



# Safe System Capacity Survey

2023

## Results



### With Support From:

RSGB, Roadsafe, CIHT, PACTS,  
ADEPT, Road Safety  
Foundation, Institute of  
Highway Engineers, RAC  
Foundation, IAM



# Introduction

- Annual survey launched in 2022
- Provides a snapshot of sectoral capacity and the state-of-play around Safe System efforts
- Gather collective insight to share ongoing strengths and frustrations



APRIL 2023

## OUR JOURNEY TOWARDS SAFE SYSTEM...

WHERE WE ARE AND WHAT  
DO WE NEED TO DO?

# Baseline Survey 2022

- Focus on stakeholders who deliver locally, regionally and nationally within UK
- Key insights around sector-wide variations between different organisations, roles and regions.
- **Core observations:**
  - Benefits of delivering against the Safe System
  - Lack of leadership and guidance hindering progress
  - Strategy developments needed
  - Momentum in the recognition of the Safe System levers as critical to success
  - The power of robust governance, target-setting and measurement of metrics through data collection all identified as core development areas

<https://agilysis.co.uk/publications/#152-150-wpfd-white-papers>



# Safe System Capacity Survey 2023

- Designed to open the exercise to other organisation types and international stakeholders
- 530 total responses
  - 117 completed responses
  - 413 partial responses
  - 404 answered Q1; 226 > Q1

What type of organisation do you work for in the UK?			
Answer Choice		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Local highways authority	19.1%	77
2	Police force	7.4%	30
3	Fire and rescue service	1.5%	6
4	Road safety partnership	8.2%	33
5	Transport authority (such as National Highways, Transport for London, Transport Scotland etc).	5.4%	22
6	Charity / non-governmental organisation	30.4%	123
7	Other organisation	26.0%	105
8	Organisation outside of UK	2.0%	8
		<i>answered</i>	<b>404</b>
		<i>skipped</i>	<b>126</b>



# Local Authority Participation

- Completed by 33 Local Authorities across 9 regions in the UK
- 48% have more than 5 people with road safety as a clear focus of role with 29% having more than 10
- 29% reported a reduction in either capital and revenue in the past 5 years
- 20% reported an increase in capital but only 8% in revenue
- Revenue more likely to have stayed the same

Role	Response share
Engineer	17.0%
Manager	39.6%
Road safety officer	24.5%
Transport planner	1.9%
Active travel officer	1.9%
Policy officer	0.0%
Data analyst	3.8%
Other	11.3%

Region	Response rate
East	18%
East Midlands	44%
London	3%
North West	22%
South East	26%
South West	38%
West Midlands	29%
Yorkshire & The Humber	40%

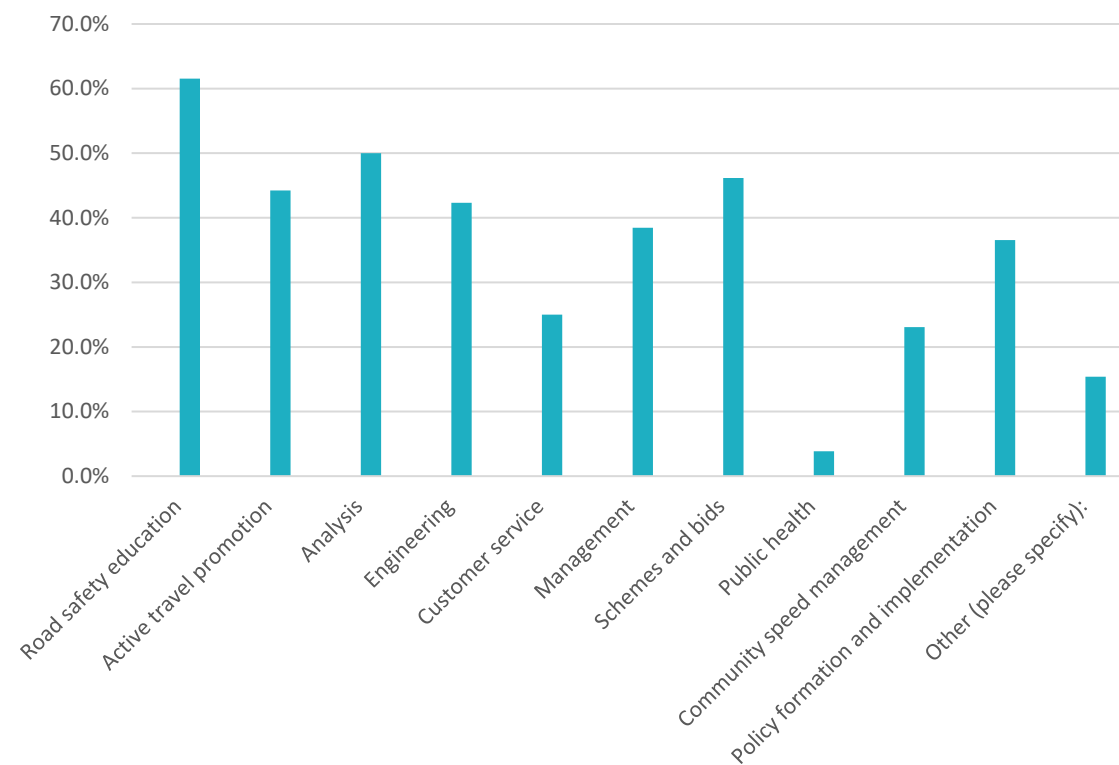
*“With increasing costs and Council budget pressures it is a challenge to maintain road safety budgets. Whilst our targets for KSI reduction are ambitious our budgets do not reflect that ambition generally...”*

*“We have had to increase our capital allocation to allow us to develop some large-scale cluster site schemes”*



# Local Authority areas of focus

Area of focus	Response Percent
Road safety education	61.5%
Active travel promotion	44.2%
Analysis	50.0%
Engineering	42.3%
Customer service	25.0%
Management	38.5%
Schemes and bids	46.2%
Public health	3.8%
Community speed management	23.1%
Policy formation and implementation	36.5%
Other	15.4%





# Police Force Participation

- Completed by 10 Police Forces across 8 regions in the UK
- 86% have more than 5 people with road safety as a clear focus of role with 81% having more than 10
- 10% reported an increase in capital and revenue funding in the past 5 years
- 41% reported no change in capital and same for revenue
- 30% could not recall any changes in funding levels

