OSAB
The MEAM Approach

What is the MEAM Approach?

Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) Approach is a country wide learning programme to help identify barriers and promote effective, coordinated services that directly improve the lives of people facing multiple disadvantage.

The MEAM Approach considers seven principles, which is adapted to local needs and circumstances. Providing support to the local partnerships as part of the process.

What is the aim in Oxfordshire?

The aim of MEAM in Oxfordshire is to see what can be achieved through work with a small cohort of clients, finding out what they would like (what success looks like for them), **what is achievable**, and working across agencies such as, Police, mental health and housing providers, **to 'flex' the system** as much as possible to get there.

Learning will be captured from each case on barriers to access, gaps in services, where there is progress, what makes the difference etc. The learning will be used to inform strategic commissioning decisions and operating practices.

The MEAM Steering group works closely with The Oxfordshire Homeless Alliance, aiming to boost and complement its aims to promote **"Meaningful and sustained system and culture change",** to promote **"positive, collaborative working relationships"** and provide **"a human face to our services".**

Working in line with the recommendations of the Homeless Mortality Review of the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board and LEAF, the lived experience advisory forum. The group reports to the Countywide Housing Strategy Group and to the Housing Directors Group.

The Seven Principles of the MEAM Approach

Partnership, coproduction & vision- having the right people at the table, a culture of coproduction, a shared understanding of the problem and a vision of change.

Consistency in selecting a caseload- Agreeing a clear referral and selection process for the new intervention.

Coordination for clients and services- The practical resource to link individuals to existing services and to broker engagement from local agencies.

Flexible responses from services- Recognising that coordination won't work without flexible service responses.

Service improvement and workforce development- Seeking continuous improvement in local services.

Measurement of success- A commitment to measuring social and economic outcomes.

Sustainability and system change- Making sure the intervention is sustainable through systemic change.

What does MEAM do?

So far the MEAM Approach is currently being used by partnerships of statutory and voluntary agencies in 42 local areas across England.

During 2017-22, a 5-year longitudinal evaluation of the MEAM Approach Network found that MEAM Approach areas improve outcomes for individuals, reduce the use and cost of a range of public services and develop long-term changes to local systems.

MEAM-year-5-summative-report-FINAL.pdf

Who will they work with in Oxfordshire?

The MEAM Coordinator and Steering Group will initially be working with a cohort of 12 clients (April 2023-March2024). This includes people who are stuck, stranded between, or excluded from services, and who may have been in this position for some time.

Including indicators such as:

➢ Length of time rough sleeping/in unstable or supported accommodation
➢ Presence of dual diagnosis (two or more of mental health, physical health and substance misuse)
➢ Complex and deeply-embedded trauma (for example self-neglect, self-harming; history of domestic violence, suicidal ideation, sex working, exploitation)
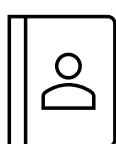
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