

“Mummy, I think there’s
an invisible thread
between us, because
you always know what
I’m feeling, even when
we don’t say anything.
I think it’s magic.”

Martha, age 7, to her mother Angela,
who adopted her through Coram

coram | better chances
for children
since 1739

Review 2014

The Coram Review 2014 highlights the work of the Coram group of charities over the past year. To keep up to date with our latest news and developments visit us at www.coram.org.uk

Some of the extraordinary children and young people who have benefitted from Coram's work, including those pictured here, are featured in 3-minute videos on our website www.coram.org.uk

Be part of the story and join our thousands of social media followers by following us on Twitter and Facebook



@Coram



@Coram



Find out how music therapy has helped Ernie to grow in confidence



@LDNNobodyKnows

Just received @Coram Food4Life recipe book written by their young people. What a good idea. Youth charities take note



Chateelah says living in a supported house has helped her to become more independent. Find out why.



@vcloves

heard about @Coram concurrent project 8 years ago at info session, read interim report yesterday, felt hugely encouraged

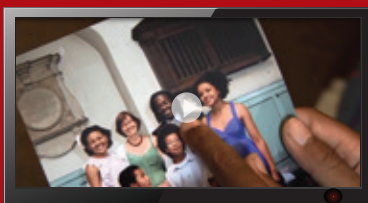


See what school children have to say when they enter the magical world of a Coram Life Education mobile classroom.



@SalisburyWORLD

Brilliant training yesterday at @CCLCUK about rights and entitlements of refugee young people. They are a wealth of information and ideas!



Meet Anthony and Marley and hear about their family's experience of adoption



@jazpotter

@Coram always grateful for the post-adoption support we have received. Thank you.

Foreword

On 17 October 2014, Coram celebrates the 275th anniversary of the granting of the Royal Charter for its establishment as the Foundling Hospital – the first and longest continuing children’s charity.

There has never been a more important time for all of us – parents, professionals, and supporters – to redouble efforts to protect our most vulnerable children and to safeguard the future of the next generation.

There are more children in the care system in the United Kingdom than ever before. Beyond the high profile cases of appalling abuse and neglect, are the stories of tens of thousands more children who need our help to grow up safely in love and hope.

Together we must challenge daily neglect, refuse to allow young lives to be blighted by homelessness, school exclusion, drug and alcohol misuse and violence, and support children to overcome personal trauma, separation or abuse.

Coram does this in a variety of ways by giving children better chances and making a change in their lives that will last a lifetime.

Coram Adoption prepares prospective adopters to provide new loving homes to give back lost chances in life and our new Centre for Creative Therapies enables children to recover and build positive relationships through art and music.

Coram Voice – newly formed by the amalgamation of Coram and the children’s rights charity Voice – enables children dependent on the state to be heard in the decisions that matter most to them.

Coram Children’s Legal Centre provides information and advice for children in need in our own country and champions children’s rights across the world.

Coram Life Education works with schools to enable children to learn the skills to take responsibility for the choices they make and to manage the risks around them.

In the past year, the Coram group of charities helped more than a million children, young people and their families.

None of this would be possible without the help of so many supporters, volunteers, partner agencies, trustees, governors and our dedicated staff, and we thank them all.

Particular thanks go to those major supporters of the *Build the Love Appeal* for the redevelopment of the Coram Campus as a national centre of excellence for children, the first phase of which has now been completed.

In our 275th year, we hope you will join us in celebrating the progress that has been made since 1739 and in continuing to help to create a world in which all our children have the chance to live a fulfilling life.



Edward Hartill OBE



Sir Michael Bear



Dr Carol Homden CBE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edward Hartill'.

Edward Hartill OBE
Chairman of Trustees

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Bear'.

Sir Michael Bear
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carol Homden'.

Dr Carol Homden CBE
Chief Executive

All about Coram

Coram, the first children's charity, has been creating better chances for children for more than 270 years.