Role	Response Percent
Traffic management officer	28.6%
Data analyst	4.8%
Collision investigator	4.8%
Enforcement officer	9.5%
Manager	14.3%
Other	38.1%

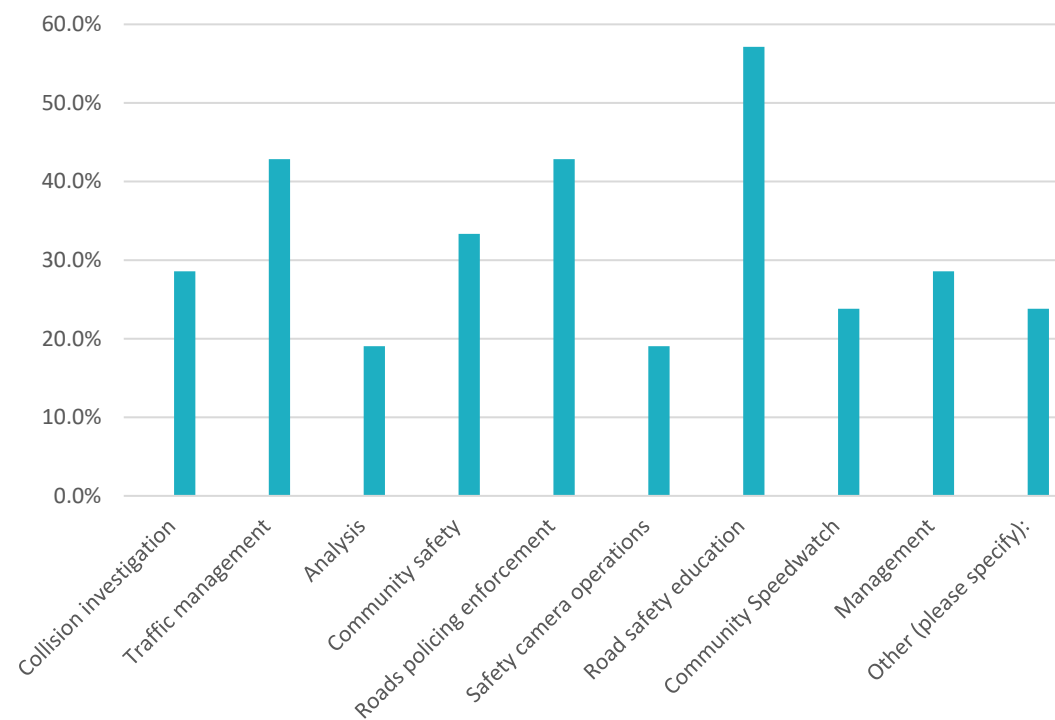
Region	Response rate
East	20%
East Midlands	60%
North West	25%
South East	20%
South West	20%
West Midlands	25%
Yorkshire & The Humber	20%

*"Funding is being provided by the partnership for road safety campaigns"*



# Police Force areas of focus

Area of focus	Response Percent
Collision investigation	28.6%
Traffic management	42.9%
Analysis	19.0%
Community safety	33.3%
Roads policing enforcement	42.9%
Safety camera operations	19.0%
Road safety education	57.1%
Community Speedwatch	23.8%
Management	28.6%
Other	23.8%







# Fire and Rescue Participation

- Completed by 4 Fire and Rescue Service across 3 regions in the UK
- 17% have more than 10 people with road safety as a clear focus of role, most have only 2-5 staff with this focus
- There were no reported increases in revenue or capital, with most saying that there isn't a budget

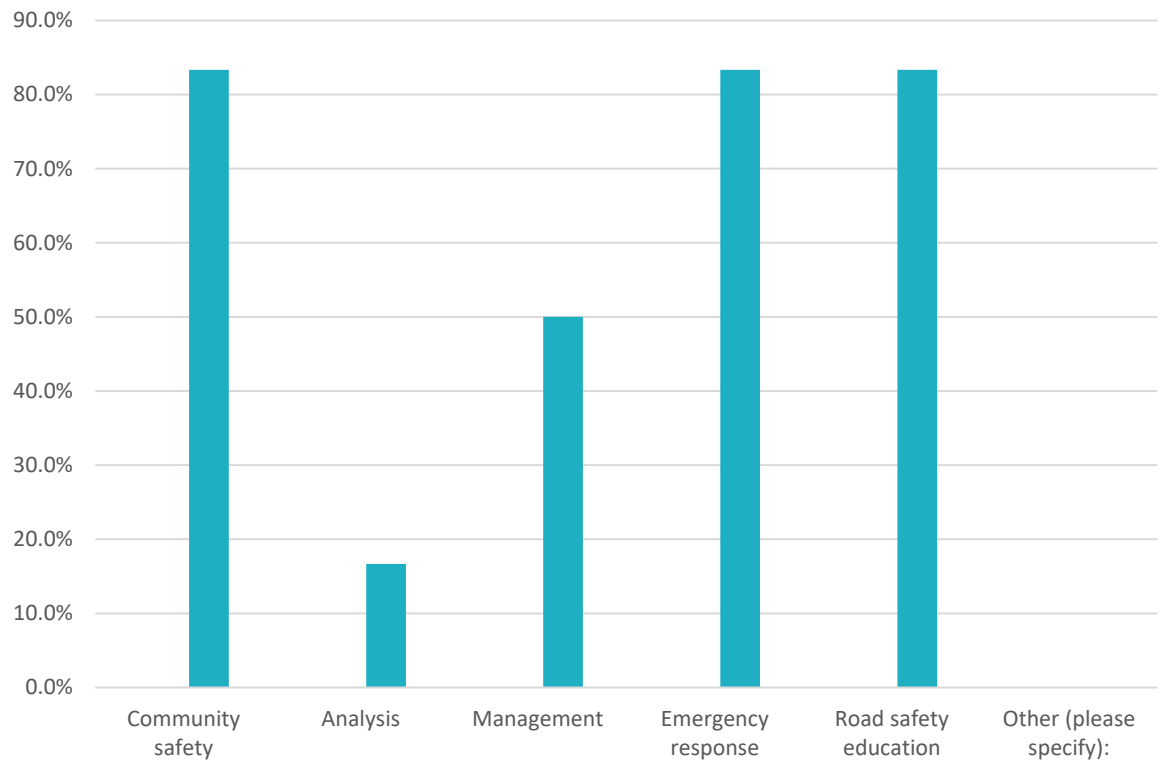
Role	Response Percent
Manager	83.3%
Firefighter	0.0%
Data analyst	0.0%
Community safety	16.7%
Other	0.0%

