

# What should the next government do for people with multiple needs?

Date:

Location:

**CLINKS**

DrugScope

homeless link

mind

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M

Making Every Adult Matter

Supported by

Lankelly  
Chase  
Foundation

## 2. Voices from the Frontline

Voices from the Frontline is a project run by Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM), a coalition of four national charities with expertise in homelessness, criminal justice, substance misuse and mental health

Our aim is to bring the voices of people with multiple needs and those who support them to the heart of the policy debate



# 3. What are multiple needs?

Experiencing multiple needs means facing more than one problem at the same time, including:

- Homelessness
- Contact with the criminal justice system
- Mental health problems
- Substance misuse



*“It’s just got to the point where all of these things have come into a massive great big circle... you’re banging your head against a brick wall.”*

# 4. Today's aims

We would like to work with you to think about how changes to policy can improve things for people with multiple needs.

Together we will:

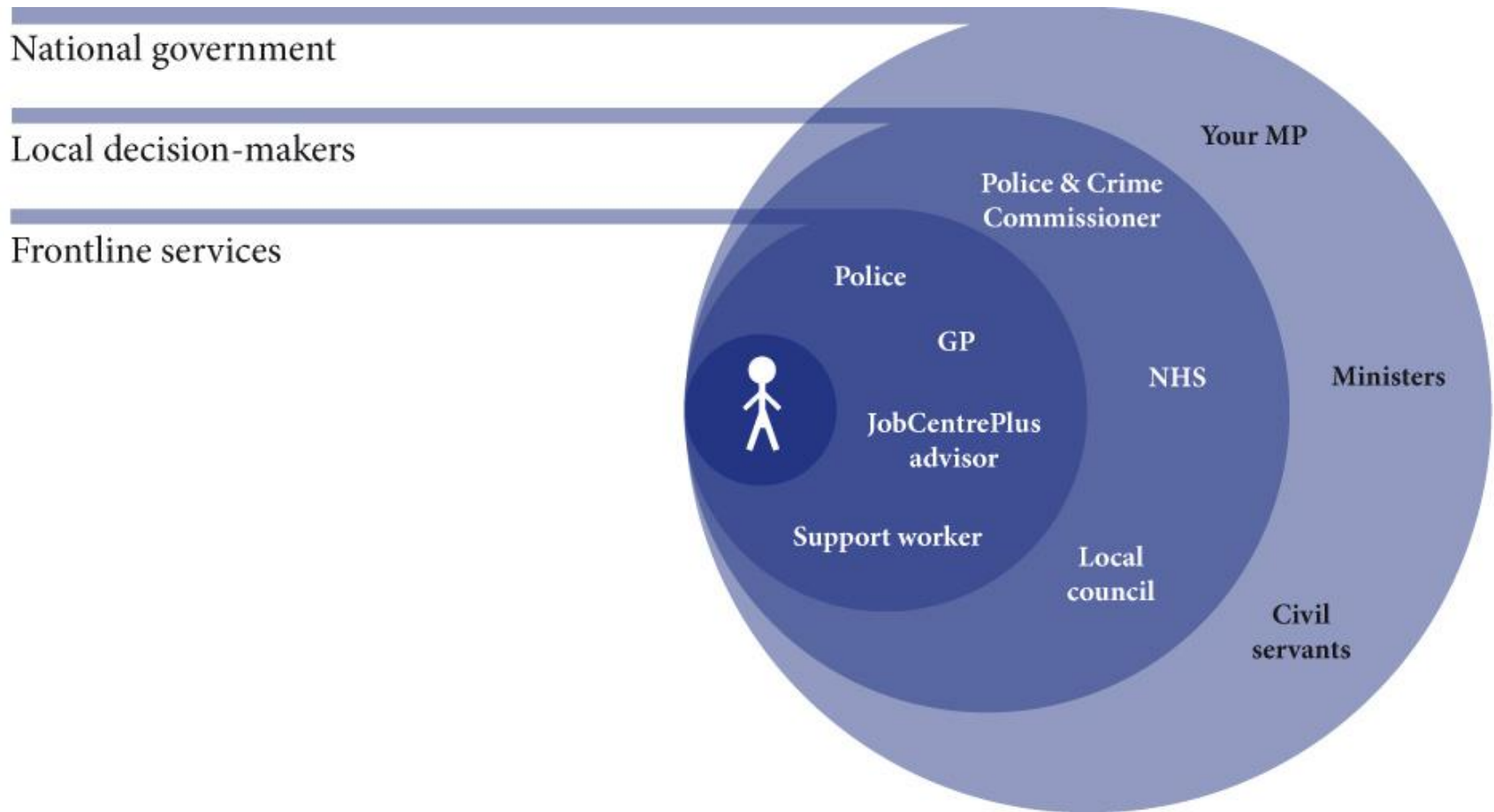
- Briefly explore what policymaking is and who is involved in it
- Think about what needs to change in terms of the way services are provided for people with multiple needs
- Consider how policy changes might help with this
- Be positive and focus on the solutions

# 5. What is policy-making?

‘...the formulation of ideas or plans that are used by an organization or government as a basis for making decisions.’

- The government, your local council and other organisations make decisions every day that affect all of our lives:
- Spending money on healthcare, schools, benefits and other services, and deciding how they work
- Raising money through the taxes we pay
- Making new laws or changing old ones

# 6. Who is involved in policymaking?



# 7. How can we improve policy together?

Experts by experience and those who support them have a vital role to play in persuading different decision makers to act. This might involve:

- sharing our experiences and telling policymakers things they might not already know;
- telling them about things that we know work;
- giving them ideas for how to improve things; and
- showing them that we (and others) care about this issue.



# 8. What are your experiences of having multiple needs?

Drawing on your own experiences, or thinking about the two fictional characters below, we would like you to think about:

What experiences are people with multiple needs likely to have?

What organisations/support services are people with multiple needs likely to have contact with?



“Nina (21) and Simon (36) both have multiple needs.

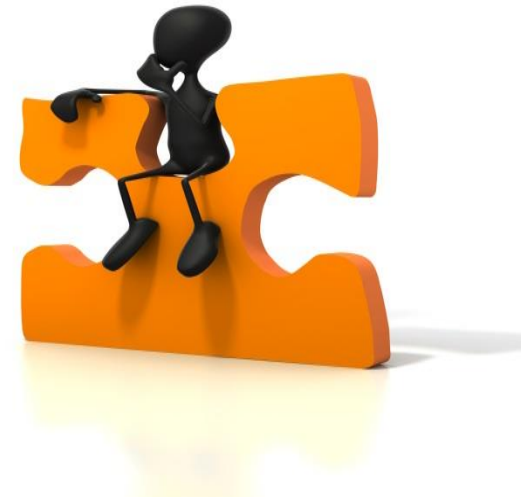




# 9. How would things be different in an ideal world?

From thinking about the issues, we now want to focus on some of the solutions.

- If you could design a programme of support for Nina and Simon, what would this look like?
- What has worked for you?
- What needs to change to make this happen?



# 10. What might help to change things?

Now you've thought about solutions, consider these questions.

- Do things need to change at a local or national level?
- Is this a change that needs to be made by frontline services, local decision makers or is it a national change?
- Who do we need to act to make these changes happen?
- Do you think there might be any barriers to what you have suggested? (For instance, cost.)
- Why should they listen – what's in it for them?

# What next?

If a Minister was sitting here now, what's the one thing you'd say to them?

**To help us share your ideas, tell us about what you've discussed before the end of March 2015.**

You can contact the team at [voices@meam.org.uk](mailto:voices@meam.org.uk)