Coram develops, delivers and promotes best practice in the support of vulnerable children, young people and their families.

What we do

The Coram group of charities helps more than one million children and families each year.

Coram works with more than 13,000 children and parents every year through adoption, creative therapies, parenting and young people's programmes. We build resilience in children and young people, enabling them to take responsibility for their own lives and fulfil their potential.

Coram Children's Legal Centre helps more than 155,000 children and parents by protecting children's rights in the UK and worldwide, and providing free legal advice and representation to children and families.

Coram Voice helps more than 6,000 children and young people vulnerable to harm or exclusion from society by providing advocacy and campaigning for system change.

Coram Life Education provides health and drug education to more than 850,000 school children each year, helping them to develop critical thinking, address risk and make responsible choices.

coram | better chances
for children
since 1739

coram 
Life Education

coram 
Children's Legal Centre

coram
Voice 
getting young voices heard



86%

of children and young people who receive Coram Voice advocacy support get the result they wanted



93%

of Key Stage 1 pupils say Coram Life Education helped them think about drug and alcohol risks

Coram adoption is successful for

99%

of children placed with our adoptive families

94%

of parents say their child's emotional well-being improved after attending Creative Therapy



86%

of Child Law Advice Line callers need no further help from state provided services



The Coram story



1720

Captain Thomas Coram begins campaign to raise funds for an institution to rescue illegitimate children dying on London's streets.

1739

Royal Charter granted for the creation of the Foundling Hospital, the first charity created to look after children. Artist William Hogarth is a founding Governor of the institution, at Bloomsbury Fields, London.

1749

Handel writes Foundling Anthem performs fundraising concerts, leaving a copy of the Messiah score in his will. This is celebrated by Coram today with annual Handel birthday concerts.

1838

Oliver Twist, thought to be inspired by the Foundling Hospital, published by Charles Dickens, who lives nearby.

1926

The coming of the railways and pollution prompts the Foundling Hospital to relocate to Redhill, Surrey, while a permanent countryside location is found. The London site is sold and many buildings demolished, but the Hospital later buys back two and a half acres of land.

1935

The Foundling Hospital moves to a new, purpose built school in Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.

1947

Old Coram Association is created to provide support for former pupils of the Foundling Hospital.

1948

The Children Act sees Home Office assume responsibility for child welfare and local authorities required to introduce specialist social workers to ensure protection of vulnerable children.

1954

Children are taken back by birth mothers or found homes with foster or adoptive parents. When the residential Hospital in Berkhamsted closes, the renamed Thomas Coram Foundation for Children (today known as Coram)



begins pioneering work in adoption, early years provision and parenting, from its original London site.

1971

The charity's adoption service officially becomes a voluntary adoption agency, finding permanent families for children in care.

2000

Coram Boy, by children's novelist Jamila Gavin (now a Governor of the charity), is published and turned into a play performed in London and on Broadway.



2004

The Foundling Museum is launched to tell the Coram story, preserve and display Coram's nationally important art collection.

2009

Visit by Her Majesty the Queen to mark Coram's 270th anniversary. Coram Life Education is formed, following amalgamation of Life Education, to help more school children make healthier choices.

2010-11

Coram is main beneficiary of Sir Michael Bear's Lord Mayor's Appeal – Bear Necessities.



The formation of Coram Children's Legal Centre, through the amalgamation of The Children's Legal Centre, is marked with a visit by the Duke of Gloucester.

2012

Visit by Prime Minister David Cameron to launch CANParent scheme at Coram. Coram receives government backing for its National Centre for Early Permanence.

2013

First4Adoption, the new national dedicated adoption information service, launched by Coram, Coram Children's Legal Centre and Adoption UK.

Children's rights charity Voice joins forces with Coram and becomes Coram Voice.

Finding families for those in greatest need

More than 4,000 children in care, who cannot return to their birth parents, are waiting for new permanent families. Coram's acclaimed voluntary adoption service finds new families who can offer the stability and lifetime of love every child needs.