Region	Response rate
East	33%
South East	13%
West Midlands	20%

*"There is no specific road safety budget available within the organisation. We generally rely on bids to the Vision Zero partnership or Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for funding."*



# Fire and Rescue area of focus



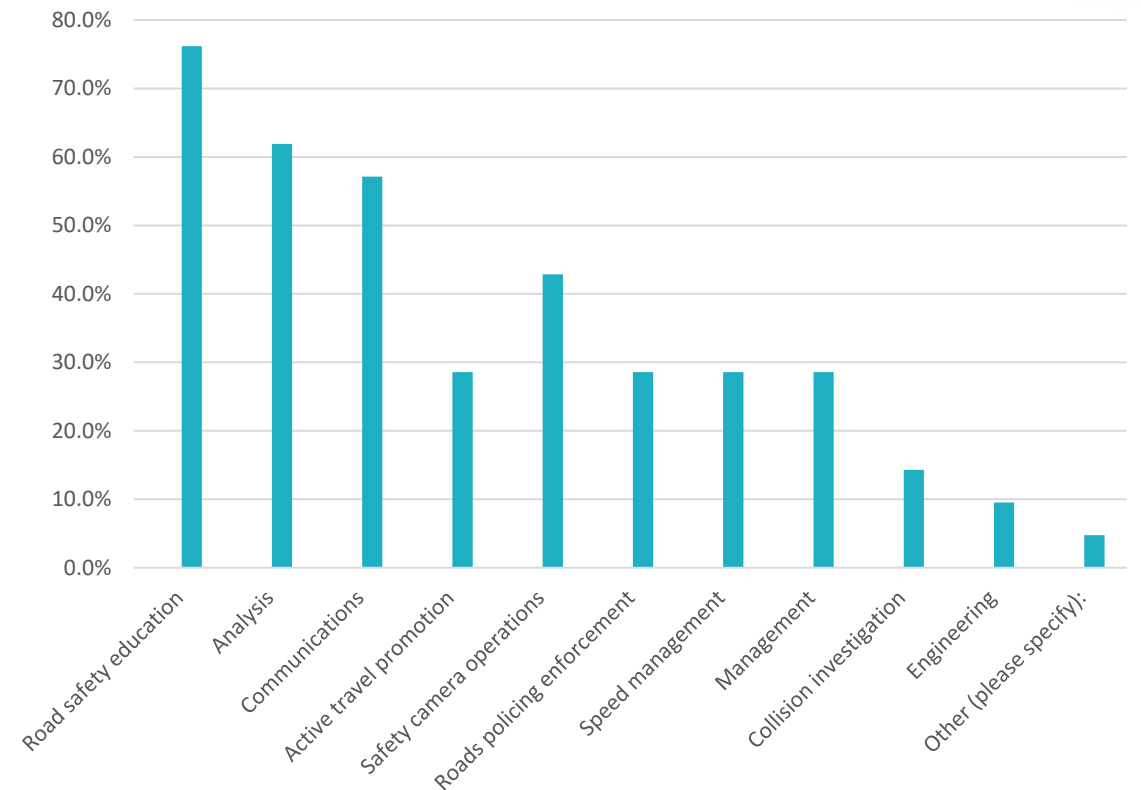
	Response Percent
Community safety	83.3%
Analysis	16.7%
Management	50.0%
Emergency response	83.3%
Road safety education	83.3%
Other	0.0%



# Partnership responses

- Completed by 8 Partnerships from across the UK
- 62% reported having more than 10 staff with road safety as a clear focus in their role
- More respondents stated that both capital and revenue funding had increased (20%) than had decreased

Region	Participating Partnerships
North West	2
West Midlands	4
South East	3
South West	2
Yorkshire and the Humber	5
Other	4

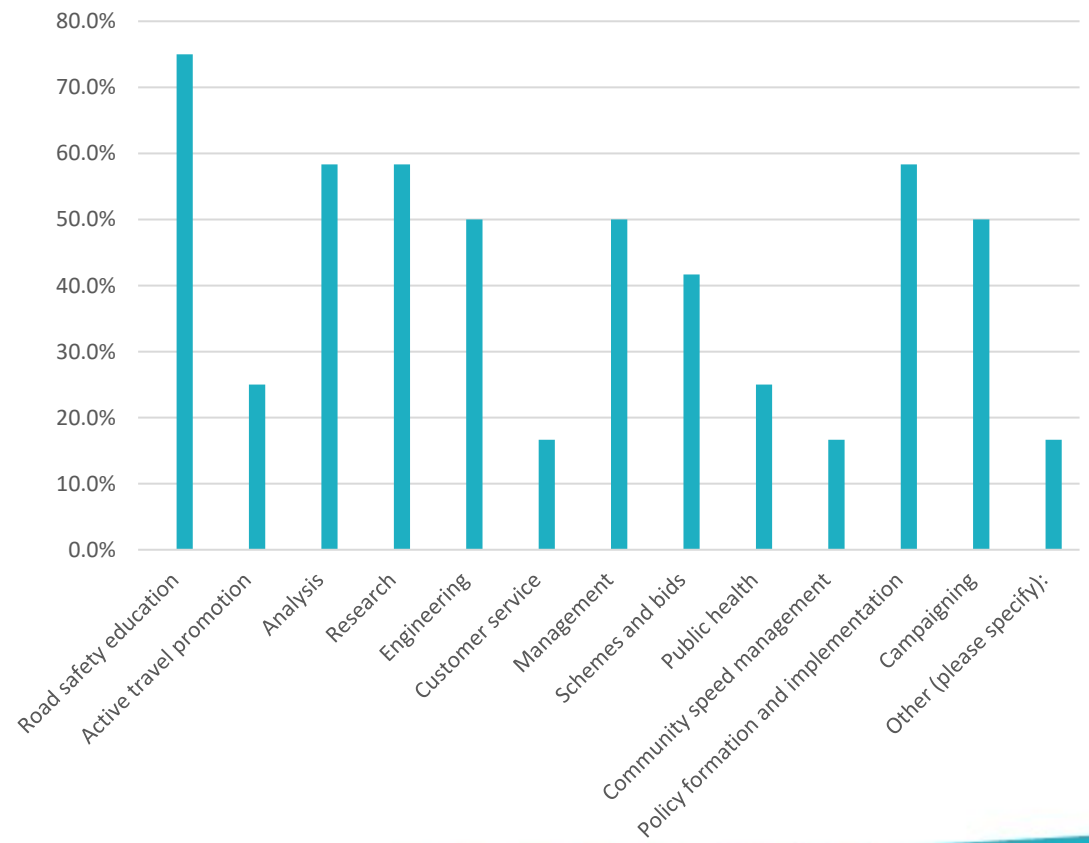




# Transport Authority responses

- Completed by 6 Transport Authorities
- Majority reported having more than 10 staff with a road safety focus (83%)
- More likely to say both capital and revenue funding have decreased rather than increased over last 5 years.

