



PRESS NOTICE

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Government signals better support for adults experiencing homelessness, substance misuse, mental health problems and repeat contact with the Criminal Justice System.

The Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) coalition [1] has welcomed today's announcement in the Budget to explore options to integrate spending for people in England experiencing a combination of homelessness, substance misuse, mental health problems and repeat contact with the Criminal Justice System. [2]

The government has already joined up funding for troubled families. Latest estimates suggest there are also 58,000 individuals in England experiencing homelessness, substance misuse and contact with the Criminal Justice System and a further 164,000 who experience an overlap of any two. A failure to effectively support these individuals costs the taxpayer at least £4.3bn a year [3], while recent research by MEAM has shown that better coordinated services in local areas can reduce costs by up to a quarter. [4]

Today's announcement follows a call by Baroness Tyler in the House of Lords last October for a national focus on multiple needs and the recent commitments made by the government in its Autumn Statement [5] and response to the Service Transformation Challenge Panel [6].

Baroness Tyler of Enfield, Chair of the MEAM coalition, said:

"I strongly welcome today's Budget announcement. Too often the way government works means that local services for people with multiple needs operate separately rather than together. A new national focus that integrates spending could help change this, encouraging local areas to deliver services that improve support for individuals and reduce costs over the course of the next Parliament."

Oliver Hilbery, Director of the MEAM coalition, said:

"We welcome the announcement in today's Budget Statement. A national focus has the potential to encourage coordinated services nationwide and improve the lives of people facing multiple needs. We look forward to working closely with officials as they explore options for implementation."

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MEDIA CONTACTS

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NOTES TO THE EDITOR:

- 1) Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) is a coalition of four national charities – Clinks, DrugScope, Homeless Link and Mind – formed to influence policy and services for adults facing multiple needs. Together the charities represent over 1,600 frontline organisations working in the criminal justice, drug treatment, homelessness and mental health sectors.

MEAM supports local areas across the country to improve services for people facing multiple needs. We help local areas to design and deliver better coordinated interventions and to measure their impact. We also provide support to twelve areas across the country as part of the Big Lottery Fund's Fulfilling Lives: Supporting people with multiple needs programme. Our Voices from the Frontline project is bringing the voices of people with multiple needs and those who support them to the heart of the policy debate.

MEAM is supported by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (UK Branch), the Garfield Weston Foundation, the LankellyChase Foundation and the John Ellerman Foundation.

For more information please see: www.meam.org.uk; www.clinks.org;
www.drugscope.org.uk; www.homeless.org.uk; www.mind.org.uk;

- 2) The Budget Statement can be downloaded at the link below and the announcement is in paragraph 1.87 and 2.19: <http://bit.ly/1MJiyMq>
- 3) *Hard Edges* is published by the LankellyChase Foundation <http://bit.ly/15qePDe>
- 4) In February 2014, FTI Consulting and Pro Bono Economics published the results of a two-year evaluation of the MEAM pilots. The results show statistically significant improvements in wellbeing and a reduction in wider service use costs of up to 26.4% as individuals engage with better coordinated interventions. <http://bit.ly/1bcvMCA>
- 5) The government's Autumn Statement committed to extending the principles underpinning the Troubled Families programme to other groups of individuals with multiple needs (paragraph 1.77 and 2.14). <http://bit.ly/150O6QS>
- 6) In its response to the Service Transformation Challenge Panel report, the government said that it will identify the total cost of providing support to this group to inform work on integrating funding, commissioning, delivery and accountability regimes (page 8). <http://bit.ly/1xxI9z9>