Coram runs one of the UK's largest and most successful voluntary adoption services. A large factor in Coram's success is the thorough preparation, training and post-adoption support we offer adopted children and their families.

We work in and around London, East Anglia and the East Midlands, finding loving adoptive parents for children in local authority care. We also partner with local authority adoption services to achieve maximum benefit for children awaiting adoption. We found loving, adoptive families for more than 250 children in the past year directly or through partnership work.

More than 250 parents and children received post-adoption support in the past year, including 150 parents who enjoyed Coram's annual summer picnic held to bring together adopted families at our London campus. The London team also provided specialist information and counselling to adults who grew up in Coram's care, either as pupils at the Foundling Hospital or in foster care, and to their relatives.

Coram Adoption London was rated 'Outstanding' as part of a pilot review of a new Ofsted system. Coram Adoption East Midlands was similarly graded 'Outstanding' and Coram Adopt Anglia achieved 'Good' status.

Providing a lifetime of support

All adopters are provided with one-to-one training, sessions with others going through the same process and the opportunity to meet experienced adopters.

The parenting programme specially developed by Coram for adoptive parents achieved recognition from leading professional evaluation body, the Centre for Excellence and Outcomes (C4EO). Available to parents adopting through Coram, it was adapted from the Webster-Stratton Incredible Years model to support particular needs and circumstances of adoptive families, including who needs to be told a child is adopted and when, and how to sensitively tell a child about their background.

Groups run by Coram Adoption East Midlands help adopted young people meet others in similar situations, receive support on issues such as contact with birth families and develop confidence through social activities. Young people made a DVD of their thoughts on contact in adoption, recounting memories of birth parents and meetings with siblings. Funded by the Midlands Family Placement Group and the Media Trust, it enabled adopted youngsters to reflect on their experiences and develop new skills using equipment purchased as part of the project. Coram's participatory work and support services for adoptive children in the East Midlands and Anglia were recognised by C4EO and rated as 'promising practice'.

Finding families for 'hard to place' children

Coram has particular expertise in finding adoptive families for children deemed 'hard to place'. For example, more than 25 per cent of children were placed as sibling groups, enabling brothers and sisters to remain as part of the same family, while 40 per cent of children placed with adoptive families were from a Black and Minority Ethnic background.



Next steps:

- Place 28 per cent more children with adoptive families over the next year
- Open a new adoption office in South London to extend our London-based service 35 miles south and further extend our adoption services in North London
- Extend access to our evidenced post-adoption parenting programmes
- Learn from longitudinal research following adopted children through their teenage years.

Achieving early permanence for young children

Many children spend too long in the care system before legal decisions are made that allow them to settle into a permanent family, whether with their birth family or an alternative family. Concurrent Planning is an approach focused on the needs of very young children in care. Its aim, whatever the outcome of the court's decision, is to ensure children do not suffer unnecessary moves before they settle into a permanent family.

Coram runs the longest established Concurrent Planning service, pioneering its development in the UK since 1999.

Concurrent Planning provides greater consistency for babies in care while their long-term future is being decided. A child under the age of two is found suitable foster carers who are ready and willing to adopt them later, if adoption is decided to be the best long-term option for them.

While the courts reach their decision and birth parents are helped to address the key issues affecting their ability to parent, regular meetings are arranged so the child keeps in touch with his or her birth parents. If the child cannot return to its birth parents, it remains with the concurrent carers who can go on to adopt them, avoiding unnecessary and often traumatic disruption. Concurrent Planning lays the foundations for improved health and emotional well-being throughout the child's life by giving more stability during vital early years of development.

Coram's Concurrent Planning service received an 'Outstanding' rating from Ofsted, with inspectors concluding: "Children enjoy warm, nurturing and supportive relationships with their foster families. As a result the children thrive and are able to make excellent progress and reach milestones." It also received validation from the Centre for Excellence and Outcomes which recognises best practice.

