

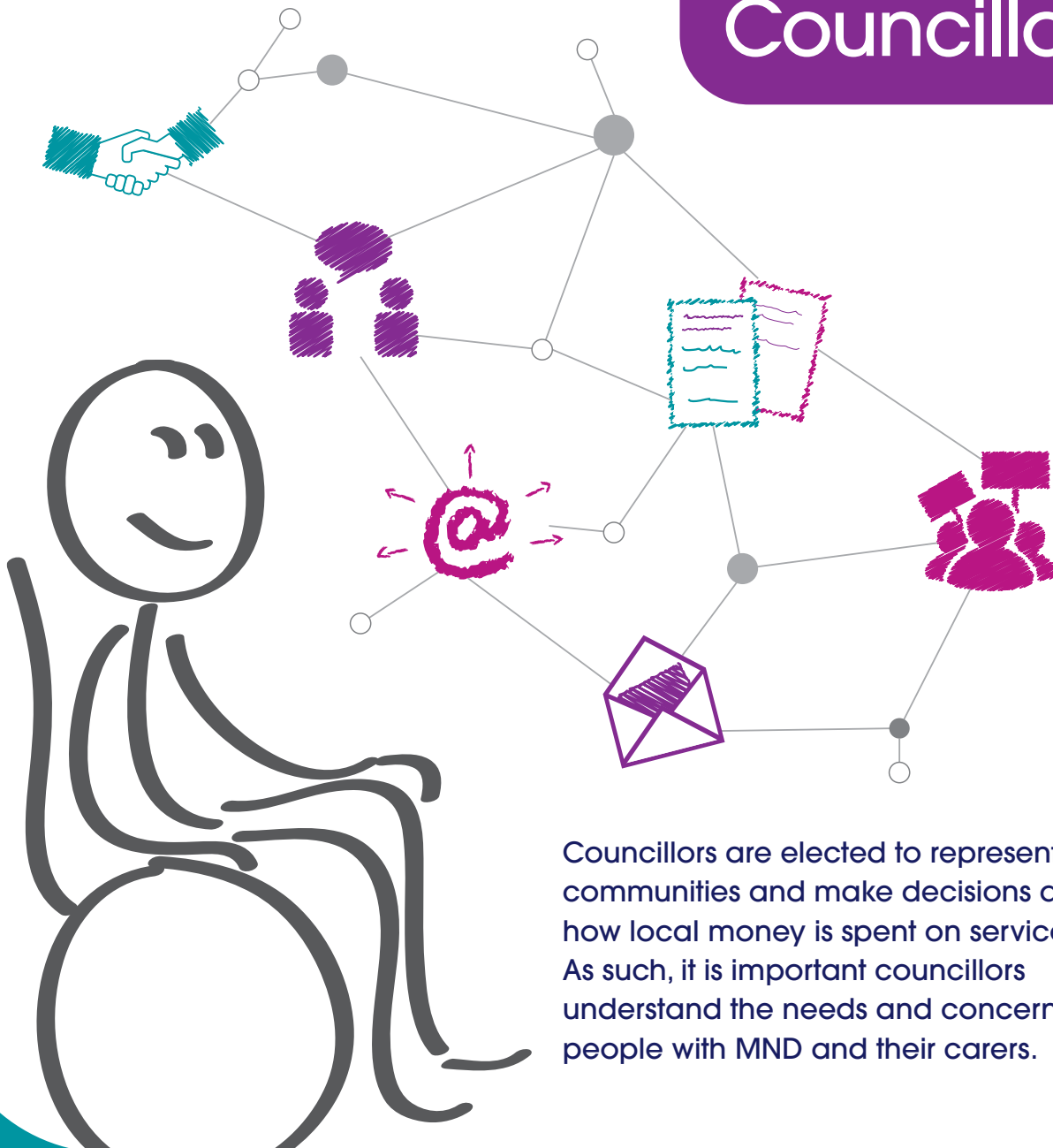


mnda

motor neurone disease  
association

## Campaigning toolkit

### Meeting with Councillors (1)



Councillors are elected to represent their communities and make decisions about how local money is spent on services. As such, it is important councillors understand the needs and concerns of people with MND and their carers.

There are a number of different types of councils, depending on what type of area you live in and how it has been decided to organise local services.

**London borough or metropolitan district councils** cover most large cities of England (eg London, Manchester, Leeds) and are responsible for all local services. Their councillors have an important role in issues affecting people with MND.

**Unitary or 'single tier' councils** cover other medium to large towns and cities (eg Reading, Nottingham) as well as some rural counties (eg Cornwall, Durham). These councils are also responsible for social care and housing.

**County councils** often cover areas with a mix of rural villages and towns and cities. They can be quite large, and are split up into smaller district and borough councils (see below). County councils are responsible for roughly 80% of services for the whole area. They have overall responsibility for things like social care, but will pass down funding for some services to their local district councils. Some examples of county councils include Kent, Norfolk and Lancashire.

**District councils** which are sometimes called borough or city councils, cover the smaller areas that make up counties. They are responsible for fewer services than county councils and focus on local services. Some examples include Thanet District Council in Kent, King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council in Norfolk and Preston City Council in Lancashire.

Some areas of England also have an elected mayor – these can be single districts such as Bedford or larger areas such as Greater London or West Yorkshire.

**Wales** has 22 unitary councils, which are responsible for social care and housing.

**Northern Ireland** has 11 unitary councils. Unlike England and Wales, they are not directly responsible for social care or housing, but they do lead the Community Planning Partnerships that plan those services.

