# MEAM Approach Network Membership

# 2022-2024

***This Expression of Interest process is for new areas interested in joining the MEAM Approach network for the period 2022-24. The deadline for completed Expressions of Interest is 27th June 2022. Please contact the MEAM team at*** [***info@meam.org.uk***](mailto:info@meam.org.uk) ***if you would like to discuss your submission.***

**Background**

The MEAM Approach is a non-prescriptive framework designed to support local areas to transform services and systems for people facing multiple disadvantage. It is currently being used by cross-sector partnerships in 32 local areas in England, which together form the MEAM Approach network. The network includes long-term MEAM Approach areas, previous Fulfilling Lives areas, and areas with and without Changing Futures investment.

The National Lottery Community Fund has recently awarded MEAM a grant to extend our support to the MEAM Approach network over the next two years and to help shape a nationwide legacy for work on tackling multiple disadvantage.

We are now looking for 10 new areas to join the MEAM Approach network.

**Membership offer**

In response to differing needs across the MEAM Approach network, MEAM is introducing a refreshed model of support for this next phase, which will allow us to continue to host and support a broad network of areas working together on tackling multiple disadvantage, whilst also providing more focussed systems change support to a smaller number of areas.

Membership of the MEAM Approach network for the ten new areas will include:

* Dedicated critical-friend support from a MEAM Partnerships Manager around using the MEAM Approach to improve services and systems.
* Access to a wide range of learning and networking opportunities with the wider network, including regular strategic lead and frontline practitioner forums, learning hubs and conferences.
* Access to a core training programme for key staff, including introductory sessions on coproduction, systems leadership and trauma-informed and strengths-based approaches.
* Opportunities for networking, joint-working and peer support with colleagues across the network.
* Access (on a commercial basis) to more focussed and intensive support to tackle specific systems issues and bespoke workforce development and training opportunities.
* Opportunities to enable comparison and learning across different networks with varied approaches and funding models, including the Changing Futures programme.
* Opportunities to share learning and inform national policy.

**Membership ask**

We wish to maintain a vibrant, engaged and committed network of areas working together to tackle multiple disadvantage. To enable this, we ask that all MEAM Approach network members:

* Maintain regular contact and engagement with their Partnerships Development Manager.
* Are willing to generously share their successes, challenges and learning with others across the network, creating the powerful peer-networking support which has characterised the MEAM Approach network to date.
* Commit to regular attendance at strategic lead forums, frontline practitioner forums and learning hubs.
* Contribute to opportunities to build tools and resources that can support others, as well as share learning that can support national policy change.

**Eligibility**

To be eligible to apply for this opportunity we ask the following:

* You have a range of cross-sector, voluntary and statutory partners involved with, and committed to, this application and any future MEAM work.
* You can demonstrate a commitment to involving lived experience in your work.
* You are able to resource local MEAM Approach work for the next two years (there is no funding available from MEAM as part of the network).
* You consider diversity and equality when identifying the cohort of people with which you wish to work.
* Your area is in any part of England, but we are particularly seeking applications from areas in the **North West and Midlands**.
* Your area is not in receipt of Changing Futures investment.
* If shortlisted, area leads and wider partners are able to attend an interview with the national MEAM team.

# Expression of Interest form

We are asking all prospective new areas to complete this form.

If successful in this stage, your area leads will be invited to an interview with the national MEAM team – please ensure you would be able to attend this before applying.

## Which area is making this application?

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## Who will be leading your work and maintaining contact with MEAM?

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Email** | **Phone** | **Role** | **Organisation/ relationship to partnership** |
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| **Please certify that you have the permission of all the partners listed to submit this form on behalf of the partnership.** | | | |  |

Ideally we would like three to four named contacts from different sectors across your local system. All individuals named as leads must be aware and in agreement that they will dedicate time towards engaging with and contributing to the MEAM Approach network activities named above.

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| **Who are the key partners or individuals in the partnership at the present time:** |  |
| **Do you feel there are any key partners missing from the partnership?** |  |

## Why are you interested in working on the MEAM Approach in your area?

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(200 words)

## Which group of people do you want to improve support for by co-developing the MEAM Approach in your local area? How have you considered equality and diversity in the identification of your cohort?

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(200 words)

## Do you have the beginnings of a senior cross-sector, inclusive partnership in place that can oversee and “own” the work and address systemic barriers? Please provide some detail of your developing partnership and the strategic commitment to this work.

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(200 words)

## Can you evidence that delivery partners across criminal justice, substance misuse, homelessness and mental health (and others, including peer-led groups) are ready to consider coordinated change at an operational level? How will you and your colleagues commit time and energy over the next two years?

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(200 words)

## Co-production is central to the MEAM Approach. How does your area intend to work in partnership with people with lived experience of multiple disadvantage in the design and delivery of your intervention?

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(200 words)

## Existing MEAM areas tend to have resource for a minimum of one navigator or coordinator post to lead on the frontline support for the caseload. Please explain how you intend to resource any frontline roles you develop.

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(200 words)

## How will being a part of the MEAM Approach network add value to your work?

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(200 words)

## The MEAM Approach encourages and promotes shared learning across regions, including participating in regional and national learning hubs and networks. How will your area participate and contribute towards learning opportunities?

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(200 words)

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## MEAM will be commissioning a learning partner for this next phase of work, but they will not be running a client-level evaluation as our five year evaluation of the MEAM Approach, generating strong evidence, has just concluded. As there is no central client-level evaluation planned for the network in this phase, how do you intend to monitor and evaluate the local impact of you work? What support would you need for this (if any)?

(200 words)

## Is there anything else you would like to add?

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(200 words)

**Thank you for completing your Expression of Interest. Please return the completed form to** [**info@meam.org.uk**](mailto:info@meam.org.uk) **by 27th June 2022.**