



coram | better chances
for children
since 1739

**Coram Innovation
Incubator Prospectus**

2024-25

coram.i
Insight • Innovation

In the face of the ongoing challenges impacting children’s social care, the call to innovate grows louder, urging us to forge new paths and pioneer change. As we navigate the lingering repercussions of the pandemic, grapple with ongoing financial challenges in the sector, and try to turn around the lack of capacity to meet the needs of children, the need for bold, inventive solutions becomes more pressing than ever before.

The Coram Innovation Incubator (CII) continues to support organisations who want to lead the way in tackling the issues faced by the sector, providing a platform for generating, testing, and scaling solutions to the shared challenges faced by the sector. Collaboratively designed with our members, the Incubator thrives on the synergy of partnership.

Guided by the insights of our private sector supporters, EY, Microsoft and PA Consulting, we strive to empower local

authorities to cultivate innovation within their domains, reshaping the landscape of children’s services. Our focus remains resolute on the implementation of pivotal innovation projects co-designed with our local authority partners, a testament to our commitment to practical impact and tangible change.

While innovation is not just about technology, we know that AI is going to play a big part in the change that is coming. This year, the Incubator’s focus will include helping the sector understand how to use AI for the benefit of children and staff. As always, we will continue to share and champion innovation by offering an engaging spectrum of events, networking opportunities, and resources.

Our members include councils, charities and private sector pioneers. We firmly believe that a diverse coalition of passionate minds and organisations fosters inspiration and fuels the momentum needed for transformative change. Together, we will realise a future where every child thrives and collaborative strides redefine the landscape of children’s social care and generate the momentum needed for change.



“Working together with partners like Coram-i facilitates the development of new and effective technical solutions. The Coram Innovation Incubator brings together experts in different sectors and this collaborative space allows for knowledge sharing and cross-pollination of ideas, ensuring that views of children’s services practitioners are ‘baked in’ to the design of solutions. This could mean more innovative approaches are available for implementation or there is better take-up of new tools amongst practitioners when responding to the complex and evolving needs of children and families.”

– Claire Wilson, Project Manager, North Yorkshire Council



Learning in Enterprise

One of the main pillars of the Incubator is the concept of sharing innovative practice from across the sector.

In addition to the events outlined here, we run a wide array of other learning opportunities – some facilitated by our partner organisations, as well as the opportunity to connect with leaders across the sector and regular roundtable discussions. The Coram Innovation Playbook, an online bank of innovation case studies, will showcase successful interventions that have the potential to be rolled out more widely.

We are continuing to co-develop our core projects with our existing local authority partners and with support from our private sector colleagues will focus on implementing and scaling these over the coming year.

Our core events programme also offers:



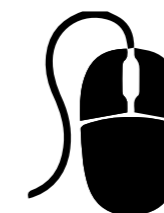
Learning Sets

Quarterly sessions with a presentation from two speakers who have developed innovation in the sector, with a focus on practice, implementation, and sharing their experiences and challenges.



Webinars

Quarterly sessions with a focus on new and exciting projects led by professionals working in the children’s services sector and beyond. These sessions focus on ideas, inspiration and new thinking.



The Collective

The Collective is our annual report collating best practice from across the sector, sharing innovations and projects, which considers both the UK and international context.



Core Projects

Our core projects include:

- **Using technology to improve ways of working** – unlocking the potential of data mining and other tools to support professionals to work more effectively and help children and families to understand their own histories. This is being pioneered by North Yorkshire council, supported by the CII team, Microsoft and Department for Education as part of the Council's project to reimagine case management systems.
- **Case recording** – developing a child-focused approach to case recording and decision-making.
- **Workforce recruitment and retention** – with a focus on flexible working, wellbeing, culture change, using digital innovation and broadening the social care workforce pool
- **Improving the way local authorities deliver SEND support**, making better use of data and technology
- **Placement sufficiency** – offering additional incentives to foster carers, developing a more supportive culture, and better use of technology.

Participating partners will benefit from individual support from the team at Coram, as well as our private sector partners, substantial in-kind benefits, and help with tailoring project ideas, working with you on development, implementation and evaluation, and sharing experience and resources with our other local authority partners to foster a collaborative and empowering environment for best practice in the sector.

Developing Innovation and Leadership:

In addition to the wide range of project work and learning opportunities, we also want the Incubator to support you in developing innovation in your organisation, sharing experiences with like-minded colleagues, and understanding the state of the sector.