Role	Response Percent
Manager	16.7%
Data analyst	0.0%
Road safety officer	16.7%
Transport planner	0.0%
Active travel officer	0.0%
Engineer	25.0%
Policy officer	8.3%
Traffic officer	0.0%
Other	33.3%





# Funding

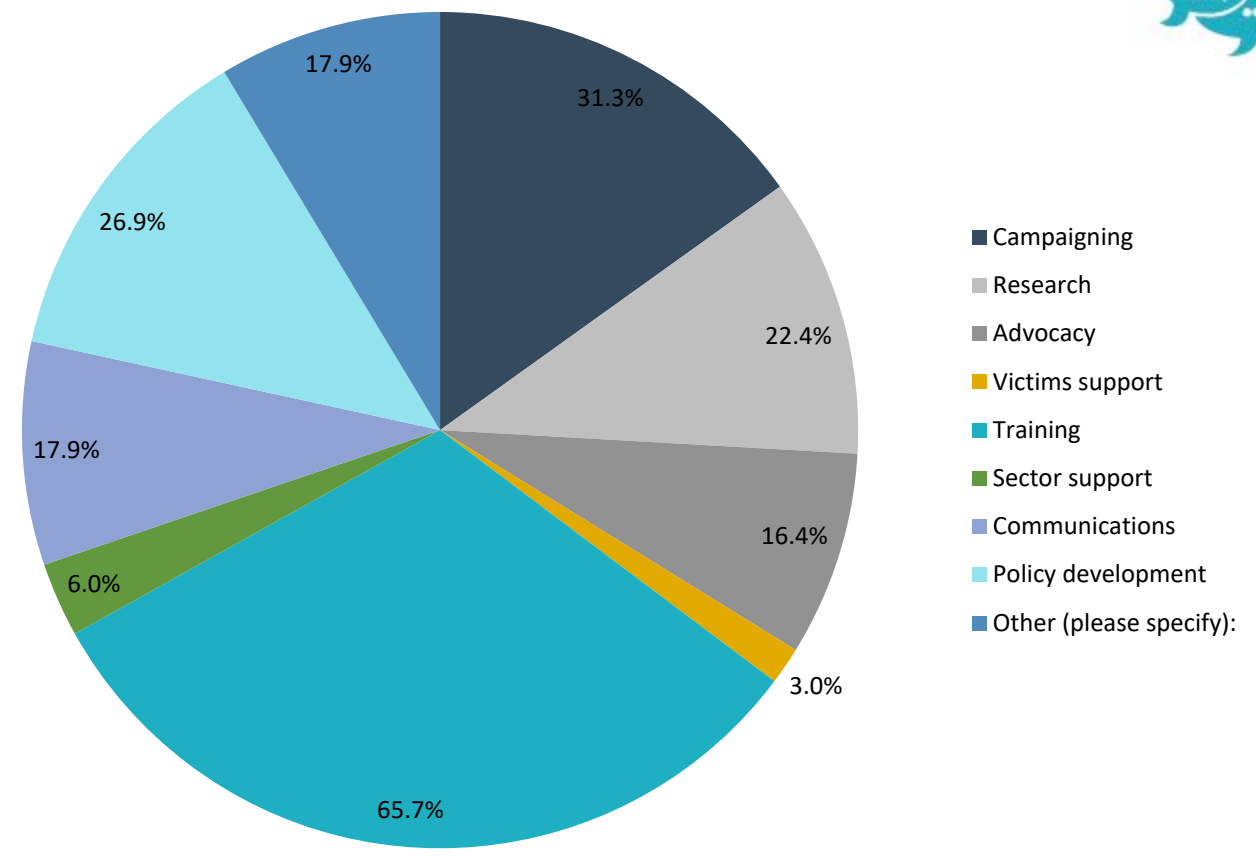




# Charity / NGO Participation

- Completed by a range of third sector stakeholders who represent a significant proportion of total respondents
- Huge input from those in campaigning and advocacy; training and sector development; and policy development at the national level
- Accessibility and issue awareness central to the roles of those who took part