Preliminary findings of Coram's Concurrent Planning research were published, showing a reduction in time taken to permanent placement. See page 27 for details.

National Centre for Early Permanence

Recognised by government as a National Centre for Early Permanence, Coram provides training and support to local authorities and voluntary adoption agencies across the country who wish to give greater stability to very young children in their care. We work with those providers to enable effective and timely case work, decision making and placement for looked-after children.

As part of this, Coram launched a new national Concurrent Planning scheme of tailored training and consultation so the practice can be more widely offered. Three voluntary adoption agencies and 13 local authorities have already joined the scheme. This has already increased the number of children benefitting from concurrent planning nationally, with young children being placed with concurrent carers in Cambridgeshire and Suffolk. The team also supported the launch of the first Concurrent Planning service in Northern Ireland and advised local authorities in Scotland.

The principles of Concurrent Planning inspired the government to develop proposals for Fostering for Adoption, to bring earlier stability for children in care by enabling those who want to adopt children to foster them while they are waiting for the court to decide if adoption is the right plan for the child. Coram commissioned new guidance, written by the British Association for Adoption and Fostering, to help local authorities implement Fostering for Adoption so more children can live with their potential permanent carers at the earliest possible stage.

“All the risks were on us”

“We’ve just celebrated Thomas’ first birthday. It’s like he’s always been a part of our lives.

We were unable to have our own children so our thoughts turned to adoption. We had explored other avenues, but then heard about Coram. They told us about Concurrent Planning and we thought ‘we won’t wait anymore, let’s get on with it’.

We fostered Thomas for six months before we were able to adopt him. Coram prepared us really well.

We always saw ourselves as foster carers so, if the courts decided it was safe for him to go back to his birth family, we knew we helped give him the best start. But we knew all the risks were on us.

Coram’s social workers helped us understand what it would mean to take on a little boy who’s had a difficult start in life, so we can give him the care he needs. Adoption isn’t easy, but the support we’ve been given makes us feel we can deal with whatever challenge we might face. We just love him so much.”

Kate and Rob, adoptive parents



“We adopted siblings”

A sibling group of two sisters and an older brother, up to seven years of age and of mixed race, would often be ‘hard to place’ with an adoptive family.

But social workers from the Coram/ Harrow adoption partnership were determined to beat the odds. While a permanent adoptive family was being sought, the children went to live with foster carers Mark and Nella (pictured here). However, after six months no suitable family had been found. Social workers approached the couple about the possibility of them adopting the youngest child, and to consider long term fostering the older two.

“We could not bear the thought of the children being split up,” said Nella. “We thought it would be unfair for the children to have a different legal status from one another. So we adopted all three.”

The children are thriving, and the couple put this down to the added stability that their adopted status brought. The team helped the family find educational and financial support for the children and continue to help manage contact with extended birth family.



Partnerships to reduce delay in the care system

By working in partnership with local authorities and other organisations, Coram strives to reduce delay for children in care who need a permanent family and works to find new ways to improve the process for adoptive parents.

Faster family finding in Harrow

In 2006, Harrow Council placed just three per cent of its looked-after children with adoptive families. Following the successful partnership with Coram's adoption team, this increased to 20 per cent. Within three years of the partnership, the first of its kind, every child with an adoption plan was placed within the six months required by regulations. Analysis by KPMG showed the Council saved more than £440,000. The partnership continues and has been a model for work with other local authorities.

Working with local authorities to reduce delay

Delays in decision making, court processes and matching children with an adoptive family, particularly for those children who may be perceived as 'difficult to place', can result in children waiting in care. As their needs compound, their likelihood of finding an adoptive family decreases.

To help tackle these delays Coram, in partnership with Barnardo's, and funded by the Department for Education, worked with local authorities to identify causes of delay specific to them. Coram worked with 12 local authorities*, creating a diagnostic tool to tailor analysis and ran seminars addressing subjects, such as the challenge of matching adoptive parents and children. As a result, each authority was able to develop an action plan to increase the timeliness of its own services.

