

coram | better chances
for children
since 1739

**President and Chair
of the Board of Trustees**

Invitation to apply

March 2024

Better chances for children, now and forever

Coram is the first and longest continuing children's charity established in 1739 as The Foundling Hospital. We are now seeking a new President and Chair of the Board of Trustees to succeed Sir David Bell and lead the realisation of our *Charter for Children*, creating better chances for children, now and forever.



Coram Today

Coram develops, delivers and promotes best practice in the support of vulnerable children, young people and their families. The Coram Group helps more than one million beneficiaries each year with a combined turnover of £27m per annum.

Led by its CEO Dr Carol Homden CBE, Coram has a clear vision for the future, advancing its distinctive role at the heart of the children's sector and changing lives, laws and systems. We aim to be a recognised research organisation, the Institute for Children and to further regenerate our campus in central London.

Further information about the Coram Group, its strategy and *Charter for Children*, as well as Annual Report and Accounts can be found at coram.org.uk. For an informal discussion, please contact Carol@coram.org.uk.

Governance overview

The Thomas Coram Foundation for Children (formerly The Foundling Hospital) operates under the Royal Charter of 1739 and successive Acts of Parliament in accordance with its Bye Laws.

The historic role of President of the Court of Governors is today combined with being the chair of the Board of Trustees, who have responsibility for the governance and management of the charity (number 312278). Coram is the parent body of charity and charitable company subsidiaries.

A loving home

Coram is an outstanding adoption agency and provides direct support to children, young people and carers through creative therapies, national matching and regional agency delivery. Coram Intercountry Adoption Centre also supports all agencies through specialist services.

A Fair Chance

Coram Children's Legal Centre realises children's right and access in education, community care, family and immigration law. The Child Law Advice Service's assured information was downloaded 1.8m times and Coram International worked with 39 countries last year.

A Voice That's Heard

Coram Voice will shortly celebrate its 50th anniversary as the first provider of advocacy for children dependent upon state support and has pioneered the Bright Spots wellbeing survey informing national policy also through the national children in care council.

Each Coram group subsidiary has a board which oversees its operations and whose chair also sits on the group board.

The Court of Governors support the mission and development of the organisation providing advice and expertise and participating as co-opted members of group committees for Children's Services, Finance, Investment, Audit, Nominations and Governance, and Fundraising with a particular focus on building the networks and connections of the organisation.

A Chance to Shine

The national writing competition for children in and leaving care and the largest youth drama festival provided by the Coram Shakespeare Schools Foundation aim to help children to be proud of who they are.

Skills for Life

Coram Life Education is the largest provider of personal, social and health education to some 3000 primary schools helping 600,000 children each year to develop critical thinking and wellbeing skills whilst Coram Beanstalk provides reading volunteer helpers.

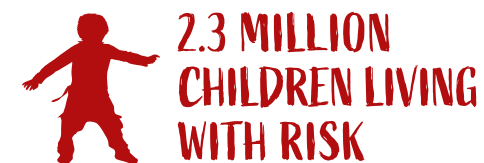
No Matter Where

Coram Family and Childcare supports a national network of Parent Champions and produces the definitive studies on the costs of childcare whilst Coram Hemsall's builds capacity across the early years sector. CoramBAAF works with all local authority children's services departments and is the leading provider of CPD, practice guidance and advice.

A Society That Cares

Coram's research and policy authority is at the heart of the vision to be recognised as the Institute for Children. We aim to build public understanding and work with children and young people to advance their place in society in our new building opening in 2025.

The Foundling Museum, which was established by Coram in 2002 to display its historic art collection, is an independent charity located adjacent to the Coram Campus welcoming 50,000 visitors per annum to see the Coram collection which is on rolling loan, and its other displays and exhibitions.



Leading the next chapter of development

The role of President and Chair of the Board of Trustees of Coram offers an outstanding opportunity for a distinguished and established leader with extensive networks and experience on charity or related boards to make positive change happen for children in the UK and beyond.

Duties of the role

- To advise, counsel, and support the CEO and her senior management team on matters of advocacy, policy and strategy.
- To chair the Board and ensure appropriate governance and oversight. This includes ensuring there is a diverse and high quality group of Trustees and Governors to lead and support the organisation in accordance with its values.
- To ensure that Coram is run in accordance with its governing instruments and appropriate legislation, and that the best interests of the charity are paramount in all decision-making.
- To chair the Nominations & Governance Committee and to ensure that other key board committees, (Audit, Children's Services, Investment and Finance), are appropriately led and staffed.
- To provide active support on fundraising, senior level connections and revenue raising activities and to help with contacts and access, making introductions and being an advocate with donors, sponsors and supporters to build support for the organisation.
- To lead the Board of Trustees in reviewing the strategies, business plans and performance indicators developed by the senior management team of Coram.
- Regular liaison with the Chief Executive and senior staff and attendance at public and fundraising events.
- To hold the Annual Court and ensure that there is a positive and complementary working relationship with stakeholders, Vice-Presidents and Governors.

Personal qualities

- Likely to be an existing Chair or Non-Executive Director who is a person of stature, unquestioned integrity and independence of mind with substantial experience of both commercial and not for profit high profile organisations.
- Extensive experience chairing diverse and complex Boards with an appropriate combination of empathy and authority and an ability to marshal information.
- Deep personal interest in Coram's mission, strategy and ethos and a strong personal commitment to helping it achieve this.
- Commercial skills and understanding of the economics and needs of fundraising, research and policy development and the media.
- Having a wide network of contacts with ready access to senior leadership in business, parliament and broader society.
- Interest and intellectual / academic capacity to help realise the vision of the Coram Institute.

The commitment

The appointment is unremunerated and is for an initial term of four years and can be extended for a further four years.

- Five board meetings per annum in person and leading the Annual Court meeting of Governors and summer showcase.
- Four committee meetings and attendance at key events.
- The Chair should be prepared to devote around a day per week to Coram business and be based in or within easy reach of London.

Application process

Application is by CV and supporting statement including two referees to Oliver.Rose@coram.org.uk by 20 May 2024.


The recruitment panel is led by the Vice Chair Jenny Coles CBE with the Nominations and Governance Committee. Shortlisted candidates will have the opportunity to meet with the CEO in advance of interviews, which will be held in person at the Coram Campus at the end of May.

Appointment will be ratified by the Annual Court on 26th June 2024 and be followed by the completion of a DBS check.








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“I believe everyone
ought in duty to do
any good they can”

Thomas Coram

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Registered charity no. 312278

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We invest in people Gold