Geographic remit	Response Percent
Local	27.1%
National	68.6%
International	4.3%

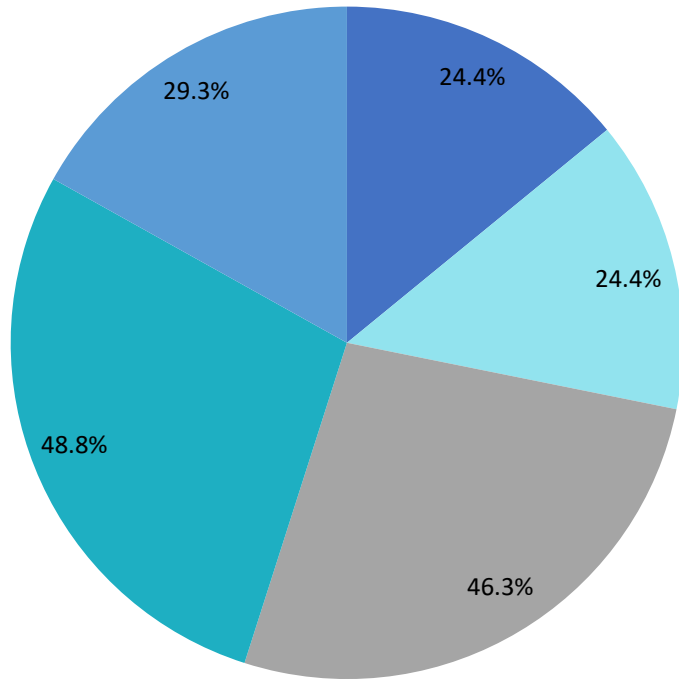
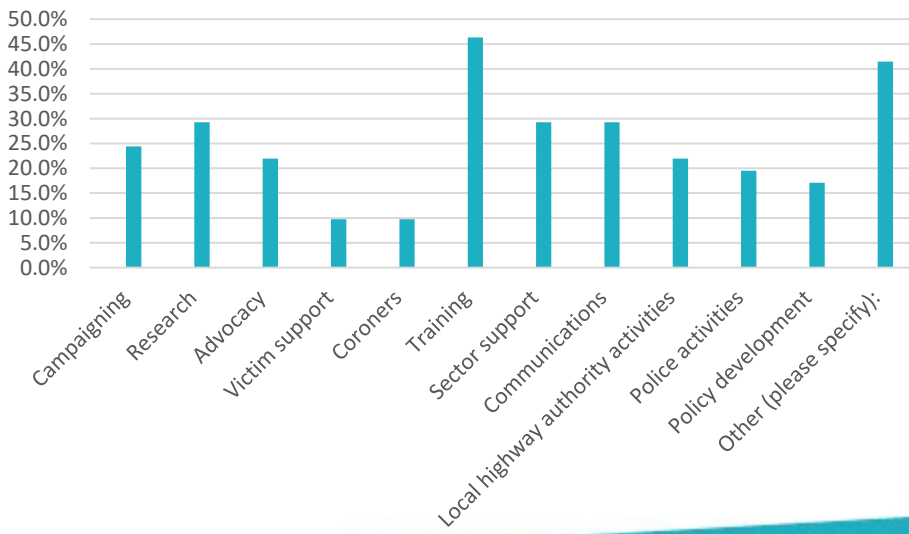




# Other Organisation Participation

- Strong mix of responses ranging from those in the private sector and engineering consultancies, to those in emergency service operators and PCC stakeholders

Geographic remit	Response Percent
Local	31.7%
National	48.8%
International	19.5%



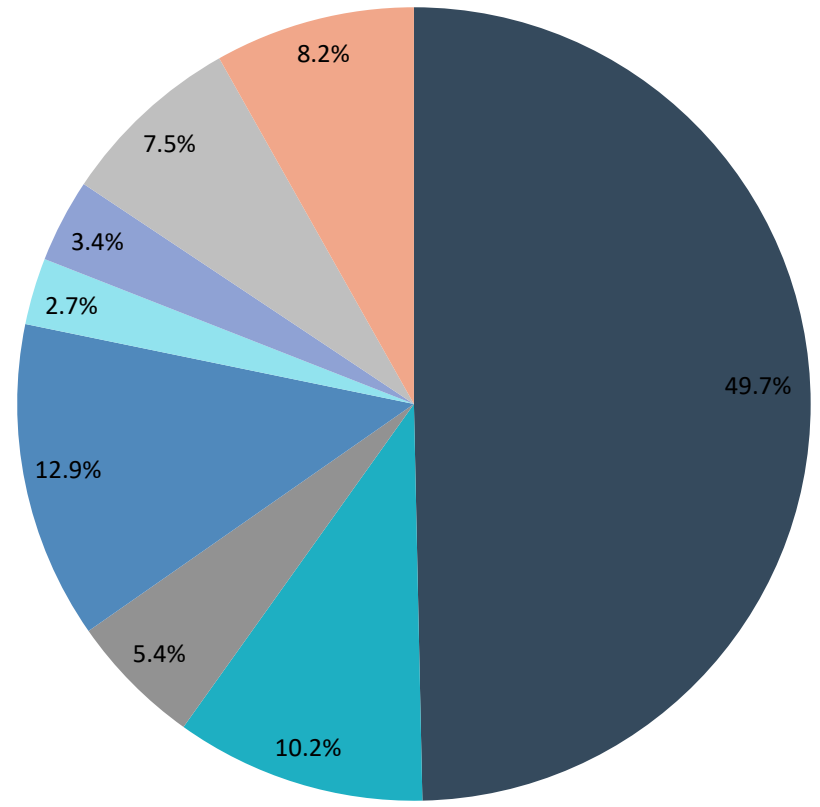
- My organisation has a sector leadership role (involves direct responsibility or accountability)
- My organisation has a management role (involves responsibility for managing certain activities)
- My organisation has a supporting role (involves providing supplementary support underpinning Safe System actions)
- My organisation has a contributing role (involves providing contributions to sector capacity without overarching responsibility)
- My organisation convenes activities on behalf of others (involves facilitation of others' work and practical assistance)



# Does your organisation currently have a road safety strategy (including as part of a partnership)?

n=147

Answer Choice	Response Percent	Response Total
Yes, we have an up-to-date strategy that we are delivering upon	49.7%	73
We have an up-to-date strategy, but we are not always adhering to it	10.2%	15
We have developed and adopted a strategy, but we need to work on the implementation plan	5.4%	8
We are currently developing a new strategy	12.9%	19
We don't have a strategy but we have plans to develop one	2.7%	4
We don't have a strategy and we don't have plans to develop one	3.4%	5
I don't know if we have a strategy or plans to develop one	7.5%	11
We don't need a road safety strategy	8.2%	12