Enhancing adoption practice in Cambridgeshire

Cambridgeshire County Council embraced the Government's 'call to arms' for local authorities to improve their adoption services

by commissioning a partnership with Coram. The county's adoption service wanted to further improve decision making and minimise delays. Cambridgeshire saw an 110 per cent increase in the number of children placed for adoption since 2011-12 and Concurrent Planning is being introduced.

Groundbreaking approach in Kent

Kent County Council partnered with Coram to help find new permanent families for children in care. In its first year, the partnership increased the number of approved adopters by 30 per cent. 143 children were placed for adoption, a 110 per cent increase on the previous year. Kent's Ofsted rating improved, with Ofsted praising Coram for its "inspirational" effect on staff and services.

Tracking children's progress in Redbridge

Coram was appointed by the London Borough of Redbridge in 2012 to jointly focus on reducing the time period, wherever possible, that children who can no longer live with their birth families spend in care. Coram works with the Council's adoption team to track children's progress right through to adoption and supports the recruitment of adopters.

First4Adoption: www.first4adoption.org.uk

First4Adoption, the dedicated information service for people interested in adopting a child in England, was launched in early 2013 by Coram, Coram Children's Legal Centre and Adoption UK. Supported and funded by the Department for Education, the telephone line and online guides give information to help potential adopters navigate the process and encourage more people to consider adoption.

**Bristol, Camden, Cambridgeshire, Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington & Chelsea, Lambeth, Northamptonshire, Redbridge, Sandwell, Swindon, Thurrock, Westminster.*

Managing risk for children

All children deserve a safe and happy childhood, but there are some who face serious risk in their own homes because of the effects of drug and alcohol misuse. Coram works intensively with children, parents and professionals to keep families together wherever possible, or, alternatively, to make swifter decisions to find permanent alternative homes for children.

Award-winning Family Drug and Alcohol Court

The impact of the pioneering work of the UK's first Family Drug and Alcohol Court (FDAC) was recognised with six national awards and commendations in major childcare and legal policy reviews.

FDAC was launched by the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust and Coram in 2008 as a new way of dealing with care proceedings where parents have substance misuse issues. It aims to help parents overcome drug and alcohol addiction, the main issue in up to two thirds of all care proceedings, and keep families together where possible. Unlike conventional proceedings, parents in FDAC see the same judge and receive support from a specialist team, including drug workers and social workers. More than 100 parents with children subject to care proceedings were supported by FDAC in the past year.

More families reunited, lower costs

Research has shown parents who have been through FDAC were more likely to stop their substance misuse than those in ordinary care proceedings, resulting in fewer children going into care. An evaluation by Brunel University and the Nuffield Foundation found at least 39 per cent of mothers being supported by FDAC were reunited with their children, compared with 21 per cent of mothers who went through standard court proceedings. When parents were unable to control substance misuse, FDAC made swifter decisions to find permanent alternative homes for children. Even in these circumstances, two thirds of parents were positive about review hearings and said they valued being able to have their say in court. The approach was also found to reduce costs.

FDAC's success was highlighted as "impressive" in the Munro Review of Child Protection, and the Family Justice Review interim report said FDAC emphasised the importance of judicial continuity.

Awards and innovation

FDAC's innovative work received six awards and validated practice recognition, including a Guardian Public Services Award in 2011 and Working in Partnership awards from both the British Medical Journal and Children and Young People Now in 2012.

A cutting-edge piece of technology, in the form of an alcohol-testing bracelet that monitors drinking and supports rehabilitation, was successfully trialled with a number of parents attending FDAC. The team will continue to use it to help with assessment, determining patterns of drinking and devising treatment plans.

Building on success

The three-year FDAC pilot was funded by the boroughs of Camden, Islington and Westminster. Greater numbers of London families are now able to receive support through FDAC as the project has been extended, following continued funding from the three boroughs and additional funding from Hammersmith and Fulham and Southwark councils.

