

MEAM

MEAM Approach evaluation Year 4 mid-year report

December 2020



Table of contents

1	Introduction.....	3
1.1	Overview.....	3
1.2	About the evaluation.....	3
1.3	The MEAM Approach.....	3
1.4	Further information.....	4
2	Update on the MEAM Approach network.....	6
2.1	About the MEAM Approach network.....	6
2.2	Areas involved in the MEAM Approach network.....	6
3	Year 4 evaluation approach.....	9
3.1	Introduction.....	9
3.2	Year 4 research theme.....	9
3.3	Year 4 research methods.....	9
3.4	Next steps.....	10

1 Introduction

Cordis Bright would like to thank everyone involved in shaping and delivering the evaluation to date. For the work completed so far in year 4, particular thanks go to the members of the evaluation steering group, MEAM staff and the expert research group, who have offered expertise and guidance in defining this year's research theme. Thanks also go to members of the expert research group for their help in designing research tools. We look forward to working with the expert research group to deliver and analyse the fieldwork in the months to come. Thank you also to the local staff in MEAM Approach network areas who collect and collate client-level data for the CDF, and those who will facilitate and participate in qualitative research throughout the year. Finally, our thanks go to all clients who have consented to their data being shared with the evaluation, and to those who will speak to us as part of this year's research.

1.1 Overview

This is the year 4 mid-year report for the longitudinal evaluation of the MEAM Approach. The report provides a brief overview of the MEAM Approach network to date and sets out the research planned for year 4. The report does not present findings from the evaluation research. These will be included in the year 4 end-of-year report, due to be published in Summer 2021.

1.2 About the evaluation

The evaluation has been commissioned by the Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) coalition and is being delivered by Cordis Bright, an independent research and consultancy organisation, in conjunction with the MEAM coalition team, local areas using the MEAM Approach and people with lived experience of multiple disadvantage. The evaluation is taking place over five years between 2017 and 2022.

1.3 The MEAM Approach

The Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) coalition is formed of the national charities Clinks, Homeless Link, Mind and associate member, Collective Voice.

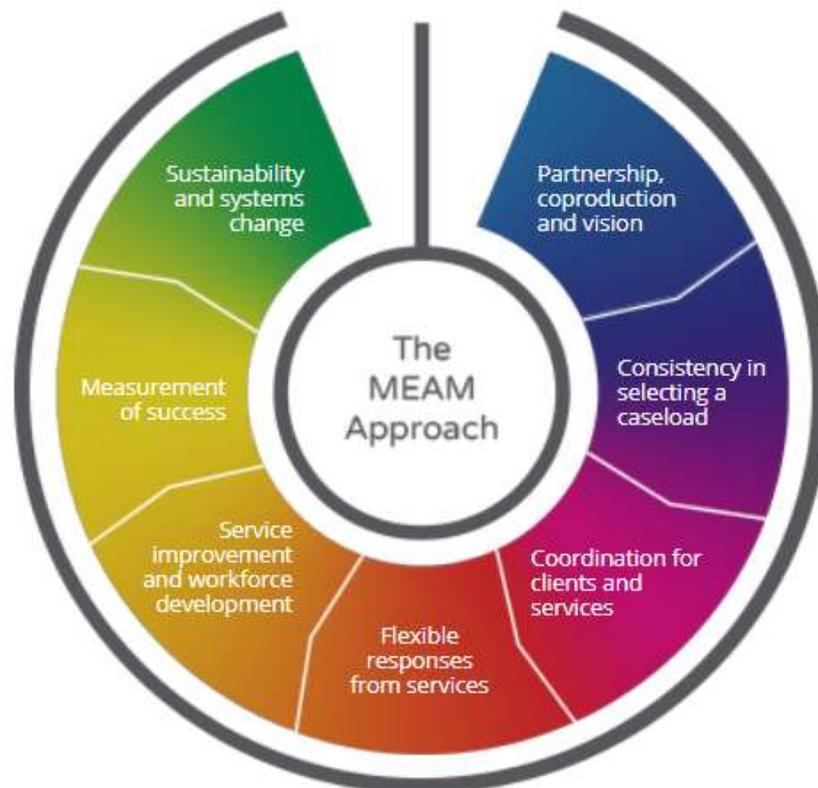
MEAM developed the MEAM Approach in 2013 as a non-prescriptive framework to help local areas to design and deliver better coordinated services for people facing multiple disadvantage¹. The MEAM Approach includes seven core elements that should be considered by all local areas, but it does not prescribe a

¹ MEAM (no date) The MEAM Approach www.meam.org.uk/the-meam-approach

particular way in which these elements should be achieved. The framework is presented in Figure 1.