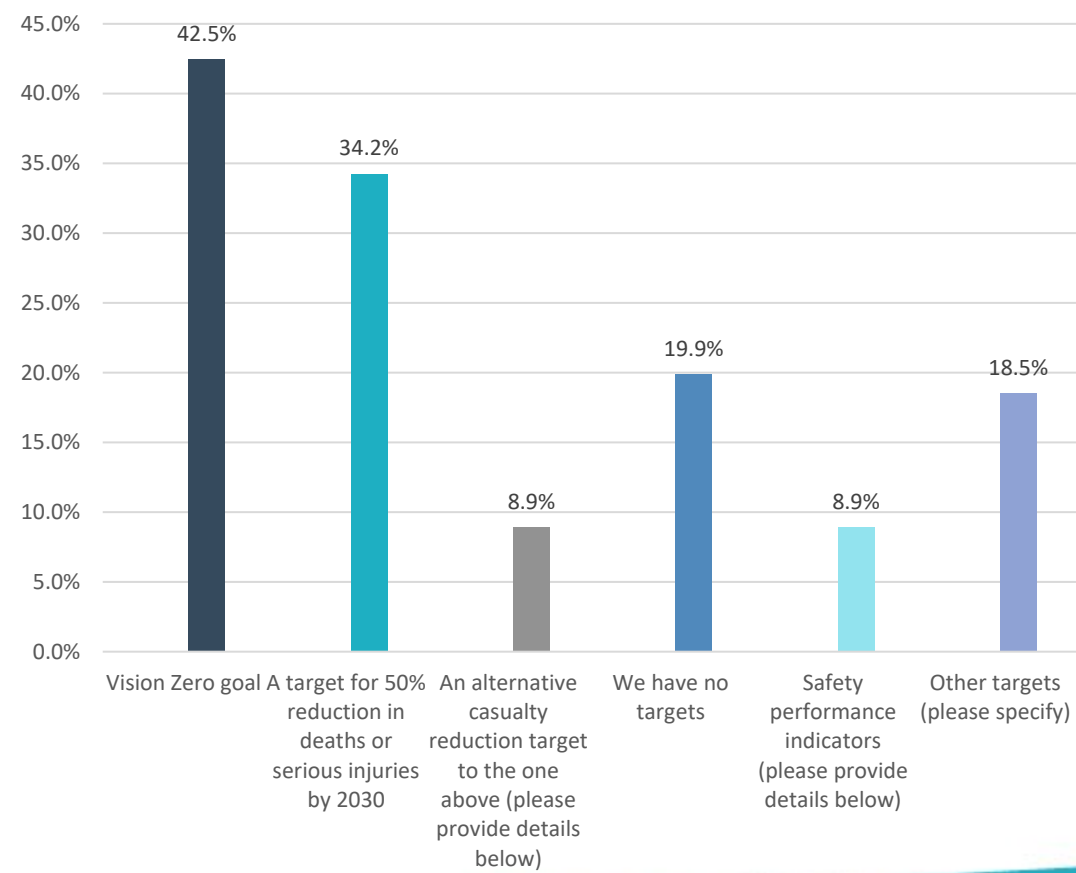




# Agreed targets in organisation

(including as part of a partnership)

n=146

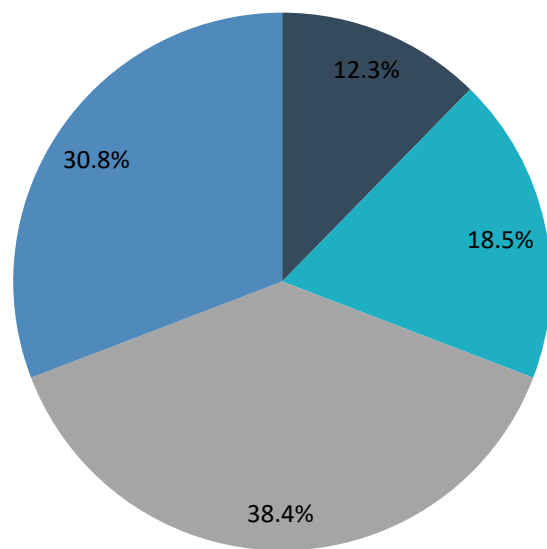


Answer Choice	Response Percent
Vision Zero goal	42.5%
A target for 50% reduction in deaths or serious injuries by 2030	34.2%
An alternative casualty reduction target to the one above	8.9%
We have no targets	19.9%
Safety performance indicators	8.9%
Other targets	18.5%



# Partnerships and Collaboration

n=146

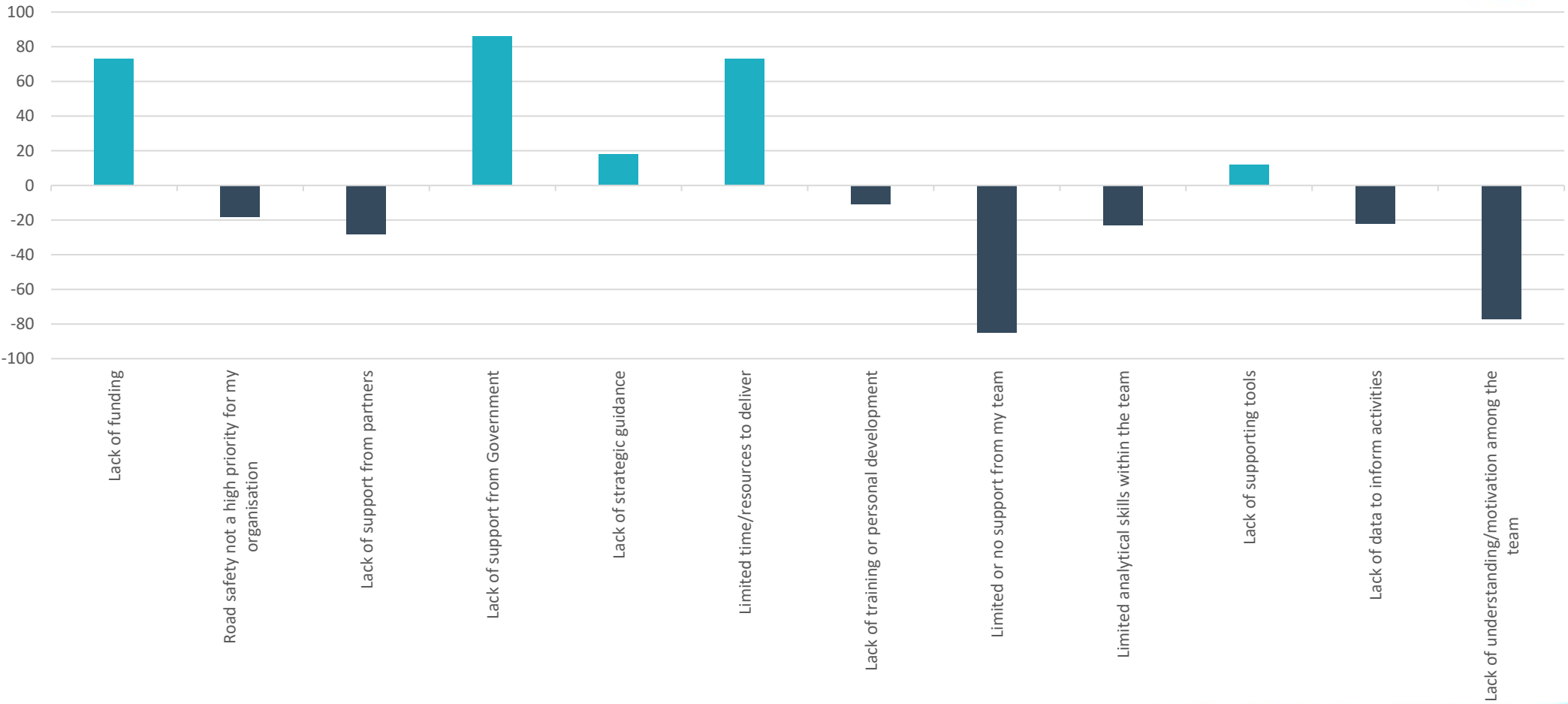


	Response Percent
There is no communication or collaboration with road safety organisations in neighbouring areas	12.3%
There is communication but no collaboration with road safety organisations in neighbouring areas	18.5%
There is a little collaboration with road safety organisations in neighbouring areas	38.4%
We work very closely with road safety organisations in neighbouring areas	30.8%

