



CALL FOR CHANGE

2020–22

“Every child deserves the best possible chance in life”



2.3m

children are estimated to be living with risk because of a vulnerable family background¹

“It is a commonplace that we live in an era of austerity. But however great the temptation, in or out of Whitehall, to use this as a convenient explanation for the serious problems currently facing us, the truth is bleaker and more profound. For these problems have their roots in policies, seemingly shared by governments of whatever political stripe, long pre-dating the banking collapses and ensuing financial crisis of 2008.”

Sir James Munby, Past President of the Family Division of the High Court

Why we are calling for change

Coram was established as the UK's first children's charity in 1739. We have worked every single day since to further the life chances of children, both through direct delivery of help and support, and by advocating for the rights of children.

Our history and daily work afford us a unique perspective on how best to ensure all our children can thrive. This challenge remains as pressing as ever today:

- For nearly 30 years, the UK has been a party to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the most widely ratified treaty in the world, providing comprehensive protection for children's social, economic, cultural and civil rights. Yet too many of our most vulnerable children remain unable to access those rights
- In one of the most advantaged countries in the world, children continue to experience unacceptable adversity. Their chances in life all too often depend on where they live and who they live with. Violence and poverty leave lasting impact on the lives of the young
- While a generation of children and young people has grown up fluent online, they often lack the emotional fluency to navigate adolescence, develop positive skills and manage the risks around them

Since 2016, the focus of policy makers on all sides of the political divide has largely been on the process of leaving the European Union, but little progress has been made over that time in making the lives of children better.

Children and young people have too little say in their own future. Their voices often go unheard. We call on this new parliament to make their interests and welfare a priority.

Over the lifetime of this *Call for Change* we will work with all relevant partners – ministers, parliamentarians, civil servants, local government professionals, NGOs - to advance children's interests by shaping policies that work in their interests. This includes:

- Ensuring the futures of the thousands of children potentially impacted by Brexit are secured through our legal advocacy
- Supporting schools across England to deliver their new statutory requirement to deliver relationships and health education from September 2020
- Enabling the voice of young people to be heard in the government's forthcoming care review, and as we advance the policy debate in areas including youth violence and mental health
- Promoting consistent best practice and access to entitlements

We have set out realistic calls for change to policy, law and practice to transform lives and create better chances for children in six key areas:

- **Rights and Justice**
- **Security for All**
- **Advocacy and Voice**
- **Families and Early Years**
- **Education for Life**
- **Embedding Best Practice**

Our door is always open to all those who share our commitment to improving the life chances of children. Walking in the footsteps of our founder Thomas Coram, we shall not rest until every child is respected, protected and given the best possible chance in life.

If, having read our *Call for Change*, you believe there is an opportunity for us to work together to make a difference, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Will you join us on this journey?

Dr Carol Homden CBE
Group Chief Executive

Achieving change – the story so far

Since publication of our first *Call for Change* in 2018, Coram has worked with government, local authorities and professionals to achieve positive change impacting on children's lives.

Access to Justice

We published *'Rights without Remedies: legal aid and access to justice for children'* in 2018. We used this as the basis for ongoing engagement with the Ministry of Justice, while also providing evidence from our Migrant Children's Project for strategic litigation.

In 2019, the government reintroduced legal aid for the immigration cases of separated children. It also expanded the scope of legal aid to include special guardianship orders in private family law, committed to face-to-face advice for education cases and pledged to amend the Exceptional Case Funding scheme, all of which Coram had called for.

Through policy evidence on the EU Withdrawal Bill, we helped secure the government's ongoing commitment to give due consideration to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child when making policy and legislation. We worked with the Department for Education to design a comprehensive children's rights training package for civil servants.

Access to Education

We called for statutory status for Personal, Social, Health and Economic education, and welcomed the government's announcement that health education would become part of the school curriculum and that guidance on the teaching of relationships and sex education would be introduced. Our research demonstrated that schools needed help to achieve the implementation and we produced new tools to support them.

Our report *'Unfair Results: pupil and parent views on school exclusion'*, published in 2019, uncovered a striking lack of support for children who have been excluded from school. Our research with young people and parents into their views on school behaviour and exclusions provided invaluable insights that contributed significantly to the recommendations of the government review of school exclusions, led by the former Children's Minister, Edward Timpson CBE.

