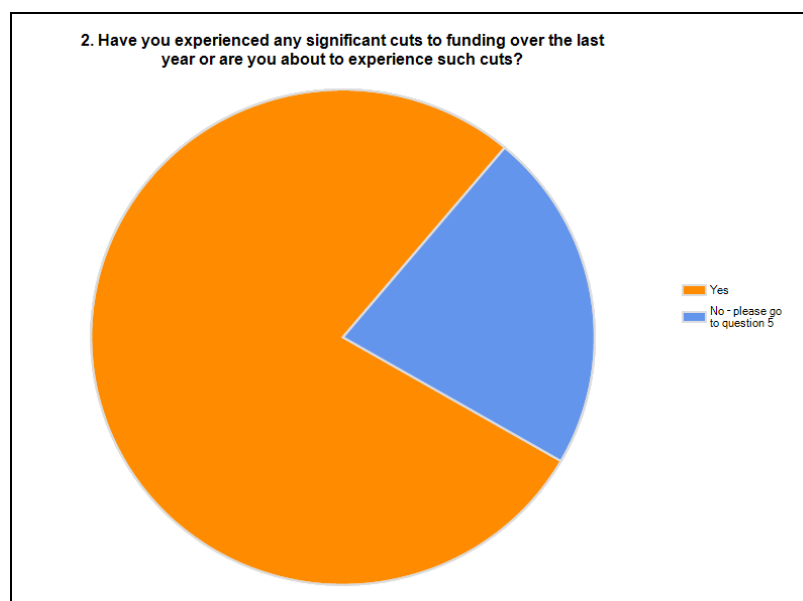
'Funding cuts to this year's budget with the promise of either more severe cuts or no funding at all for next year. More competition for funds so less chance of securing external grants.'

'Our commissioners have committed to this service and our funding is recurrent and not grant based.'

'We have lost some contracts as a direct result of Local Authority budget cuts, but have maintained others and secured some new ones.'

2. We asked have you experienced any significant cuts to funding over the last year or are you about to experience such cuts?

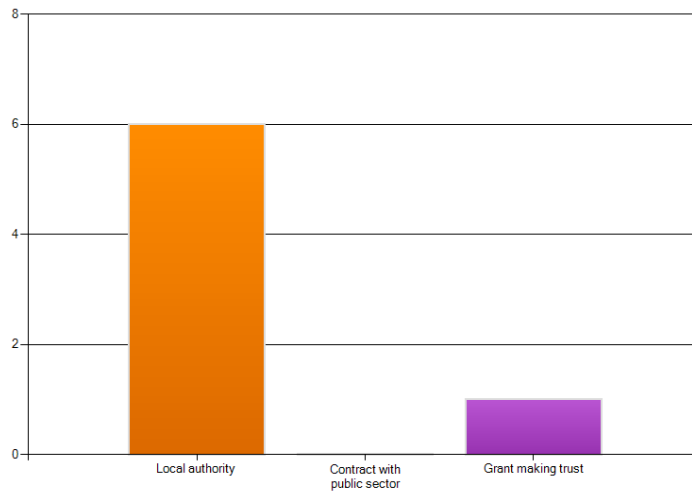
	Response percent	Response count
Yes	77.8%	7
No – please go to question 5	22.2%	2
Answered question		9
Skipped question		0



3. We asked what type of funding has been cut?

	Response percent	Response count
Local authority	85.7%	6
Contract with public sector	0%	0
Grant making trust	14.3%	1
Other (please specify)		3
Answered question		7
Skipped question		2

3. What type of funding has been cut?



4. What is the impact of these cuts on the services you provide?

	Response percent	Response count
Reduction In staff	42.9%	3
Fewer clients helped	42.9%	3
Reduction in geographical area you work in	0%	0
Loss of specific project – please give details	42.9%	3
Other (please specify)		4
Answered question		7
Skipped question		2

Of those that completed information in the 'other category' these were the comments:

'Therapeutic support to victims of domestic violence / abuse in 2 x Children's Centres'

'School and youth work project totally lost. Perpetrators programme security under threat due to loss of funds'

5. Is your organisation at risk of closure?

	Response percent	Response count
Yes	33.3%	3
No – please go to qu 7.	66.7%	6
Answered question		9
Skipped question		

6. What strategy do you have for managing this?

	Response percent	Response count
Local lobbying/campaigning	50%	1
Active fundraising	100%	2
Winding down services	50%	1

Making staff redundant	0%	0
Other (please specify)		2
Answered question		2
Skipped question		7

7. Do you have any other ideas about what Respect could do to help secure the future of our sector? Comment

Sample comments included:

'Lobby government for ring-fenced funding. domestic abuse incidents are increasing rapidly but fewer resources for victims and perpetrators. launch a national fundraising campaign!! Lobby to secure established IDVA positions. loss of specific, timely and appropriate support for victims will result in increased repeat incidents, severity of incidence and ultimately an increase in the loss of lives. [...]

'Lobby for the mainstreaming of programmes, specifically forget the 'criminal justice' argument. The way to get this issue taken more seriously is to go down the route of public health and men's health. Demonstrate unmet need; highlight examples of good practice; assist, encourage & promote developing a 'business case' for projects; use the media to highlight the fact that these services are closing & how detrimental that is etc'

'I agree that this is the right strategy to pursue. I would also make a huge effort to develop the financial case for why it costs so much more to do nothing about dv and why perpetrator programmes save so much money for the government in the long run! I would also like Respect to help projects to know how to measure their outcomes as effectively as possible so that projects are collecting the best possible evidence to make the case for their own survival.'

Initial conclusions

Clearly, this snapshot gives significant cause for concern as to the current financial security of the domestic violence perpetrator programme and integrated support services sector and service provision is already being affected. Respect will be keeping this issue on its agenda, raising it with relevant Governmental and Non-Governmental agencies at all available opportunities and has developed a Respect lobbying strategy to respond. We will also be distributing our briefing *Domestic violence perpetrator programmes: what counts as success?* to selected MPs to highlight the key findings of Respect's Research Programme to date.

Firstly, it is important that all Respect members are aware of the likely local authority and public sector funding cuts. Respect will do what it can to support members in securing their funding in the face of funding threats. Respect will be able to defend more robustly those services which have achieved Respect accreditation status as these programmes have undergone a rigorous assessment process which demonstrates the quality of their provision.

Respect will keep members and subscribers updated of any key developments on this topic, eg. Government announcements, funding trust announcements etc. through our usual information channels (email update, website, newsletter).

We will also be producing some guidelines for members on how they can be proactive and carry out quick financial risk assessments to gauge the level of risk they face.

We will also be producing briefings which will assist members in the coming weeks.

We will continue to contact our Respect members and subscribers regularly to see how things are going and whether anything has changed. This is important in order to track developments across the coming months. A big thank you to everyone who has taken the time to reply to the cuts watch survey so far. For those who would still like the opportunity to participate please click [here](#)

Further information

If you would like to contact Respect regarding the issues raised in this paper please email info@respect.uk.net or telephone the Respect office - 020 7022 1801.