Following the success of FDAC, the team gave training and advice to Gloucester County Council which launched its own Family Drug and Alcohol Court, and is now also working to extend FDAC to at least two further locations across the country.

“Without the Family Drug and Alcohol Court I wouldn't be here today”

“I started drinking after I lost both my parents within a year. I felt alone, my lifestyle was all over the place - in the end I attempted suicide. Soon after, I got pregnant and was referred to FDAC.


I've never been in court or in trouble with the law and was terrified of losing my son.

My key worker didn't judge, he listened. The anger and pain came out - those emotions made me turn to drink in the first place. My son was moved into foster care so he could be looked after properly while I got clean. I was allowed to move in to the foster family's home too, and being able to see him was what got me through.

I've been clean for three years and am now an FDAC mentor, helping other parents make a better life for their children and themselves. I know how hard it can be but I also know it works. Without FDAC I wouldn't be here today.”

Angie, a mum who was referred to FDAC



A close-up photograph of a woman with red hair pulled back, smiling gently at the camera. She is wearing a black turtleneck sweater with white ribbed cuffs. To her left, a baby is seated in a stroller, wearing a blue and white striped knit hat and a dark blue jacket with light blue accents. The background is blurred, suggesting an outdoor setting.

“We live in a one-bedroom flat, with no outdoor space. My son has been able to play, learn and develop his confidence. The Centre is how I made friends and found a support network.”

Mum who attends Coram Parents' Centre

Helping parents do their best for their children

Whatever the circumstances, whether parents are having trouble coping in the early years or are so overwhelmed by their own problems that they struggle to provide the stability their children need, Coram offers support to parents so that they can do their best for their children.

Family support for children at risk

Building family resilience is the key aim of Coram's parental support work in Essex, helping to prevent children and young people being admitted into care. Set up by Thurrock Council with Coram in 2009, it provides intensive family support and parenting programmes for families with children from birth to 18 years old.

It targets families struggling with a child's challenging behaviour and those facing possible family breakdown caused by domestic violence, drug and alcohol misuse or mental illness. By giving timely support and increasing parents' confidence and skills, it aims to help improve children's behaviour, emotional health and educational achievements, and reduce the risk of involvement in juvenile crime and substance misuse.

More than 200 parents were supported in the past year. Prior to taking part, 39 per cent of those surveyed said they had a 'good' relationship with their children. but this increased to 83 per cent after receiving support. Its success has led to a further three years of funding.

Coram also provided support to more than 4,000 families with young children as part of three years of work to tackle the inequality experienced by some of our most disadvantaged children. Commissioned by Ealing Council, Coram worked with children's centres in the borough, offering support to families with children under five. Ealing Council's audit concluded that Coram was successful in reaching families who would have otherwise "fallen through the net" and the service was validated as "promising practice" by the Centre for Excellence and Outcomes. The service and its staff are now managed by Ealing Council; a testimony to the programme's effectiveness.

Coram's dedicated support project for young and expectant parents in Camden helped parents, aged 13-19, balance their own needs with the responsibility of parenthood. Social workers and health visitors reported it was highly valued and engaged 'hard to reach' young people where other projects failed, with young parents better able to cope with early parenthood as a result.

Providing support for local communities

Coram's Parents' Centre offers drop-in and outreach services for Camden families with children up to the age of five. Tailored sessions on specific cultural and health issues were run for Bangladeshi families. Parents reported that attending sessions helped decrease their sense of isolation.

Parents in Camden whose children attend Thomas Coram Children's Centre also benefitted from Coram's integrated approach, with access to creative therapies where necessary.

Families who need parenting support may also struggle in other areas; experiencing financial, welfare or health problems. Camden Futures launched in 2012 to help families in some of the borough's most deprived areas. As part of the three-year partnership, Coram, Elfrida Rathbone Camden and other local voluntary organisations work together in GP surgeries and schools. Coram's parent support advisors offered one-to-one family support, mediation and family sessions to help parents engage with schools to aid their children's learning. Camden Futures also enabled Coram to extend its creative therapies programme to schools in the borough. (see over).