Protecting Children in Care

Through our ongoing engagement with the Home Office, using evidence from our frontline advice work, we ensured that the needs of children, specifically children in care, were reflected in the development and implementation of the EU Settlement Scheme. We secured cross-party support for calls for additional protections for children in care, including the introduction of a declaratory scheme and clearer guidance for local authorities.

We kept the issue of high citizenship and immigration fees charged to children and young people live in political debates and in the media. We welcomed the government's decision not to increase those fees in 2019.

Family Policy

We have, in partnership with Lancaster University, undertaken research on Special Guardianship that has fed into both the review of public law proceedings led by the President of the Family Division and the drafting of practice guidance for the courts.

The data from our annual Childcare Surveys has been key in helping to set the real Living Wage, so that over 200,000 employees are paid a rate that reflects the true cost of living.

We have called for more childcare support for parents with school age children, and the new government has promised a £1 billion fund to create more childcare places, including before and after school.

Vulnerable Children

Coram contributed key research to the Office of the Children's Commissioner's Report on Vulnerability, which set out a range of vital information and data about the lives of children living in vulnerable situations.

Change is possible when we work together to create better chances for children.



2.4m

unique users of legal information and advice pages on the Child Law Advice Service website²



1,260

children, young people and support workers advised through free migrant children's projects programmes in 2018-19³



800

families and pupils in need of legal advice and representation on educational exclusion helped by Coram⁴



“The House of Lords has a large number of members with a keen and active interest in the rights, wellbeing and best interests of children and young adults. Coram's authoritative briefings inform our debates and enable us to hold government departments to account. They are highly regarded and respected by colleagues on all sides of the House and are widely used. Coram's history and its current range of activities give it a voice which carries real weight and moral authority.”

Lord Russell of Liverpool. Cross-bencher, House of Lords, Coram Governor

Rights and Justice

It is time for the UK to show leadership as a champion of children's rights and align the commitments of the UK nations.

The UK is a signatory of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) but it is still not incorporated in domestic law in England or Northern Ireland. Scotland is looking at how best to incorporate the UNCRC, while in Wales ministers are required to have due regard to the rights contained in the treaty.

For children's rights to be meaningful, children and young people must be able to understand them and be able to take action to make them a reality. But thousands do not receive the support they need to do this. The reduction in legal aid introduced in 2012 and lack of public legal education remain major barriers to justice. Children whose families or carers are unable to pay for legal advice are unable to access the support, accommodation and services they need, or to access the immigration system to secure their status, extending the timescale of decisions.

The case for change



150

recommendations made by the UN committee on the Rights of the Child to the UK for improving the protection of children's rights⁵



6,000

children each year are left without access to free legal advice and representation – some estimates are as high as 15,000⁶



73%

of callers to our legal family support service would have been eligible for family legal aid prior to cuts in 2012⁷



We call on the Government to

Incorporate the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into UK law

Introduce a duty for Ministers to have due regard to the UNCRC and for a child rights impact assessment to be undertaken prior to the introduction of primary and secondary legislation

Ensure that the protections afforded to children by the Human Rights Act remain an integral part of domestic law

We call on the Ministry of Justice to

Reform the legal aid 'safety net' so that all children are granted 'Exceptional Case Funding' and young people and families are able to apply for it without support

Ensure that children in the criminal justice system can access fully funded legal advice to address their immigration issues and/or apply for citizenship

Undertake a public information campaign on exceptional case funding and legal aid eligibility in general, including working with local authorities to raise awareness of the reintroduction of immigration legal aid for looked-after children

What Coram is doing

We offer

free legal advice by phone on education and family law to more than 17,000 individuals a year with nearly two million accessing digital information through the Family Legal Advice Service

We represent

children and families in almost 1,000 new cases a year in immigration, family, community care and education law, challenging decisions to ensure children receive the support and protection they need

We work

with government through the UNCRC Action Group to monitor and improve the upholding of children's rights

We provide

technical expertise on the rights of children and young people to UN bodies, (I)NGOs and governments in some 20 countries each year and engage the public in these issues

“We owe it to the next generation to continue to champion internationalism and the radical power of human rights and to continually push further as we face different challenges. I hold Coram in high esteem for the fundamental values and beliefs we share – that legally enforceable rights are often the key to allowing children to flourish.”

