

Concurrent Planning





Concurrent Planning is an innovative service that aims to speed up the process of adoption or return to birth families for very young children.

Coram's Concurrent Planning places babies and children under two years old with concurrent carers while plans for their future are being decided by the family courts. During this time the children are fostered by their concurrent carers. They will need to see their birth parents regularly and the carers will need to support the birth family's efforts to regain the care of their children.

If the courts decide that the birth family has shown that they are capable of meeting the needs of a child, the baby will be returned to their care. Their concurrent carers will have the satisfaction of knowing that they gave these children love and security when they needed it, and helped them to settle back into their own families.

However, a substantial proportion of these young children are unlikely to return home. If the court's decision is that the birth family will not be able to provide the security and care that is needed, the children will then remain with their concurrent carers and be adopted by them. This is why Coram approves concurrent carers as both adopters and as foster carers.

The great advantage for the children concerned is that, if they cannot go back to their birth family, it will prevent them having to suffer the upset and loss of moving from a foster home where they have settled to an adoptive family. They will be able to put down roots and bond with their new parents from a very early stage.

For concurrent carers who go on to adopt, the advantage is that they will have got to know and love their children from a very young age, and will have helped them through the early, unsettling months when plans were still uncertain.

We are looking for loving families who are emotionally resourceful and can put the needs of very young children first. Concurrent carers need to be able to respect and work with children's birth families.

We expect that many of the concurrent carers will go on to adopt the children they have cared for. They will be in the very special position of having established a relationship with the child's parents so that they can understand the difficulties that their child's birth families faced.





What we offer

- Special training – Two days of tailored workshops or one to one sessions in addition to the general adoption preparation groups
- Intensive and high quality support
- Fostering allowances during the period that concurrent carers foster
- Supervision of visits with the children’s birth families.

We need

- Families from a range of backgrounds and religions
- Single parents as well as couples
- Families with their own strong support networks.

What we do

Coram is one of the UK’s leading adoption services, specialising in placing children with complex needs who are currently being looked after by local authorities.

We provide ongoing support to the families and children whom we have placed for as long as they need us.

“In concurrent planning the adopter has the chance to make a difference in a child’s life from such an early stage and that is immensely satisfying. For the birth family it gives them the best possible chance of turning their lives around whilst maintaining a relationship with their child, or - if it ends in adoption - having the comfort of knowing the person who will be bringing up that child.”

***Jo, Concurrent carer**

“We both felt incredibly well supported and informed; at every stage the project worker will ring or we will have a conversation face-to-face. I have heard how good they are with supporting you way down the line when the child is older, from people who have adopted through the project.”

***Keith, Concurrent carer**

“We heard that it would be better for the child, and that’s what really influenced us. We were struck by how much children move around in the care system before they get adopted. If they move less, that makes it easier for us adopters as well.”

***Vanessa, Concurrent carer**

*Names changed to protect identities.



Contact details

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Coram London's Concurrent Planning was rated as Outstanding in its most recent Ofsted inspection.



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275 years of better chances for children

Coram is the UK children's charity that has been helping vulnerable children for 275 years. We now help a million children and young people every year.

Our vision is that every child has the best possible chance in life, and our mission is to develop, provide and promote best practice in the support of children and young people.

Coram helps children and young people develop their skills and emotional health, finds adoptive parents and upholds children's rights, creating a change that lasts a lifetime.