"My hope and optimism is events like this and the innovation we have seen today."



The Innovation Inset

– a five-session course based around a design thinking approach, to support you to develop your own innovation project within your organisation. We will cover auditing, immersion, problem definition, ideation, prototyping and implementation, as well as evidencing your work. Supported by a specialist external coach, the Inset is a collaborative and supportive space, with a special focus on boosting the confidence and skills of our partners.



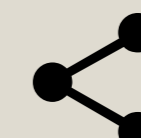
The Practice Forum

– a monthly online call for practitioners and those close to frontline practice, to share experiences. Each month will be led by one of our local authority partners with a focus on a particular practice issue, and time for discussion, reflection, and sharing practice.



Consultation

– in addition to the above, full members of the Incubator will be able to access three consultancy days over the course of the year, for one-to-one support and advice. This offer is broad to allow you to make the best use of this time according to the priorities of your organisation.



Coffee Dates

– you will be matched every quarter with someone from another partner organisation to arrange an informal, one-to-one call to share your current challenges, learn about what is happening in other parts of the UK, and build organic links with likeminded colleagues across the country.



The Drop-In

– our regular monthly slot for you to meet with the Incubator team at Coram to share what you're working on, ask questions, and discuss current issues in the sector.



Bid-writing and Funding applications

– we are happy to support you with bid-writing and funding applications for projects that are being developed as part of your work in the Incubator, building on the expertise and relationships that Coram has in this area.

Membership

We have a range of membership options to suit the needs of partners. This allows colleagues to benefit from the work of the Incubator whatever their capacity.

Full Membership

– this is for Local Authorities that would like to take a lead role in developing and implementing innovation projects in their organisation, with support from the Incubator. Full members are able to access the full programme of events, learning and networking opportunities, and individual support from Coram and our partners.

Associate Membership

– this is for Local Authorities that would like to benefit from the range of learning, networking and events offered to our full members, but may not currently have the capacity to develop and deliver innovation in their own organisation.

Kindred Membership

– this is for partners in the charity, third, and technology sectors who may be interested in sharing practice, learning about innovation in the sector, and in building relationships with other partners.

Pay-as-you-go Membership

– this allows those who would like to access some of the resources of the Incubator to do so, tailoring this to their current priorities, and to be kept updated on the work of the Incubator and our partners more widely.

If you have any questions about membership, or our offer, please do get in touch: Innovation@Coram.org.uk

“Being part of the Coram Innovation Labs and Inset has been absolutely beneficial to us. We have learned so much along the way and the generating and sharing of ideas, has encouraged innovation within our LA.”

–Aneesa Kaprie, , Head of Service for Children and Families Hub, Referral and Assessment, London Borough of Bromley
London Borough of Bromley



Pricing

For new members joining in 2024:

- Full membership is £9,500 per year.
- Associate membership is £5,500 per year.
- Kindred membership is £2,950 per year.
- Pay-as-you-go membership is free.

A discount is offered for multi-year membership, with 10% off our standard fee for two-year membership, and 15% for three-year membership.

• Innovation consultancy and bid writing support – full members get 3 days for each. For pay as you go the charge is £750 per day

	Full Member	Associate	Kindred	Pay-as-you-go
Core Projects – support to deliver innovation projects in your organisation.	✓	✗	✗	✗
Webinars	✓	✓	✓	✓
Annual Innovation Report	✓	✓	✓	✓
Learning Sets	✓	✓	✓	✗
Coffee Dates	✓	✓	✓	✗
The Practice Forum	✓	✓	✓	✗
Additional Member events, including DCS Roundtable discussions, and events led by our private sector partners.	✓	✓	✓	✗
The Collective	✓	✓	✓	Delayed Access
The Coram Innovation Playbook	✓	✓	✓	✓
The Drop-In	✓	✓	✗	✗
The Inset	✓	✓	Payable	Payable
Innovation Consultancy	✓	Payable	Payable	Payable
Bid-Writing and Funding application support.	✓	Payable	Payable	Payable

A call for contributions: tell us what you have seen

We want colleagues from across the sector to take an active role in developing the Incubator and sharing best practice. If you would like to discuss joining, or would like to share your own innovation work with our network, then please do get in touch by emailing innovation@coram.org.uk



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