Sir Keir Starmer MP

Security for All

Achieving security and stability for our most vulnerable children is one of the biggest challenges we face.

Knife crime offences reached a record high during 2019, and this rise has had serious implications for the well-being of thousands of young people. Coram's own research has underlined the extent to which the issue has become part of young people's lives, many of whom are exposed to violence in the home.

Thousands of children who have come to the UK seeking protection wait months or years for a decision on their application and may then only be given temporary permission to stay, with the fear of removal when they turn 18. They face protracted periods of insecurity and instability and potential threat to their safety.

Across the country, there are children and young people who have grown up in the UK now living in 'legal limbo': they think they are British but don't have the right immigration documents. Due to high fees, a lack of quality free legal advice, and a complex, inaccessible and hostile immigration system, they are unable to fully be part of the country they call home and cannot continue their education or access services. And as the country implements Brexit, nearly 700,000 more European national children are at risk of finding themselves living in the UK unlawfully.

The case for change



215,000

children are undocumented (without regular immigration status) in the UK, over half of whom were born here⁸



15%

If just 15% of European national children are not supported to apply to the EU settlement scheme before the deadline, the undocumented population will double overnight⁹



20%

of knife crime offenders are juveniles (aged 10-17)¹⁰



1,400

children had been waiting for more than five years for a decision on their asylum claim in 2018¹¹



We call on the Home Office to

Reform the immigration and nationality systems so that application fees are no higher than the cost of processing, and children and young people who are long-term residents of the UK are able to secure settled status within five years or sooner

Grant automatic settled status to EU nationals and their family members resident in the UK. Failing this, ensure that children and young people are able to apply after the deadline

Ensure that all decision-making in children's cases treats the child's best interests as a primary consideration and aims to provide them with secure status

Deliver an evidence-based, joined-up policy solution to reduce rates of knife crime, taking into account the views of young people on what works

What Coram is doing

We provide

advice to more than 1,500 migrant children and young people each year, many facing destitution or blocked from accessing services due to their immigration status

We train

more than 1,000 practitioners on the rights of young refugees and migrants, co-delivering training with Youth Rights Trainers who have experienced the immigration system themselves

We work

with pro bono lawyers to provide legal advice and support to cases, increasing the ability of children to make citizenship applications

We research

emerging issues and their impact on young people, and work with partners in government, local authorities, and schools to deliver effective practical solutions

“The research that Coram does is stunning and has been so important and useful in my work in the House of Lords, particularly in relation to promoting children's rights worldwide.”

Lord Storey CBE, Lib Dem Education Spokesperson

Advocacy and Voice

Whether affected by mental health problems, knife crime or lack of local services, the children and young people we work with often feel that their voices aren't being heard when policies are designed that affect them.

For children in and leaving care, independent advocacy services are essential to enable them to exercise their rights and ensure their care meets their needs. Many services cannot cater to their needs or restrict who they work with based on age or location. The complexities of the system mean that many children struggle to access support they are legally entitled to, such as contact with their families and financial support.

Despite the government being required, under the terms of the UNCRC, to enable children below the age of 18 to express and have their views given due weight in all matters affecting them, there is no clear structure to facilitate the meaningful participation of children in designing policies, programmes and services.

The case for change



1/4

of advocacy services are restricted or unable to support care-leavers (18-25)¹²



70%

of advocacy services for children in care and care leavers in England are not compliant with National Standards¹³



49%

of 4-7 year olds in care surveyed have not had someone explain why they are in care¹⁴



46

countries have ratified the Third Optional Protocol to the UNCRC, which allows children to petition the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, but the UK is not one of them¹⁵



We call on the Government to

Enshrine the right to an independent advocate in law for all children and young people receiving or seeking care or support from the state, including those leaving care to adoption, those in mental health settings and those excluded from education