Changing lives through music and art

Coram has had a strong association with music and art for centuries. The artist Hogarth and composer Handel were early supporters, and, today, music and art continue to influence our work through Coram's pioneering use of creative therapies and educational art projects.

Helping children find their voice

Children and young people often give expression to their deepest feelings through non-verbal channels of art and music. Coram's Creative Therapies programme provides children, who may have witnessed violence, experienced neglect or who have socially isolating physical or psychological conditions, with the 'tools' to express themselves and make sense of their world. Our art and music therapists help to build a child's trust, help them to feel more confident and think about the way they behave and respond.

During the year, some 400 children benefitted from music and art therapy sessions, in one-to-one or group sessions at Coram's London campus or at schools in Camden, Haringey and Kensington and Chelsea.

In addition, Coram was appointed to provide the UK's first commissioned creative therapies service at schools in Camden for children with complex needs. It is the first time marginalised children and young people with complex needs have had this level of access to art, music and drama therapy to help with communication, peer relations and to support educational outcomes.

Art therapy was pioneered in schools in Haringey thanks to a grant from the ZVM Rangoonwala Foundation. The three-year project, which helped children cope with their emotional issues and improve behavioural difficulties, supported children who may not otherwise have had this opportunity. Research across Coram's art therapy showed 94 per cent of parents and 77 per cent of teachers reported improved behaviour and emotional wellbeing in children who received art therapy.

Coram, alongside Triangle Consulting, developed a new way to measure the progress of children receiving music therapy. The Music Therapy Outcomes Star measures changes in key areas

including use of voice, attention and awareness. A pilot study showed improved development for the majority of children and this type of evaluation is to be used by other organisations.

Art psychotherapists and drama therapists had the opportunity to work alongside Coram's Creative Therapies team through Placement Plus, a scheme which helps newly qualified therapists gain work experience and develop their skills supported by Coram's experienced team.

Learning from the past to inform the present

School children, looked-after young people, trainee teachers and carers engaged with art and artists through our education and heritage projects, many of which explored the notion of identity.

As part of his Hogarth Fellowship at The Foundling Museum, artist Grayson Perry led art workshops with young mothers, adopted young people and care leavers who access Coram's services. Inspired by an eighteenth-century collection of 'tokens' left by mothers to identify children taken to the Foundling Hospital, they created clay reliquaries containing personal modern day 'tokens' exhibited at The Foundling Museum. Young parents attending Coram's support sessions produced posters as part of an arts based alcohol awareness project.

Young mums and dads also customised baby garments to express their hopes for their children's futures while reflecting their identity as young parents.

Artworks by looked-after children and care leavers from Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster and Ealing were shown at The Foundling Museum, as part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad. Young people worked with artists to explore the concept of identity and how life in care today compared with the experiences of pupils in the Foundling Hospital.



“When I’m here
I don’t feel so
stupid.”

Tom, aged nine, who has music therapy



Next steps:

- Extend access to creative therapies for adopted children as part of a new post adoption support programme
- Develop the new Pears Pavilion which will host Coram’s expanding work in creative therapies, radically increasing our ability to help children with communication difficulties.



“I think the biggest
thing is his
confidence. He has
really come along in
such massive ways in
a social context.”

Clare, whose son had music therapy



“Excellent for children
with poor language
skills in inner city
schools like ours
where 80 per cent
have English as an
additional language.”

Haringey head teacher

Helping children make responsible choices

Children make choices everyday which affect their health and future. Coram Life Education helps children to develop critical thinking, think about risk and take responsibility for their health and well-being.

As the nation's leading children's health and drug education charity, Coram Life Education delivers an innovative health and social education programme to thousands of schools across the UK.

