

coram

better chances
for children
since 1739

Concurrent Planning Project



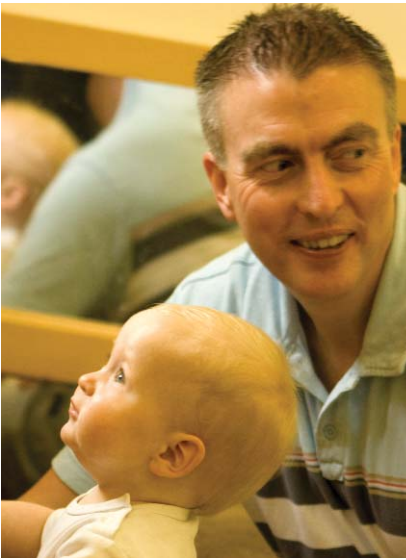


The Concurrent Planning Project places babies and toddlers under two years old with concurrent carers who look after the child while their future is decided by the Court. During this time the child's parents and sometimes other family members are assessed to see whether the child can be cared for and brought up within his/her own family.

Concurrent carers bring the child to Coram for contact with their family on a regular basis while decisions about the child's future are being made. Carers work cooperatively with the child's family and the professionals involved with the child.

If the Court decides that the parents are able to meet the needs of the child, concurrent carers will be involved in helping the child to return to their birth family. Concurrent carers can be satisfied that they have given the child the love and security that was needed as well as helping them to settle back with their family.

Concurrent carers are approved as adopters as well as foster carers. For a number of these children the Court will decide that a return to their



birth family is not possible. If that is the decision the child will remain with the concurrent carers and will be adopted by them.

Concurrent Planning recognises the needs of very young children for stability and security; it avoids the delays and repeated moves that young children often experience in the care system. Concurrent Planning enables children to be placed earlier in a permanent family, whether that is the birth or an adoptive family.

If the concurrent carers go on to adopt the child they have cared for, they will have the advantage of having cared for the child from a very young age. They will also be in the special position of knowing the child's birth parents and understanding their difficulties having met them frequently during contact meetings.

Parents will have the benefit of Coram's support during the Care Proceedings. If their child is adopted they will be reassured by knowing something about the people who are going to adopt their child



Concurrent carers need to be emotionally resourceful, to manage uncertainties, work with the child's parents and put the needs of very young children first.

The entire process is closely supervised and supported by Coram's team of experienced and skilled social workers who:

- undertake thorough parenting assessments
 - provide high quality Court reports and act as expert witnesses
 - manage contact keeping the child's needs in mind whilst enabling parents to maintain and develop relationships with their child
 - conduct assessments of parents and other family members
 - provide close support to the parents if the child returns home
 - provide ongoing adoption support including supporting any contact if the child is adopted
 - support parents to develop their understanding of their child and how to meet his/her needs
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We offer parents

- A parenting assessment for Court;
- Supervised and supported contact;
- Opportunity to acquire parenting skills;
- Support and encouragement to make the necessary changes in their lives.

We offer concurrent carers

- 2 days of specialist workshops for prospective concurrent carers
- Intensive and high quality support
- Supervised and supported contact visits for the child and his/her parents at Coram
- The Local Authority will pay an allowance while concurrent carers are fostering



If you would like to find out more about the Concurrent Planning Project please contact:

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Further information can be found on our website
www.coram.org.uk

The Thomas Coram Foundation for Children (registered charity no. 312278) was established by Royal Charter in 1739. Names and personal details have been changed to protect anonymity.

