



coram | better chances for children since 1739

Working with us 2024



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.



Dr Carol Homden CBE,
CEO, Coram
carol@coram.org.uk

“The pandemic provided a stark illustration of the lack of influence children and young people have on policy making. Children currently represent the smallest proportion of the population since records began and by the end of this decade there will be fewer children than pensioners in the UK. They need to be heard and placed at the forefront of social policy of the future.”



“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.”

Keir Starmer KC MP,
Leader of
The Opposition



Clockwise from top:
Foreign Secretary James Cleverly MP meeting the Always Heard team at Coram
Shadow Foreign Secretary David Lammy MP speaking at the launch of our Call for Change
Coram's Shakespeare Schools Festival – the world's largest youth drama festival

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 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

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 **1.5 MILLION**
PEOPLE USE OUR CHILD LAW
ADVICE SERVICE WEBSITE



50,000
TEACHERS SUBSCRIBE TO OUR
ONLINE SCHOOL RESOURCES

300,000 CHILDREN
IN **1400** SCHOOLS
TAKE PART IN OUR LIFE
SKILLS AND CULTURAL
EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

OVER **8,000** CHILDREN
IN CARE AND CARE LEAVERS
ARE SUPPORTED THROUGH
OUR ALWAYS HEARD SERVICE



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

WE PUBLISHED **50** BOOKS,
REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS
FOR PROFESSIONALS AND
POLICY MAKERS WORKING
IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTOR
(2021/22)

"Coram delivers inspirational programmes and support for children of all ages including creative therapies, reading support, Shakespeare in schools, and teaching life skills at over 2,000 primary schools."

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



Better policies, better practice



Clockwise from top:
Science, Innovation and Technology Secretary Michelle Donelan MP
visiting Coram Adoption

Music therapy is one of the many programmes offered by Coram's
Creative Therapies team

Shadow Minister for Children and Early Years Helen Hayes MP at Coram



“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, Liberal Democrat
Education Spokesman, House of Lords**



The Covid-19 pandemic underlined just how much there is to do to build back childhood in the UK. It also highlighted that children and young people often lack a consistent voice dedicated to influencing the debate in their interests.

We are uniquely placed to support government and policymakers. Our vision is to bring about the Coram Institute for the Future of 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.

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. We influence the UK's legal framework and work in countries around the world to ensure that children can access their rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.



A Loving Home

We find secure, loving families for children who need them through adoption, and provide support to children and professionals in all forms of family placement including through creative therapy.

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.

Our **Creative Therapies** team provides art and music therapy to children, 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 Through Time** project explores the story of care since the 1700s when Coram was founded, and enables care-experienced young people to work on creative projects to tell their own stories and challenge negative perceptions.



A chance to shine

Coram Shakespeare 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 to deliver the mandatory new RHSE requirements on 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.

The **HALO** programme enables young people to help others and develop their own careers through placements, training and volunteer roles.



No matter where

Coram Family and Childcare publishes the annual childcare survey, the reference for understanding cost and availability of childcare across Great Britain. It also delivers parent-led programmes nationwide helping families to understand their rights and to access childcare and other support and services.

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

CoramBAAF is the membership organisation for professionals, foster carers, adopters, and all those working with or looking after children in or from care, sharing best practice, shaping policy and representing the sector on key issues of the day.



A society that cares

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

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

The **Coram Centre for Impact and Evaluation** team delivers research with children, young people, parents, and professionals, to listen, establish what works best, and improve practice as a result.

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.



Contact Us

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

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You can keep up to date with us online:

-  [coram.org.uk](https://www.coram.org.uk)
-  [@Coram](https://twitter.com/Coram)
-  [Coramsince1739](https://www.facebook.com/Coramsince1739)
-  [coram.uk](https://www.instagram.com/coram.uk)

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