

coram | 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 gain understanding of what makes life better 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 by delivering 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."



Dame Carol Homden,
Coram CEO
Carol@coram.org.uk

What we do

- **Free legal support** for children and young people
- The annual childcare and holiday child care 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 in the UK and internationally
- **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
- Support for families through a dedicated **nationwide helpline**
- Training for young people and adults who support them to **manage conflict**
- Support for children and young people with **high learning potential**
- Practical support for children and young people experiencing **bullying**





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.

In numbers

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

OVER **200,000**
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED NATIONWIDE

MORE THAN **700,000**
CHILDREN USE OUR RESOURCES IN SCHOOL

OVER **1 MILLION**
USERS OF OUR CHILD LAW ADVICE WEBSITE

EVERY LOCAL AUTHORITY
IN THE UK DRAWS ON OUR TRAINING AND BEST PRACTICE RESOURCES

50,000
TEACHERS SUBSCRIBE TO OUR ONLINE RESOURCES



The Coram Institute for Children

The UK's only accredited independent research organisation dedicated to achieving a better future for children, and a leading voice in policy development in the UK and beyond.

Better policies, better practice



Children's minister Josh Macalister at Coram to launch the government's fostering action plan.



Managing Director of Coram Voice and Young People's Programmes Brigid Robinson and young ambassador Jack Phelps advocated for children in care and care leavers at No.10.



Manuela Perteghella MP with Coram CEO Dame Carol Homden and Mike Tucker, Head of Coram Shakespeare Schools, at the organisation's 25th anniversary celebration in parliament.



James Cleverly MP visiting the Coram Campus.

Charter for Children

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 find out more, visit https://www.coram.org.uk/charter/

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 providing services for nine local authorities through our regional adoption agency Coram Ambitious for Adoption. We provide information for potential adopters and run adoption activity days nationwide, enabling available adopters and children to meet 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.

Coram Family Lives supports thousands of families every year through both helpline and in person services each year and provides advice and support to many more through website and online resources.

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

Coram Shakespeare Schools 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 SCARF 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 Kidscape provides support thousands of children and young people experiencing bullying, their parents and carers, and the professionals who support them, through prevention, early intervention and targeted help where most needed.

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.

Coram Potential Plus supports children and young people with high learning potential, including through specialist assessments and reports, parent and professional consultancy, and resources to empower parents to advocate for their children's needs.

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 Hempsall'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.

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.

The newly UKRI-accredited **Coram Institute for Children** is an independent research organisation that works with partners across the sector to consider both current needs for children and young people and future trends, with the aim of influencing policy and practice and delivering better chances for generations to come.

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 partners to highlight and share innovation across the children's social care sector.



Coram in the news

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













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Contact Us

To find out more about our work please get in touch:

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INVESTORS IN PEOPLE®
We invest in people Gold

The Thomas Coram Foundation for Children, known as Coram, registered charity no. 312278