The MEAM Approach is currently being used by cross-sector partnerships of statutory and voluntary agencies in 33 areas across England.

Figure 1: The MEAM Approach



Source: *The MEAM Approach website (2019)*²

1.4 Further information

More information on the MEAM Approach, the network and the approach to the evaluation can be found in the previous evaluation reports, including:

- The live evaluation framework, produced in March 2018.
- The year 1 (scoping) report, produced in March 2018.
- The year 2 mid-year report, produced in October 2018.

² The MEAM Approach website: www.meam.org.uk/the-meam-approach

- The year 2 main report and methodology, produced in July 2019.
- The year 3 update to the scoping report, produced in May 2019.
- The year 3 mid-year report, produced in January 2020.
- The year 3 main report, MEAM partnerships thematic report and technical appendix, produced in August 2020.

These are available here: <http://meam.org.uk/the-meam-approach/meam-approach-evaluation/>

2 Update on the MEAM Approach network

2.1 About the MEAM Approach network

The MEAM Approach network of local areas has been developing since 2013. In 2017, supported by the National Lottery Community Fund, the coalition put in place a new cohort of MEAM Approach areas, which are receiving support from the MEAM Local Networks Team and working together to share practice and provide peer support.

2.2 Areas involved in the MEAM Approach network

The network has grown since its inception in April 2017, with new areas joining in year 2, year 3 and year 4. New areas were recruited through a series of Expression of Interest processes. As at November 2020, 33 local areas are involved in the MEAM Approach network³.

During the evaluation period, the MEAM coalition has seconded one of its team to support work on the MEAM Approach within Greater Manchester. Areas using the MEAM Approach in Greater Manchester are part of a new Greater Manchester MEAM Approach network and do not take part in this evaluation. However, the areas do attend national network events and learning opportunities.

Figure 2 lists the areas in the network and indicates when they began their involvement with MEAM⁴.

³ 31 of these areas are in the national MEAM Approach network and take part in this evaluation, while two are in the new Greater Manchester MEAM Approach network.

⁴ Halton, Slough, Sunderland, and West Berkshire were previously involved in the MEAM Approach network but have since left. Data collected by Halton and West Berkshire prior to leaving the network is still included in the evaluation.

Figure 2: Areas in the MEAM Approach network

Local area	Initial pilot area from 2010 ⁵	Involvement started 2014-17 ⁶	Member since Nov 2017 (Year 1)	Member since Nov 2018 (Year 2)	Member since June 2019 (year 3)	Member since May / Aug / Nov 2020 (year 4) ⁷
National MEAM Approach network and evaluation						
Adur and Worthing		✓				
Basingstoke and Deane		✓				
Blackburn with Darwen		✓				
Calderdale						✓
Cambridgeshire	✓					
Cornwall			✓			
Coventry			✓			
Doncaster			✓			
Durham						✓
Exeter		✓				
Hackney		✓				
Haringey				✓		
Hull		✓				
Middlesbrough						✓
Newham						✓

⁵ The two other pilot areas, Derby and Somerset, are not currently involved with the MEAM Approach network.

⁶ Seven other areas were also working with MEAM at this stage but are not currently involved with the MEAM Approach network. These are: Chelmsford (Essex), Cheshire West and Chester, Leicester, North Tyneside, Oxford, South Tyneside and Wigan.

⁷ Redbridge joined the network in August 2020 and Rochdale in November 2020. The other year 4 joiners joined the network in May 2020.