Organisation in partnership	Response Percent
We are not members of a partnership	28.8%
Local authorities	57.5%
Police	58.9%
Fire and Rescue Service	52.7%
National Highways	42.5%
Ambulance Service	24.7%
Air ambulance charities	10.3%
NHS Trust	17.8%
Local university	4.1%
Victims support organisation	10.3%
Other	17.1%



# Frustrations (n=146)



# What does Safe System mean to you?



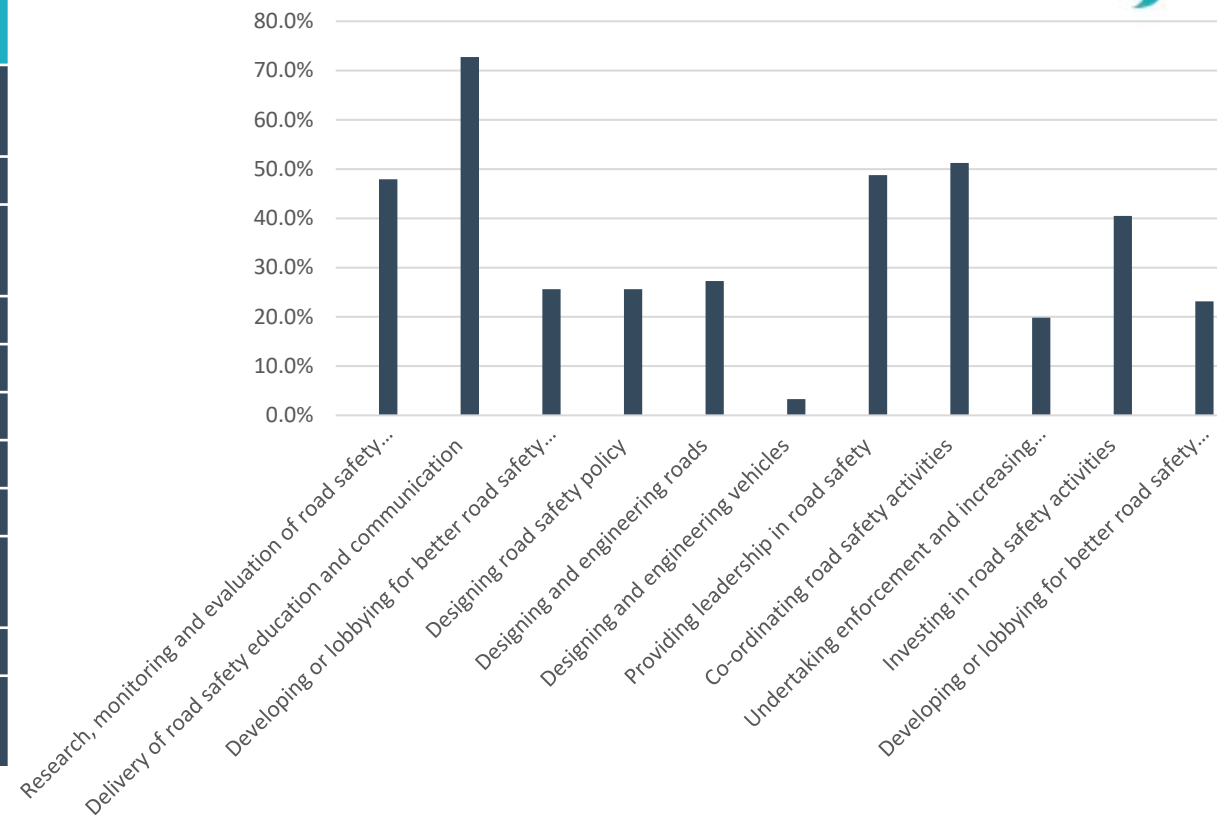
- Local Highways Authorities:
  - Embedding its principles
  - Avoiding siloes and thinking about causality and what works / doesn't work
  - Tension between what the Safe System means and what we can do
- Police Forces:
  - Technology and data / intelligence
  - Lack of permeation and prioritisation of Safe System
- Fire and Rescue Services:
  - Collaboration and creating layers of protection
- Partnerships:
  - Technology, enforcement and bringing together different elements
- Transport Authorities:
  - Safe System as a holistic tool
- Charities / NGOs:
  - System of car / vehicle control and VRU protection
- Other Organisations:
  - A label that doesn't affect the day-to-day operations
  - A vague range of activities



