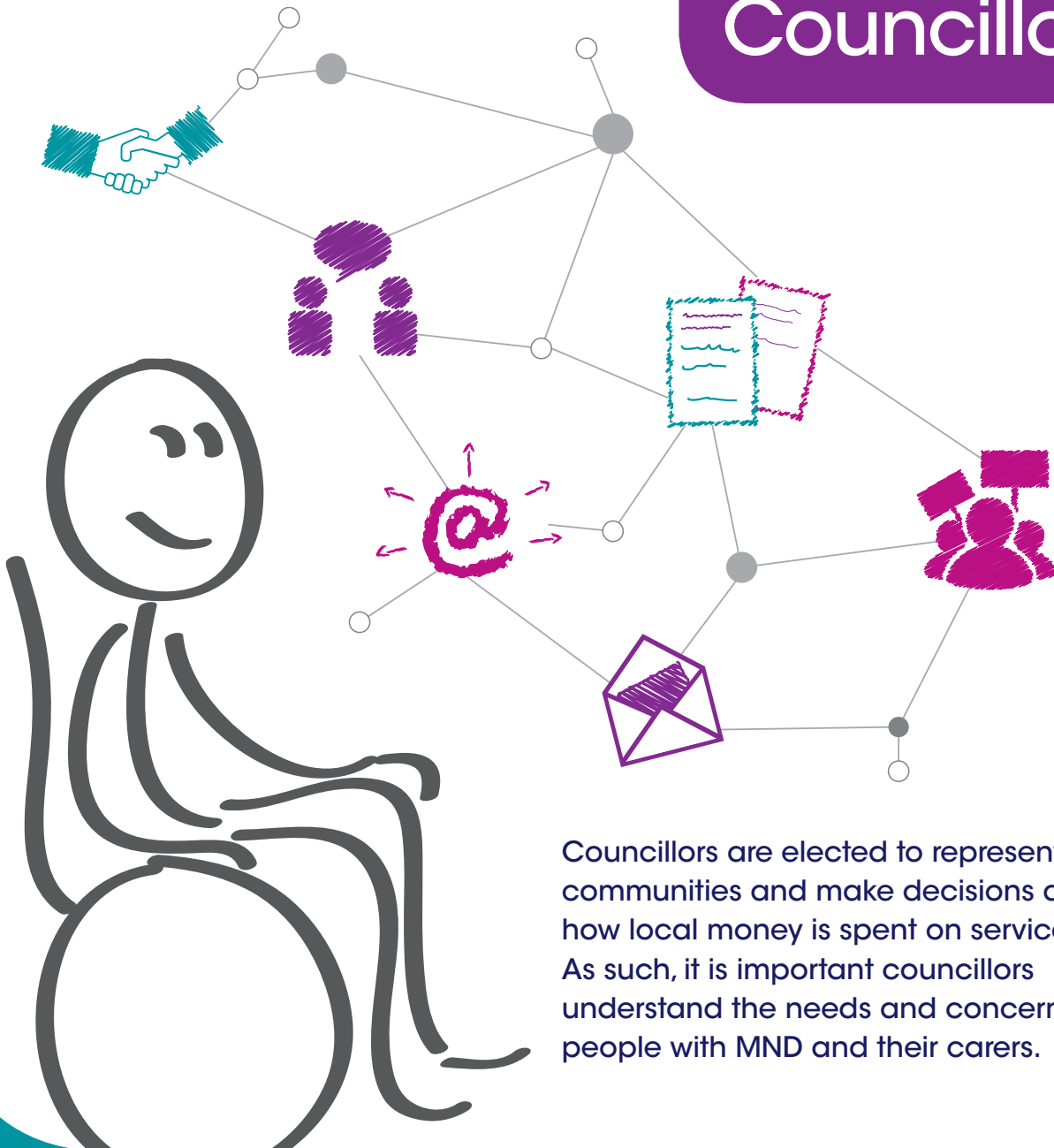




## Campaigning toolkit

### 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.

**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.

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

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

There are a number of tools you can use to find your local elected councillor/s. You may also want to find out which councillors are responsible for specific services:



You can find out who your ward/division councillor/s is/are by typing your postcode into the website:  
[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.