Local area	Initial pilot area from 2010 ⁵	Involvement started 2014-17 ⁶	Member since Nov 2017 (Year 1)	Member since Nov 2018 (Year 2)	Member since June 2019 (year 3)	Member since May / Aug / Nov 2020 (year 4) ⁷
North Devon						✓
North Lincolnshire			✓			
Norwich			✓			
Peterborough						✓
Plymouth			✓			
Preston			✓			
Reading			✓			
Redbridge						✓
Redcar and Cleveland				✓		
Southend-on-Sea			✓			
Stafford					✓	
Surrey			✓			
Westminster				✓		
Winchester				✓		
Windsor and Maidenhead				✓		
York		✓				
Greater Manchester MEAM Approach network						
Oldham				✓		
Rochdale						✓

3 Year 4 evaluation approach

3.1 Introduction

In this section we set out the evaluation focus and data collection methods for year 4. These are based on an assessment of the evaluation's findings in years 2 and 3, suggestions raised by the evaluation steering group, lessons learnt from the evaluation to date and an understanding of other ongoing and completed research related to multiple disadvantage.

3.2 Year 4 research theme

The year 2 research provided considerable insight into the impact of the MEAM Approach for clients. The year 3 research provided greater detail and insight into the impact of the MEAM Approach on local systems, the operational/strategic partnership models being developed locally, and what difference these structures make and how.

In year 4, we will continue to provide insight into the impact of the MEAM Approach on clients and local services and systems. Our thematic research and analysis this year will focus on the involvement of statutory mental health services in MEAM partnerships. Our key thematic research questions for year 4 are:

1. Why are statutory mental health services rarely involved in MEAM Approach partnerships?
2. What would enable and encourage statutory mental health colleagues and services to join and actively participate in MEAM Approach partnerships?
3. What is the impact on clients and local systems when statutory mental health services are part of partnerships?
4. What does good access to and support from statutory mental health services look like for people facing multiple disadvantage?
5. Are there other types of support or opportunities, outside of those delivered by statutory mental health providers, which can help clients to achieve better mental health and wellbeing?

3.3 Year 4 research methods

The key data collection methods for year 4 are:

- **Local staff e-survey.** This was in circulation across the network in year 2 and year 3 of the evaluation. We will repeat the survey again in year 4⁸.

⁸ It is likely that the year 4 reports will not include any analysis of this survey. However, we will present a comprehensive longitudinal analysis of the survey, including data from all years of the evaluation, in year 5.

- **Focus groups with local leads.** The aim of these focus groups will be to gather perspectives of people leading on local MEAM Approach work across the network with regards to 1) their work to bring about systems change, and 2) involvement of statutory mental health partners in their local partnerships.
- **Telephone interviews with mental health partners or other key stakeholders.** We will consult with mental health partners or other key stakeholders with insight into why statutory mental health involvement in MEAM partnerships is or is not working locally.
- **Deep dive fieldwork.** We will carry out virtual fieldwork in five “deep dive” areas who agree to participate. These areas will be suggested by MEAM to ensure we cover areas that can give us wide-ranging insight into the thematic research questions set out above. We plan to deliver one focus group or workshop in each area with stakeholders who have insight into either a) how and why statutory mental health partner engagement is working or b) how and why it is not working and what might be done about this. However, we will agree the exact approach with each area. We will also conduct case study interviews with around five clients who have received effective mental health support and pathways, to showcase their experience and the impact for them.
- **Common data framework.** This will continue as in years 2 and 3. Local areas will continue to collect personal details, outcomes data and service use data from clients who are supported by interventions developed using the MEAM Approach and who consent to have their data shared with the evaluation.
- **Interviews and focus group with MEAM staff.** We will conduct a focus group and telephone interviews with MEAM staff.

As in previous years of the evaluation, we are working closely with the evaluation’s expert research group⁹ throughout year 4 to develop research tools, carry out fieldwork (i.e. focus groups and face-to-face interviews), and analyse qualitative data.

3.4 Next steps

Fieldwork, analysis and report-writing will take place between December 2020 and July 2021. We look forward to publishing the year 4 main report, thematic report on statutory mental health involvement in MEAM partnerships, and technical appendix in August 2021.

⁹ See year 3 report methodology annex for more information about the expert research group: <http://meam.org.uk/the-meam-approach/meam-approach-evaluation/>



CordisBright Limited

23/24 Smithfield Street, London EC1A 9LF

Telephone	020 7330 9170
Email	info@cordisbright.co.uk
Internet	www.cordisbright.co.uk