



**coram**

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better chances  
for children  
since 1739

## Working with us

A guide for  
policymakers

# We are Coram

**At Coram we champion children's rights and wellbeing, making lives better through legal support, advocacy, adoption and our range of therapeutic, educational and cultural programmes.**

Through our work we understand better what works for children and young people, and we use that insight and experience to engage with government, MPs, local authorities, social workers, teachers, carers and families – all those in a position to make a difference – to help deliver better practice, systems and laws.

Established as the Foundling Hospital in 1739, today we are a vibrant charity group of specialist organisations, supporting hundreds of thousands of children, young people and families every year.



## Work with us

We are keen to talk to anyone who cares about children and young people and is in a position to make a positive difference to their lives. If you would like to see our work in action, require briefing or any other information, please get in touch.

"Coram's experience working daily with children and young people shows that, after decades of progress, life has been getting harder for all too many. As a society there is so much more we can do in policy and practice. We look forward to working with all who share our vision for the next generation."



**Dr Carol Homden CBE**  
CEO, Coram Group  
[carol@coram.org.uk](mailto:carol@coram.org.uk)

# What we do

- Free legal services for children and young people who need support
- The annual childcare and holiday childcare surveys, the definitive reports on childcare costs and availability across the UK
- Adoption – matching children and families, and providing ongoing support
- Life and relationship skills, therapy, drama and volunteer reading programmes in schools nationwide
- Advocacy for children and young people in and leaving care, and England's largest survey of the wellbeing of children in and leaving care
- Best practice support for children's services professionals, teachers and families
- Research and policy insight to improve services for children and young people
- International research and consultancy on children's rights, migration, youth justice, child protection and exploitation
- School exclusions hub for families and professionals, offering free resources and information on the school exclusions process and when and how exclusions can be challenged.



Music therapy is one of the many programmes offered by Coram's Creative Therapies team  
Coram's Shakespeare Schools Festival – the world's largest youth drama festival

"350 years ago, Thomas Coram challenged the prejudice of a society which tolerated child poverty and abandonment as necessary evils. The work of Coram for children today is just as vital as it was 350 years ago, because real issues still persist in the 21st century."



**Sir Keir Starmer MP,**  
Prime Minister of  
the United Kingdom

# In numbers

Every year we work with hundreds of thousands of children, young people and families, as well as the professionals who support them.

**200,000**  
CHILDREN AND  
CARERS HELPED  
DIRECTLY



**OVER 600,000**  
CHILDREN  
IN SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE TAKE  
PART IN OUR LIFE SKILLS  
AND CULTURAL EDUCATION  
PROGRAMMES



**OVER 1 MILLION**  
PEOPLE USE OUR CHILD LAW  
ADVICE SERVICE WEBSITE

**50,000**  
TEACHERS SUBSCRIBE  
TO OUR ONLINE  
RESOURCES



**ALL LOCAL  
AUTHORITIES  
IN THE UK DRAW ON OUR  
TRAINING AND BEST  
PRACTICE RESOURCES**

Figures cited are 2023/24

# Better policies, better practice

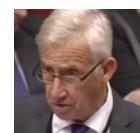


"Coram delivers inspirational programmes and support for children of all ages including creative therapies, reading support, the world's largest annual youth drama programme, and teaching life skills in primary schools."



Lord Russell of Liverpool,  
Crossbencher, House of  
Lords and Coram Governor

"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."



The Lord Storey CBE,  
Liberal Democrat  
Education Spokesperson,  
House of Lords

We launched our Charter for Children in Parliament, a route map setting out how we can realign the social contract between society and children to achieve inter-generational fairness over the coming decade and beyond.

To enable this we are establishing the Coram Institute for Children, the UK's first centre dedicated to improving the life chances of children by informing and influencing policy and practice.

To find out more please visit  
[www.coram.org.uk](http://www.coram.org.uk).

Baroness Floella Benjamin (left) launching the Coram Charter for Children; Secretary of State for Education and Minister for Women and Equalities Bridget Phillipson with Carol Homden; Shadow Home Secretary James Cleverly MP visiting the Coram Campus (below-right).

# We work to deliver seven key outcomes for children...



## A Fair Chance in Life

We champion children's access to justice and ensure that those in care or subject to decisions of the courts have a voice in the decisions that affect them.

