

GET INVOLVED

Any local area can use **the MEAM Approach** and in doing so join the national network of MEAM Approach areas that are working together to share practice, provide peer support and ultimately deliver sustainable change for people facing multiple needs.

www.theMEAMapproach.org.uk
IS THE MAIN GATEWAY FOR THE APPROACH. IT INCLUDES:

- The seven core elements of **the MEAM Approach**
- A wide range of practical and helpful resources
- A way to search for partners in your area
- A "delivery status" for each local authority area
- Information about local and national networking and introductory events
- Information on the support MEAM can provide.

SUPPORT WE PROVIDE

Any area is welcome to use **the MEAM Approach** to help design and deliver a coordinated and flexible response to those with multiple and complex needs. We know however that getting started can be difficult. Therefore we recommend that all areas wishing to use the MEAM Approach attend an **Introduction to MEAM information session**. Details of upcoming sessions are on the website.

We are also able to offer a package of **external facilitation support** that can help guide you through **the MEAM Approach** journey. Our Local Networks Team – formed of individuals from across the four MEAM organisations – brings a bespoke package of cross-sector support to local partnerships from people who know the area and region well.

If you are interested in MEAM's other work including on local and national policy, see www.meam.org.uk.

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IMPLEMENTING THE MEAM APPROACH LOCALLY **ONE YEAR ON**

WHAT IS MEAM?

Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) is a unique coalition of charities – Clinks, DrugScope, Homeless Link and Mind – focussed on adults facing multiple needs and exclusions. Building on three pilot projects we have been working for a year in local areas across England to help develop solutions for those with multiple needs – homelessness, substance misuse, mental health problems and offending. We do this using **the MEAM Approach**: a framework with seven elements that helps areas design and deliver coordinated interventions.

WHAT DID THE PILOT PROJECTS ACHIEVE?

FROM THIS:

- 81% OF PEOPLE HAD BEEN IN PRISON
- 80% WERE HOMELESS
- 133 UNITS OF ALCOHOL A WEEK (AVG. CONSUMPTION)
- ALL BUT ONE UNEMPLOYED
- 48% HAD BEEN A VICTIM OF CRIME IN THE LAST 3 MONTHS
- 44% INVOLVED WITH MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
- 36% HAD BEEN IN CARE AS A CHILD
- 35% RATED HEALTH AS BAD OR VERY BAD

TO THIS:

- UP TO 26.4% REDUCTION IN SERVICE USE COSTS OVER TWO YEARS
- SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH CRIME
- 86% HOUSING SITUATION IMPROVED
- 71% CONSUMING LESS DRUGS/ALCOHOL
- 79% LESS INVOLVED IN CRIME
- 57% BETTER MENTAL HEALTH

[HTTP://BIT.LY/MEAMEVALUATION](http://bit.ly/meamevaluation)

CLINKS

DrugScope

homeless link

mind

MEAM

THE LOCAL WORK

Each area has developed locally appropriate ways to implement the seven elements of the MEAM Approach. The seven elements are: partnership and audit; consistency in client identification, coordination for clients and services; flexible responses from services; service improvement and gap filling; measurement of success; sustainability and systems change.

BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN ★

The MEAM Approach here targets the most vulnerable and chaotic individuals living in Houses of Multiple Occupation in Blackburn Town Centre. Funded through Public Health, the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Clinical Commissioning Group, Community Safety and the voluntary and community sector, a multi-agency team works one-to-one with clients to assess need and to support clients to enable them to access the services they require. The project team is supported by an operational group and a strategic group comprised of senior representatives from a range of local agencies.

WIGAN ★

The Homelessness Multiple Needs Service at Wigan Council used the MEAM Approach to design a multi-agency approach to dismantle barriers to service inclusion. A coordinator has been in place since December 2013, and through his support 9 out of a cohort of 13 people who had history of rough sleeping have accessed or sustained housing and accessed mainstream health and recovery services.

DERBY ★

One of the original pilots, the coordinated service in Derby has supported 33 people. Currently located within substance misuse services, the future shape of the service is being discussed as part of re-commissioning plans across the City.

LICHFIELD AND TAMWORTH

The scope of the MEAM work is still being planned here. A strategic group has been formed, which has defined its client group and drafted a statement of intent for partners to sign up to the approach. An audit is currently underway into the needs and current provision.

OXFORD ★

Delivery started in Oxford in September 2014 and up to 25 people will be worked with in the first year. Rather than employing a coordinator, the MEAM initiative here focuses on adapting the way that services engage with people at the present time. The 25 individuals are offered a special status, allocated personal budgets, and given additional flexible support time from staff. This is supported by a multi-agency operation group and an executive steering group.

EXETER

The MEAM intervention is still being developed in Exeter, but is planned to involve lead workers from a range of agencies each supporting individuals and working together to co-ordinate and address barriers. Training on appreciative enquiry is being planned and peer support will be provided by ex-service user volunteers.

★ NORTH TYNESIDE

The MEAM work here is at early stages of delivery, and a coordinator started in April 2014. The aim is to embed the Approach within Adult Social Care and its partner agencies as a way of working for people with multiple needs as well as changing systems to support people with lower needs. A Strategic Board meets six-weekly and an Operational Panel fortnightly to discuss cases with a range of multi-agency partners, including the VCS.

★ SUNDERLAND

Direct delivery on the MEAM initiative began in June 2014 with the appointment of a coordinator to provide more flexible and coordinated support for adults with multiple needs in Sunderland. A strategic group has become a sub group of the adult safeguarding board to ensure the Approach can be adopted as a City and embedded into contracts. A multi-sector operational group is committed to working more closely together to meet the needs of the individuals.

YORK

The York MEAM partnership is jointly led by Arc Light (Housing) and York Mind (Mental Health), with representation on the management group from across the statutory and voluntary sectors. With seed funding from Probation, the partnership is about to recruit a coordinator to drive forward working with clients identified by the management group, reporting back issues and systems change to the newly formed strategic group.

NORWICH

As the Norwich MEAM Approach progresses through the planning stage it has linked up with a similar project in King's Lynn to strengthen the Norfolk-wide approach necessary to move forward. Though a formal MEAM partnership has yet to be formed, key individuals at high level are supportive, there is strong operational commitment and funding streams are currently being explored.

★ CAMBRIDGESHIRE

As one of the original pilots, Cambridgeshire MEAM has just entered its fourth year. It has worked with 41 complex needs clients and employs a Project Manager and Case Coordinator. The operations and governance groups are central to the success Cambridgeshire has had in improving outcomes for clients and reducing service use costs, but it is still looking to develop to make the service more robust and sustainable in the long-term.

LB WESTMINSTER

Westminster is currently planning what its MEAM initiative will include. Scoping work has been done and many partners are on board. Current work is focussed on securing more strategic engagement, identifying funding options, and starting delivery.

★ CURRENTLY DELIVERING

For more detail see www.themeamapproach.org.uk