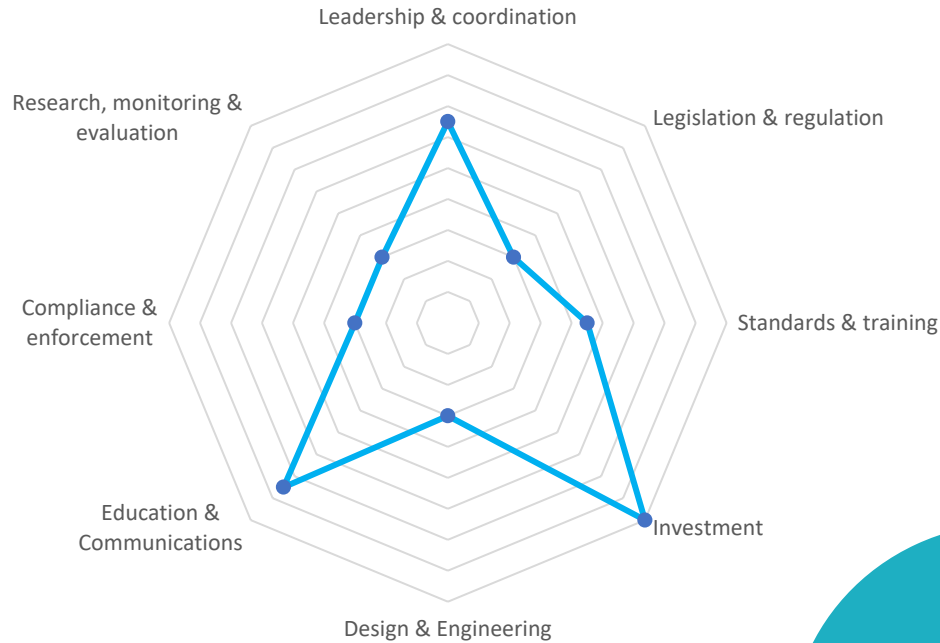


# Involvement in levers of Safe System

	Response Percent
Research, monitoring and evaluation of road safety interventions – commissioned or directly undertaken	47.9%
Delivery of road safety education and communication	72.7%
Developing or lobbying for better road safety standards and training	25.6%
Designing road safety policy	25.6%
Designing and engineering roads	27.3%
Designing and engineering vehicles	3.3%
Providing leadership in road safety	48.8%
Co-ordinating road safety activities	51.2%
Undertaking enforcement and increasing compliance with road traffic laws	19.8%
Investing in road safety activities	40.5%
Developing or lobbying for better road safety legislation and regulation	23.1%



# If you were to request support in implementing Safe System approaches, what would you ask for?



“Further expertise and involvement from vehicle manufacturers to support the safe vehicles working group, and input from the ambulance service in the post-collision working group and activities.”

“More critical examination of the present road system and ideas for how it could be improved”\*

“A tool kit perhaps, a more realistic approach to achieving it with limited time and budget, a steer from the government such as targets, thematic examples for individual road user groups for what could work under the safe system?”\*

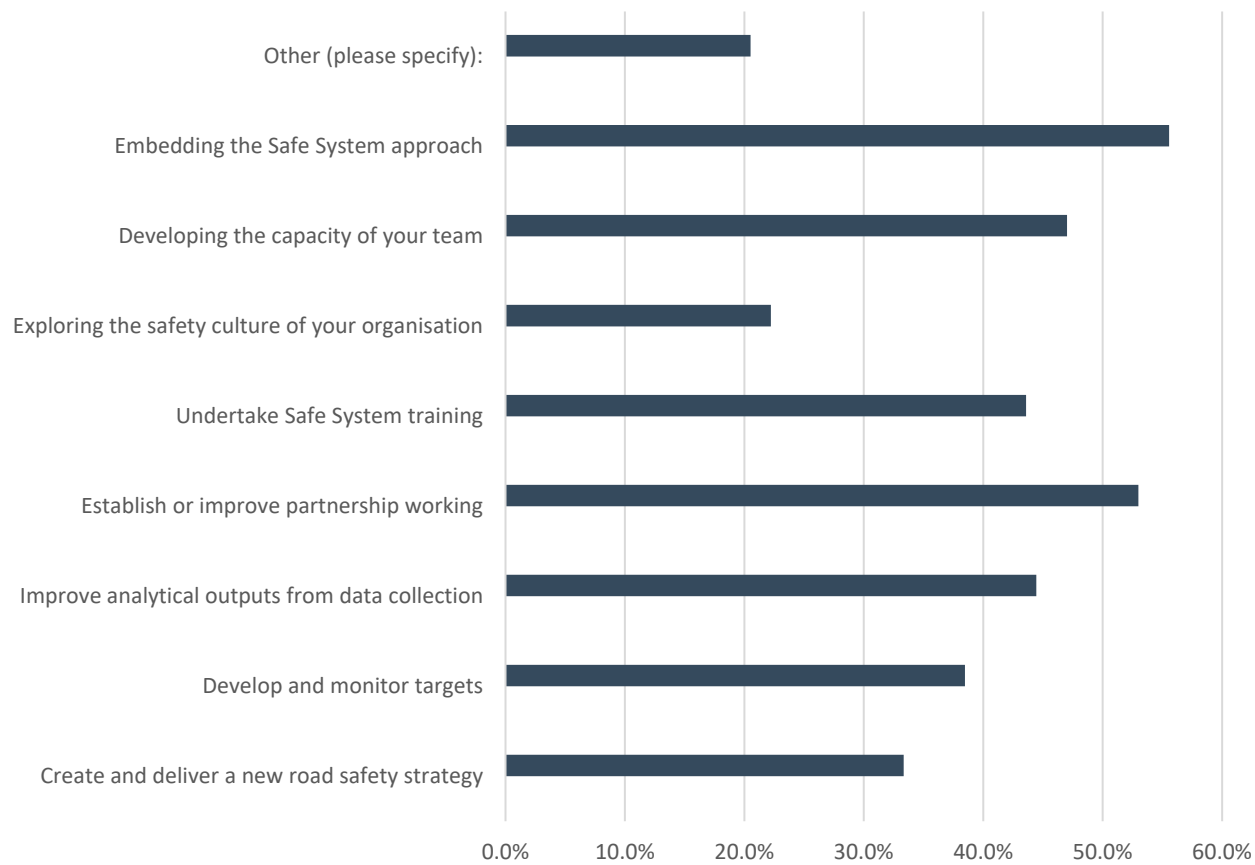
“More joined up thinking between legislators, road designers, driving test requirements and drivers.”\*

“To try and get the partner agencies to commit to Vision Zero and Safe Systems.”

“Guidance documentation in a format that is easily digestible for political decision makers to assist with making the case for driving this forward into mainstream thinking and sufficient resources of experienced staff and finance (possibly ring fenced) to make it a reality.”



# Future ambitions



	Response Percent
Create and deliver a new road safety strategy	33.3%
Develop and monitor targets	38.5%
Improve analytical outputs from data collection	44.4%
Establish or improve partnership working	53.0%
Undertake Safe System training	43.6%
Exploring the safety culture of your organisation	22.2%
Developing the capacity of your team	47.0%
Embedding the Safe System approach	55.6%
Other	20.5%



# Safe System Capacity Survey

2023



## With Support From:

RSGB, Roadsafe, CIHT, PACTS,  
ADEPT, Road Safety  
Foundation, Institute of  
Highway Engineers, RAC  
Foundation, IAM