



MEAM Approach Network Membership

2024-2026

This Expression of Interest process is for new areas interested in joining the MEAM Approach network for the period 2024-26. The deadline for completed Expressions of Interest is 10th June 2024.

Please contact the MEAM team at Gregory.Headley@meam.org.uk if you would like to discuss your submission in advance.

Background

The MEAM approach is a non-prescriptive framework used by local partnerships across England to develop a coordinated response to tackling multiple disadvantage. It focuses on creating long-term, sustainable change to the way that complex problems and systems are approached and understood through collaborative working across a local system. The MEAM Approach is currently being used by partnerships of statutory and voluntary agencies in 42 local areas across England. This includes long-term network members and the ten areas that joined as part of the 2022 – 2024 cohort. We also provide support for the 15 Changing Futures areas, many of which are MEAM Approach areas.

Thanks to the generosity of The National Lottery Community Fund, we are now seeking 10 new areas to join the MEAM Approach network with funding agreed for 2024 – 2026.

Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) is a coalition of the national charities Clinks, Collective Voice, Homeless Link and Mind, having formed in 2009 to transform services, systems and policy for people facing multiple disadvantage. Working across government and with more than 50 local areas, now and in the past, we have helped to create a step-change in how local areas and national policymakers recognise and respond to people experiencing multiple disadvantage.

Membership offer

In our experience, every MEAM Approach partnership has a distinct and unique set of needs, opportunities, and challenges to address when establishing their local MEAM Approach partnership. We commit to working closely with you to navigate this complex landscape, and through bespoke support from your Partnership Development Manager, will assist you in shaping your local vision for improving the experiences of people living with multiple disadvantages.

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

- Dedicated critical-friend support and coaching from the MEAM Partnership Development Manager around using the MEAM Approach's non-prescriptive framework to improve services and systems.
- Facilitation of local partnership learning and development sessions and regular in-person visits.
- Access to a wide range of learning, networking and peer support opportunities with the network including regular strategic lead and frontline practitioner forums, learning hubs and the MEAM Coproduction Clinic.
- Opportunities for networking with people from across the multiple disadvantage sector. This includes access to both discounted and free tickets for our annual conference.
- Access to the Mighty Networks MEAM Approach platform: this is a national online networking spaces for peer learning and support, and the sharing of resources to support the work of your partnership.
- Discounted access to MEAM's commercial offer of workforce training and development, and consultancy support on systems practice and coproduction.
- Access to our foundation training programme for key staff, including introductory sessions on multiple disadvantage, coproduction, systems thinking, trauma-informed systems and strengths-based systems.
- Opportunities to inform national policy through sharing your local learning and insights.

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 Partnership Development Manager, both online and in person.
- Commit to working in partnership and collaborating across your local system with a wide range of partners from the statutory and third sector, and the wider community.
- 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 (this does not have to all be by the same person).
- Contribute to the development of tools and resources that can support others, as well as share learning that can support national policy change.
- Contribute towards any network impact evaluation processes as offered.

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for this opportunity it is required that:

- 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 people with lived experience of multiple disadvantage in your work.
- You can financially resource local MEAM Approach work for the next two years or you have a clear vision of how you might deliver operationally (there is no funding available from MEAM).
- 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.
- Your area is not in receipt of Changing Futures investment. If you are in a Changing Futures area and not currently working with the local partnership, we are keen to help you connect.
- If shortlisted, area leads, and wider partners are able to attend an interview with the national MEAM team in your local area – this will be at a date that is mutually agreeable.