**Coram Children's Legal Centre** is the country's leading provider of specialist legal support for children, providing in-person, phone, and online advice to hundreds of thousands of families every year who could not otherwise afford legal support. Our school exclusions hub provides information and resources for professionals, children and families who have a legal case to challenge school exclusions.

We also effect change in the legal landscape for children and young people, working to protect the rights of children through research, advocacy and legal interventions.



## A Loving Home

We find secure, loving families for children who need them through adoption.

**Coram Adoption** is an outstanding voluntary adoption agency now providing services for nine local authorities across London through our regional adoption agency Coram Ambitious for Adoption. We provide information for potential adopters, inform policy and practice and run adoption activity days across England, enabling available adopters and children to meet each other face-to-face.

**Coram Intercountry Adoption Centre** is the UK's only dedicated international adoption charity.

Our **Creative Therapies** team provides art and music therapy to children in all types of families, supported by psychologists and psychotherapists.



## A voice that's heard

**Coram Voice** ensures the voices of children in and leaving care are heard in the decisions that matter to them. As a leading children's rights and advocacy services provider we work with thousands of children every year. Our national programmes, including Bright Spots and A National Voice - the national children in care council led by our Young Ambassadors - improve the care system by placing children and young people's views and experiences at the centre.

Our **Voices in Action** programme trains young people who have faced challenges including school exclusion and homelessness to become young ambassadors and work with and support with other young people facing the same issues.



## A chance to shine

**CoramShakespeare Schools Foundation** enables thousands of young people to perform in the world's largest youth drama festival, building their confidence, teamwork and willingness to learn through performing Shakespeare live.



## Skills for the future

**Coram Life Education** is the leading provider of health, wellbeing, relationship, and drugs education to hundreds of thousands of primary school children across the UK, developing programmes to support schools with mandatory RSE requirements in the national curriculum.

**Coram Beanstalk** supports children experiencing reading difficulties by recruiting, training, and supporting volunteers to go into schools and read with children one-to-one.

**Coram Leap Confronting Conflict** is a national youth charity that provides life-changing conflict navigation training to young people and the adults who support them.

Our trauma-informed curriculum helps young people understand their triggers and learn to regulate their emotions in high-conflict situations.



## No matter where

**Coram Family and Childcare** publishes the annual childcare survey, the reference for understanding the cost and availability of childcare across Great Britain, and delivers parent-led programmes nationwide.

**Coram Hemptall's** provides consultancy and training in the early years sector to realise policy and practice development.

**Coram PACEY** represents 50% of registered childminders in England and Wales, working to enable high quality services, information and advice for children, their families and carers. A society that cares

**CoramBAAF** is the membership organisation for professionals in fostering, adoption and kinship care, providing advanced advice and guidance, practice tools and training and representing the sector on key issues.



## A society that cares

We develop and deliver innovative solutions for professionals, local authorities, and governments to enable those working with children to find solutions to key challenges.

**Coram International** works with governments and organisations in 42 countries to protect and improve the rights of children and young people.

**Coram-i** works with local authorities and our partners Microsoft, EY and PA Consulting to deliver better children's social care services through innovation.

**The Coram Institute** works with partners across the political spectrum to consider both current needs for children and young people and future trends, aiming thereby to influencing policy and practice and delivering better chances for generations to come.

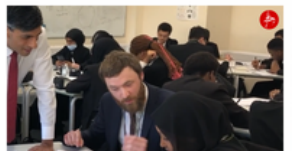
# Coram in the news

The Coram Group is regularly in the news, offering its insight and expertise on how to make life better for children and young people.



## London not a child friendly city and the exodus of families must be stopped, warns Coram children's charity

Families in the capital are under more pressure from the cost-of-living crisis than those elsewhere, charity warns



## In-Depth Legal briefing: implications of RSHE guidance

24 July 0-2 mins read Education Health

Updated guidance on relationships, sex and health education (RSHE) includes notable enhancements but some gaps too, says Lisa Handy, RSHE training and programme manager at Coram Life Education.



## Lawyer in the news: Sabrina Simpson, Coram Children's Legal Centre

17 February 2023



## Cost of summer holiday clubs rises to £1,076 a child



Collette Smith

Cost of living correspondent

18 July 2023

Updated 17 July 2023

Summer holiday clubs to cover Britain's six-week school break now cost parents an average of £1,076 per child, new figures suggest.

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## Contact Us

To find out more about our work  
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**INVESTORS IN PEOPLE®**  
We invest in people Gold