We call on the Department for Education to

Improve the support of advocacy provision by updating Statutory Guidance (including the national standards), to cover funding arrangements, commissioning, delivering and evaluation and cover all eligible groups – including children and young people living out of area, care leavers up to 25, young children, and those who need interpreters or non-instructed advocacy

We call on local authorities to

Introduce subjective well-being indicators to measure and understand how children in care and care leavers feel about their lives, and use this data to inform decision making and service development

What Coram is doing

We provide

advocates and trained independent visitors for more than 3,000 young people in foster care, children's homes, adolescent mental health settings and residential units

We deliver

Always Heard, the national advocacy safety net and advice service for looked-after children and care-leavers, supporting 600 young people each year

We improve

the care experience of looked-after children and care leavers by helping local authorities understand how they feel about their lives and use this to co-produce service development

We collaborate

with young people to address the problems they face through our HALO young ambassador programmes – Young Citizens, The Adoptables, Young Parents and A National Voice

“Coram’s research provides us with the opportunity to hear what matters to children and young people living in care right now in their own words and also provides an excellent temperature check of our care services and what we need to do better. I commend their work... I am fascinated to see how local authorities respond and use this unique perspective to drive improvements.”

Nadhim Zahawi MP, Children's Minister 2018-19

Families and Early Years

There are too many barriers to children having the best start in life. There is often a fragmented approach and local variability in early intervention, and in some areas a lack of effective and timely services for children 'in need', especially for those looked after by special guardians and kinship carers.

Many parents and carers need greater practical support to understand and access their child's entitlement to benefits and early education. The high cost and low availability of childcare means that some children miss out on the high quality early education that can boost outcomes in childhood and beyond,¹⁶ particularly if they have special educational needs or disabilities. Coram's research has highlighted that preparation for family members to become a special guardian is non-existent, with access to support also patchy.

Where children cannot safely live with their birth parents and are at risk of or have suffered significant harm, there is much more to be done to ensure that a lasting alternative family life is provided for them. Multiple moves continue to undermine the stability of too many children.¹⁷ There is also a national shortage of adopters and foster carers and no inspection of regional adoption agencies or local authority fostering services. Since the closure of the Adoption Register in 2019, social workers have even fewer family-finding tools at their disposal for children waiting the longest for adoption.¹⁸

The case for change



7 in 10

more than 7 in 10 children in care experienced at least one of a change of home, school move or new social worker in a year¹⁹



7%

fall in number of waiting children being adopted in 2019²⁰



43%

of local authorities do not have enough childcare available for parents working full time, rising to three in four for children with disabilities or special needs²¹



We call on the Government to

Proactively disseminate information to new families on who is a British citizen, how to get a passport and how to access other vital services like childcare and benefits

Introduce affordable, accessible and high quality childcare for all

We call on the Department for Education to

Review approval processes, entitlements, and the preparation and training provided to kinship carers to ensure children remaining within their kinship or family network receive the support and long-term care they need

Commit to funding the Adoption Support Fund until the end of the next Public Sector Spending Round agreement and ensure it is available to all children placed under a Special Guardianship Order (SGO), whatever their prior legal status

Establish a national exchange to ensure every child waiting for adoption or fostering is entitled to professional cross-agency support to maximise their chances of stable placement

Reinstate the requirement for Ofsted to inspect local authority fostering services and to ensure the standards and outcomes of all regional adoption agencies are subject to scrutiny

What Coram is doing

We approve

and place adopters through our voluntary adoption agency and Regional Adoption Agency partnerships

We provide

national Adoption Activity Days, Activity Days for Fostering and Adoption Exchange Days to enable children and young people to find loving families

We provide

the London Gateway to Adoption and Special Guardian Support featuring a wide range of therapies and provide training, guidance and a voice to 1,000 professionals, foster carers and adopters each year

We reach

more than 10,000 families living in disadvantaged areas a year through parent-led programmes. Our annual childcare surveys are the definitive source of information on the cost and availability of childcare in the UK

“In London, there is a particular need to find homes for children described as ‘hard to place’. This includes children from our diverse communities, in sibling groups of two or more, as well as those children with disabilities or special needs. Giving these children a new start will not only enrich their lives... it contributes to making our society a better and more loving place. Across the country, we are enduring the related crises of loneliness, depression, drug abuse and violent crime.”

