



coram | better chances
for children
since 1739

CII Innovation Collective

Autumn 2022

coram.i
Insight • Innovation

Contents

1	Preface
2	Early Intervention and Early Help Models
11	Wellbeing, adolescent mental health and exploitation
21	Workforce and organisational structures
26	Achieving stability for children in care
37	Cultural competence and disproportionality
42	Technological Innovation

Preface

The **CII Innovation Collective** is the Coram Innovation Incubator's specialist repository, which collates and shares new, innovative projects from across the children's services sector and beyond.

It is a knowledge sharing hub, aiming to share learning and sector updates, and inspire new, innovative thinking about how we can redesign and improve services for children and young people.

Innovation has multiple forms and is typically seen to take place across three levels - the sustaining, the incremental and the game-changing or radical. All three levels are important to realising positive, sustainable change.

Although not exhaustive, the **CII Innovation Collective** seeks to capture the range of innovation taking place in the sector both at home and abroad - be it cutting edge technological innovation, a new approach to direct work with young people or a different model of care provision. This year, the **Collective** has been categorised in terms of the six priority areas of the Coram Innovation Incubator:

- Early Intervention and Early Help models
- Wellbeing, adolescent mental health and exploitation
- Workforce and organisational structures
- Achieving stability for children in care
- Cultural competence and disproportionality
- Technological innovation

"With the challenges for children and families continuing to grow, it is crucial that we embrace change and innovation in children's social care. Hertfordshire is delighted to be part of the Coram Innovation Incubator helping to drive the change we need, building on our strengths and learning from others."

Jo Fisher, Executive Director of Children's Services
Hertfordshire County Council

As the **CII Innovation Collective** shows, innovation is widespread across the sector and agencies are continuously finding creative and effective ways to ensure they can provide the best service to children, young people and families. Technology clearly plays a key role across multiple domains and the opportunity offered by technological innovation is something the CII and its partners are keen to exploit.

It is also evident that there has been a key focus on how services can proactively identify potential challenges and intervene earlier to help young people and families before they reach a crisis point. A number of therapeutic initiatives uncovered this year and [last year](#) demonstrate the continued focus of the sector on finding new ways to support young people's wellbeing, with mental health and exploitation still dominant issues for the sector.

One critical issue for the CII and its partners is around addressing the issues of disproportionality and cultural competence and their impact on young people and families. The case studies seen in the **Collective** especially highlight the crucial role of schools in creating the environment where diversity is celebrated and all young people can reach their academic potential. This area is also linked to workforce and organisational culture. There are comparatively fewer examples uncovered which tackle these issues and we want our colleagues to let us know about work they have seen in these areas. The CII is committed to helping the sector to find solutions to these issues.

Throughout the **Collective**, the role of the charity and community sector in this is clear, and many projects are tapping into the unique insight and empathy of those who have been through similar experiences and can mentor, support and advise families. Collaboration across borders is



clearly central to the success and sustainability of these projects. We hope the **Collective** can help you think about steps you can take locally and ideas that could be pursued as part of the collaborative CII model.

As part of the CII, our partners are progressing a number of projects related to our six priority areas. This year, we are running the Coram Innovation Inset, a specialist development programme to help practitioners develop their own pilot innovation projects. CII member projects include using technology to **improve the provision and maintenance of case records, a new model to support flexible working patterns, improving the foster carer recruitment offer and boosting the accessibility of early intervention services**. These are exciting developments, with the potential to have a transformative impact on services, children, young people and families.

We welcome others from across the sector to join us in our mission to create better outcomes for children and young people.

If you are interested in finding out more about any of the case studies included in the CII Innovation Collective or want to tell us about any promising innovations you have seen, please email innovation@coram.org.uk

About the Coram Innovation Incubator

The Coram Innovation Incubator (CII) is a specialist vehicle for children's services providers to work with the public, private and third sectors to generate, test and scale radical solutions to shared challenges facing the children's social care sector.

Our local authority members are London Borough of Bromley, City of London, Gloucestershire County Council, Hampshire County Council, London Borough of Harrow, London of Havering, Hertfordshire County Council, North Yorkshire County Council, London Borough of Redbridge, Together for Children Sunderland. Our three private sector partners are Microsoft, EY and PA Consulting.

For more information about the CII, see <https://coram-i.org.uk/coram-innovation-incubator>



A call for contributions: tell us what you have seen

We want our partners to take an active role in helping us to further develop the portal. If you have seen any promising innovations across the sector or in adjacent sectors, please do let us know by emailing innovation@coram.org.uk

 coram.org.uk

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

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

 [coram.uk](https://www.instagram.com/coram.uk)

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

 [Coram](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Coram)

Coram Campus
41 Brunswick Square
London
WC1N 1AZ

Tel: 020 7520 0300
Registered Charity no: 312278



coram·i
Insight • Innovation