To find your local council visit: [www.gov.uk/find-your-local-council](http://www.gov.uk/find-your-local-council)

## Finding your local councillors



You can find out who local councillors are here: [www.writetothem.com](http://www.writetothem.com)

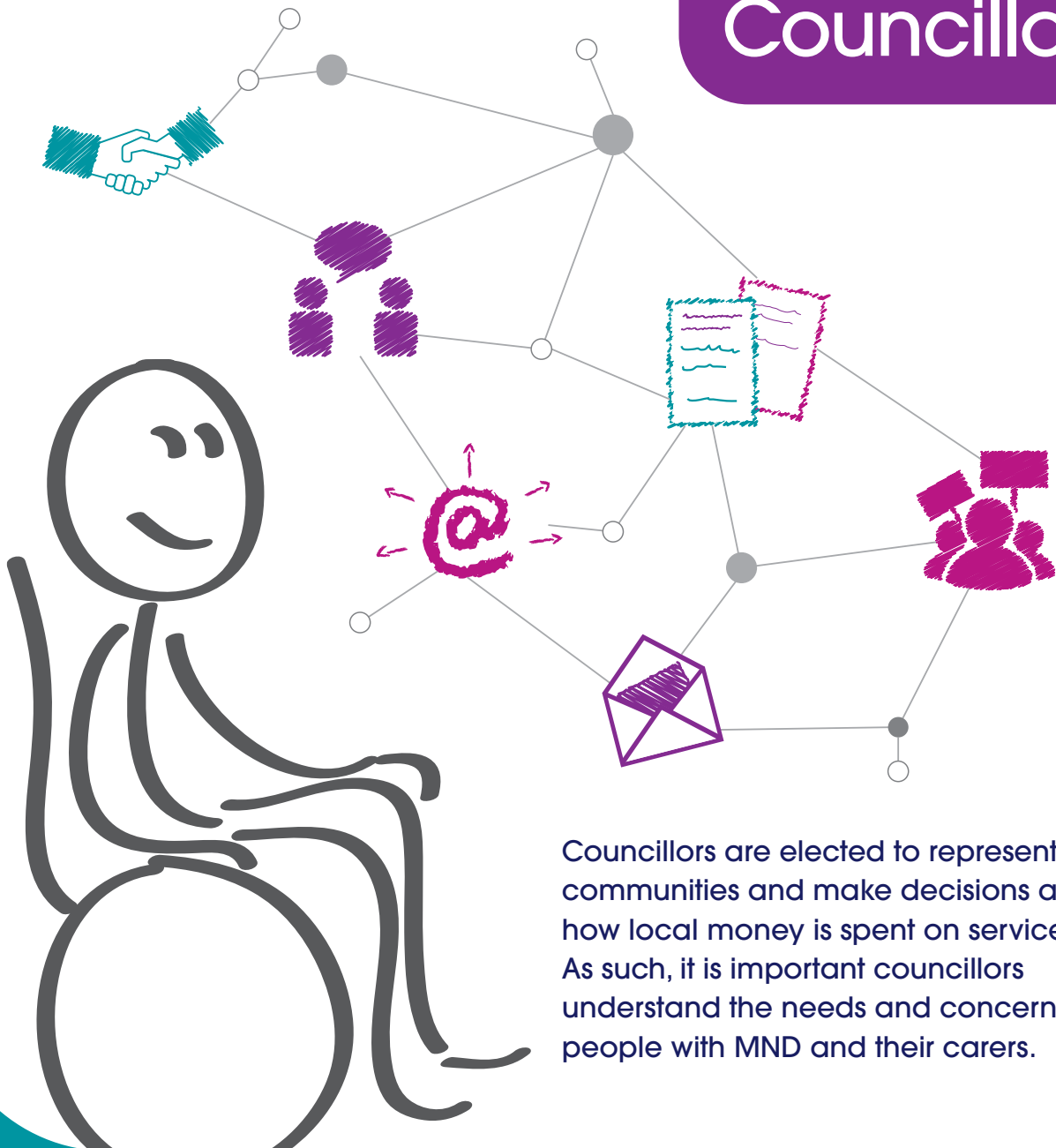


Additional key councillors to engage with include: the Cabinet Member/Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, council members of the Health and Wellbeing Board (England only), the councillor in charge of long term conditions and the representative on the council for equality/diversity and/or communities. You can research who holds these offices through your council website.



## Campaigning toolkit

### Meeting with Councillors (2)



Councillors are elected to represent their communities and make decisions about how local money is spent on services. As such, it is important councillors understand the needs and concerns of people with MND and their carers.



## Meeting your local councillors



Contact your local council to arrange an appointment with the councillor/s you wish to meet with. You can email them directly, or make an appointment to attend their ward surgery.



Please let the campaigns team know by emailing [campaigns@mndassociation.org](mailto:campaigns@mndassociation.org). We can help you to prepare and knowing that a meeting has taken place will inform future contact with the councillor/s.



Prepare what you are going to say, and be clear what action you are hoping the councillor/s will take after you meet them, eg attend/speak at a local event, speak/write to other local decision makers or the media on your behalf.



Have your key points and facts to hand. The campaigns team will be able to provide statistics on the number of people living with motor neurone disease (MND) in your area: [campaigns@mndassociation.org](mailto:campaigns@mndassociation.org). A conversation with your local branch/group can also provide further local examples and knowledge.



During the meeting stay focused on the campaign issues. If you feel comfortable to do so, share your personal stories and experiences; these are compelling, and will provide evidence to support your ask.



At the meeting close, thank the councillor/s for their time, confirm and write down any agreed action points. Send a follow up email with these details.

## After the meeting

Once you have had your first meeting, it is important to keep your campaigning in the minds of local decision makers. As well as emailing them after the meeting, there are a few things you can do to build up the relationship:



Send updates of the successes you and, if applicable, your local branch or group have had.



Invite them to events or meetings organised by your branch or group, and help them to have conversations with people living with MND, their families and carers.