David Lammy MP

Education for Life

Access to education is a fundamental right for children. Yet too many children do not benefit from fulfilling school education because they have missed out on their early language and social development, have undiagnosed or unmet special educational needs, are temporarily or permanently excluded or cannot read.

Coram's research has highlighted that parents and pupils often do not understand their rights regarding exclusion and emphasises the need for good communications, access to needs assessments and timely provision of alternative placements for every child at risk of exclusion.²² While exclusion may be necessary, it should never be unsupported.

Although most children and young people are able to thrive at school and at home, a growing number are reporting increased stress, anxiety and mental distress. This is particularly acute for children who are looked after and is a characteristic of the digital age in which children and young people are experiencing new forms of pressure as well as opportunity in adolescence.

The case for change



42

children are permanently excluded each day in England.²³ Thousands more are unlawfully excluded²⁴



26%

increase in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services referrals in the last five years²⁵ (and young people wait longer to access mental health services than adults)²⁶



65%

less is spent per child in early education than on primary school pupils, despite early education pupils now receiving as many hours²⁷



174,000

children leave primary school every year unable to read at the required level²⁸



We call on the Department for Education to

Commit to making government-funded legal advice available in all cases where children are at risk of school exclusion

Update the statutory guidance on exclusion and develop additional guidance on school exclusion written for and with children and young people, as called for in the Timpson Review

Produce guidance that gives schools confidence to deliver statutory relationships education, relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education and engages parents and carers in support of children's positive mental and physical health

Ensure that before a pupil with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan is excluded, a review of their plan is conducted, and that any pupil without such a plan and at risk of permanent exclusion on the basis of persistent disruptive behaviour is assessed by an educational or clinical psychologist

Double the Early Years Pupil Premium to bring it closer to the rate paid for school age children

Ensure that school inspections address how well-being is measured and how effectively children are supported in their reading

What Coram is doing

We run

the Family Legal Advice Service which advises families on educational exclusions, and represents children and young people with Special Educational Needs, taking on more than 150 cases each year

We offer

relationships, well-being and drugs education to more than 400,000 children in 2,000 primary schools across the UK, and online teaching resources to 31,000 primary schools

We deliver

in-depth one-to-one reading support to 15,000 children each year and run the national Shakespeare Schools Festival

We provide

therapeutic support to children and young people and specialist training and support to parents and carers

“Coram's research with young people and parents into their views on school behaviour and exclusions has provided invaluable insights that contributed significantly to the findings and recommendations of my school exclusions review for government in 2019. If we are to tackle the inequalities in the system and improve outcomes for vulnerable children, it is vital that we hear from families with direct experience of the exclusions process and from pupils right across our education system.”

Edward Timpson MP CBE, Children's Minister 2012-15

Embedding Best Practice

All too often, children and young people experience a postcode lottery in relation to the availability of specialist help or the time it takes for plans to be made, resulting in unequal access to the support they need.

More children are meeting the threshold to be taken into care but Ofsted inspections show dramatic disparities in the quality of services. The National Audit Office has demonstrated that only 50% of these disparities can be explained by demographic and economic variation, leaving substantial opportunities for improvement in service design and delivery.²⁹

Professionals working with children often lack evidence on what works and on the outcomes and impact of their work. They often leave the sector because of the challenges they face, increasing instability for children and families. Change has never been more vital with the needs of children changing with old risks of exploitation and violent crime compounded by the new risks of the digital era.

The case for change



65%

of all looked-after children in England are in a local authority where children's services require improvement or are inadequate³⁰



£7.8bn

predicted shortfall in funding to local authorities by 2024-25³¹



49%

fall in the past decade in spending on early intervention services, while spending on statutory, late intervention services rose by 12%³²



We call on the Department for Education to

Ensure that local authorities meet their statutory obligations (Children Act 1989), and strengthen the capacity of local authorities to provide financial and other support to families to prevent children entering care

Improve the way services are designed and led by investing in the workforce who deliver services for children, including through supporting sector-led initiatives to improve consistency and the sharing of good practice

Support the implementation of a model for children's social care that better enables relationships between social workers and children and families, and provides a practical path for local authorities in England to create meaningful change

Introduce an outcomes framework for children's social care, with data gathered from local authorities and published annually by the Department for Education, mirroring the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework

Publish an evaluation strategy for all public spending on children, and invest in evidence by committing long-term funding to the Education Endowment Fund, Early Intervention Foundation and What Works for Children's Social Care and make innovation funding available to the third sector

What Coram is doing

We produce

a wide range of resources to enable children's sector professionals from social work, health and law to address complex issues and deliver high quality, evidence-based services to children and families

We use

data analytics, process design and partnership delivery with local authorities to improve services and provide the secretariat and data services for the National Stability Forum

We oversee

the Early Permanence Quality Mark and provide the national practice forum to enable agencies to deliver best practice in infant placement

We carry out research

and evaluation of the highest quality which includes the voice of children and young people, work used by government, local authorities and the third sector to improve policy and practice

“I have no doubt the evidence base underpinning child and family services in England is underdeveloped and underutilised. Continual challenge to the status quo through the development of new evidence will eventually disrupt the orthodoxy. The constant supply of ideas, insights and thoughtful expertise provided by Coram, often derived from children and families themselves, is worth its weight in gold.”

Isabelle Trowler, Chief Social Worker for England (Children & Families)

What now?

What Coram will do

The Coram Group will continue to develop, deliver and promote best practice in support of children and young people. We shall not rest until all children have the best possible start in life.

Alongside development of the delivery activities of our specialist charities working with children and young people, we will:

- Advance the national discourse for children through debates, discussion and workshops hosted at our Queen Elizabeth II centre in Bloomsbury
- Tell the story of children in care since 1739 and digitise our archive, preserving it for future generations, through the four-year *Voices Through Time: The Story of Care* project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund
- Take forward our ten-year strategy to establish Coram as the national centre of excellence for children building capacity, insight and public engagement.



1. Children's Commissioner (2019) Childhood vulnerability in England 2019 - <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/publication/childhood-vulnerability-in-england-2019>
2. CLAS Survey results: January 2020: <https://childlawadvice.org.uk/clas/feedback/>
3. Coram Digest - Impact report 2018-19 https://issuu.com/coram8/docs/coramdigest_-_master_1107_hyperlink
4. Coram school exclusions report <https://www.coram.org.uk/news/coram-school-exclusions-report-finds-inadequate-support-excluded-pupils-and-their-families>
5. CRAE - Concluding Observations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child 2016: <http://www.crae.org.uk/media/118248/CRAE-Briefing-UN-Committee-Rights-of-the-Child-Concluding-Observations-2016.pdf>

6. Coram Children's Legal Centre, Rights without remedies: Legal aid and access to justice for children, 2018 https://www.childrenslegalcentre.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Rights-without-remedies_Final.pdf
7. Coram Children's Legal Centre, Rights without remedies: Legal aid and access to justice for children, 2018
8. CCLC [childrenslegalcentre.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/RMCCEvidence_BillCommittee_21Feb2019.docx](http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/RMCCEvidence_BillCommittee_21Feb2019.docx)
9. Refugee and Migrant Children's Consortium http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/RMCCEvidence_BillCommittee_21Feb2019.docx
10. Knife Crime in England and Wales <https://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/SN04304#fullreport>
11. BBC <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-47359592>

Will you join us?

We have a long track record of working successfully with government, parliamentarians, local authorities, the media, and the voluntary and private sectors to achieve shared goals. Whether on adoption and fostering, early years, children's rights and voice, or policy innovation and best practice, we have the expertise to help you make a difference.

Some examples of where we can work together:

- Briefings for debates on policies affecting children
- Consultancy on a range of child-centred issues
- Hosting and leadership of debates, seminars and workshops
- Research collaboration
- Media comment

To discuss opportunities, please contact our CEO, Dr Carol Homden CBE, on 020 7520 0305 or email callforchange@coram.org.uk

12. Coram Voice, Always Heard Report 2019 at <https://coramvoice.org.uk/latest/always-heard-2019-report/>
13. Coram Voice, Always Heard Report 2019 at <https://coramvoice.org.uk/latest/always-heard-2019-report/>
14. Coram Voice, Our lives, our care: Looked after children's views on their well-being in 2018, 2018 at <https://coramvoice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/OLOC-Snapshot-online-2018.pdf>
15. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-11-d&chapter=4&clang=en
16. Coram Understanding Society Briefing <https://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/understandingsociety>
17. Children's Commissioner, Stability Index for Children in Care, 2018

18. Nuffield Family Justice Observatory, Special guardianship: a review of the evidence, 2019 at <https://www.nuffieldfjo.org.uk/app/nuffield-files-module/local/documents/NuffieldFJO-Special-Guardianship-190731-WEB-final.pdf>
19. Children's Commissioner, Stability Index 2019
20. DfE: Looked after children (including adoption), year ending 31 March 2019 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/850306/Children_looked_after_in_England_2019_Text.pdf
21. See Coram Family and Childcare's 2019 survey at <https://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/our-policy-goals>
22. Coram school exclusions report <https://www.coram.org.uk/news/coram-school-exclusions-report-finds-inadequate-support-excluded-pupils-and-their-families>

23. DfE Permanent and Fixed Term Exclusions in England: 2016 to 2017 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/726741/text_exc1617.pdf
24. Department for Education, 'Permanent and fixed period exclusions in England: 2017 to 2018', July 2019 at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/permanent-and-fixed-period-exclusions-in-england-2017-to-2018>
25. Education Policy Institute, Access to children and young people's mental health services, 2018
26. Among adults, of the 48,547 referrals that finished a course of treatment in August 2019, 87.3% waited less than 6 weeks <https://files.digital.nhs.uk/1C/1BDEEF/iapt-month-aug-2019-exec-sum.pdf> compared to 2018 figures for CAMHS where the average wait until first assessment was 9 weeks: <https://www.nhsbenchmarking.nhs.uk/news/2018-camhs-project-results-published>

27. Coram Family and Childcare: policy goals: <https://www.familyandchildcaretrust.org/our-policy-goals>
28. National Curriculum Assessments: Key Stage 2, 2019 (provisional)
29. NAO Pressures on children's social care <https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Pressures-on-Childrens-Social-Care.pdf>
30. Social Market Foundation, Looked-after children: the silent crisis, 2018
31. Local Government Association, Moving the conversation on: LGA Autumn Budget Submission to HM Treasury, 2018
32. Action for Children policy update: <https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/news-and-blogs/policy-updates/2019/february/a-gap-that-will-keep-on-growing/>

“We can only achieve the goals set out in this Call for Change in partnership with those who share our concern for children's rights and are in a position in society to make a difference.”

Dr Carol Homden CBE, Coram CEO

Coram is a progressive group of organisations championing the rights and welfare of children.



A registered voluntary adoption agency, and the first Regional Adoption Agency to be launched in London.

coramadoption.org.uk



Provides volunteer reading support programmes in schools across the country.

beanstalkcharity.org.uk



Supporting access to high quality childcare and ensuring every parent is better off working after paying for childcare.

familyandchildcaretrust.org



Promotes and protects the legal rights of children, in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

childrenslegalcentre.com



Provides data insight and innovative solutions for local authorities to deliver better services.

coram-i.org.uk



A membership organisation supporting agencies and professionals who work with children.

corambaaf.org.uk



The leading provider of personal, social, health and economic education to almost half a million children.

coramlifeeducation.org.uk



Enabling children to perform Shakespeare in schools, building their confidence and cultural capital.

shakespeareschools.org



Ensuring children in care, leaving care and those who depend on the state are heard.

coramvoice.org.uk



Research consultancy specialising in issues relating to children's rights around the world.

coraminternational.org

Coram Campus
41 Brunswick Square
London
WC1N 1AZ

Tel: 020 7520 0300
Registered Charity no: 312278

Be part of the Coram Story



[Coramsince1739](https://www.facebook.com/Coramsince1739)



[@Coram](https://twitter.com/Coram)



[CoramSince1739](https://www.youtube.com/CoramSince1739)

Keep up to date with the latest news and events on our website:

coram.org.uk