The past year has seen more than 850,000 school children experience the interactive world of Coram Life Education's mobile classrooms. Delivered by educators from 24 local Life Education Delivery Partners, sessions combine puppetry, role play and film to capture children's imaginations, helping them develop confidence and skills to deal with issues around smoking, drugs and alcohol, healthy eating and friendships.

Thanks to a partnership with BBC Connect and Create, new videos were created by BAFTA-nominated BBC puppeteers featuring 'Harold the Giraffe' and two new puppet friends for use in classrooms and online. A new website was launched to help more schools access resources, which also features fun, health-based online activities developed thanks to Ansva, Heart FM's charity Have a Heart and financial group ICAP. The latter two supporters also enabled the launch of a new Delivery Partner in Essex.

Involving parents in their children's learning about health and drug education is an important part of Coram Life Education's work. More than 3,700 parents were reached through the Parent Assembly programme, and parenting skills courses on subjects including behaviour management and communicating with children about illegal drugs and alcohol.

The work of Coram Life Education became a front page feature in the Times Educational Supplement when a journalist visited a mobile classroom to discover Personal, Social and Health Education "with a difference."

A new project, Alcohol Lessons for Life, targeting pupils approaching secondary school age about the health risks and the anti-social behaviour that binge drinking causes, so impressed Surrey's High Sheriff Youth Awards Council that a special grant was awarded to roll it out across five Surrey primary schools. It also received praise from Baroness Newlove, the Government's Champion for Active Safer Communities.

A much applauded special educational needs programme was developed by Coram Life Education in conjunction with Life Education Aberdeenshire, with updated content for pupils at Key Stage 2.

Quality and evaluation

The quality of information provided by Coram Life Education was recognised with the achievement of the Department of Health's Information Standard, an independent kite-mark of reliable, evidence-based information.

Evidencing the impact of our work is becoming increasingly important. Research, conducted with more than 2,000 children and teachers, showed 93 per cent of children at Key Stage 1 said the programme had helped them to think about the risks of smoking, alcohol or drugs. More than 85 per cent of Key Stage 2 teachers reported an increased knowledge and understanding among pupils of the consequences and risk factors of smoking, alcohol and other drug use and how to manage peer relationships.

The Headley Trust and Balfour Beatty are among organisations which provided funding support for Coram Life Education, while volunteers, many of them Rotarians, helped ensure it was further developed in the community.



“Kids our age get bored just listening to other people talk...This keeps us interacting and learning what to do in the future and how to keep our bodies safe.”

10 year-old pupil, Allerton Primary School



Next steps:

- A new Key Stage 3 programme aimed at 11 – 13 year olds is being developed for Coram Life Education
- A new Special Education Needs resource piloted in Aberdeenshire schools is being rolled out in other parts of the UK
- A new centre to support educator training will open at Coram's London campus



“PSHE with a difference.. The approach - never to negate, never to contradict, and always to focus on the positive - is a deliberate technique, taught to all Coram educators.”

Times Educational Supplement,
August 2011



“Meeting Harold, watching the DVD, finding parts of their own bodies and lots of movement meant children were engaged throughout.”

Leonard Stanley Primary School

Learning how to cope with life

Applying to college, finding a job and having to pay bills for the first time are just some of the challenges young people face. Coram gives young people who have had a difficult start in life the practical skills and emotional support to help them gain confidence and achieve new goals.

Accommodation and support for young people

Finding yourself with nowhere to call home at the age of 16 is daunting. Coram provides supported housing for young people aged 16-21, who are leaving care or find themselves homeless. This year Coram doubled the capacity of this service by expanding its supported housing accommodation, including a night service, for young people in Brent.

Our houses offer young people, referred by the London boroughs of Camden, Brent and Tower Hamlets, much more than just a roof over their heads. Coram's specialist staff help them to access education, employment and become financially responsible. When a young person has gained the skills and confidence they need to live independently, we help them to move on and continue to support them as they settle into their new home. We are grateful to Deutsche Bank and The Worshipful Company of Haberdashers for their support of our work with young people.

To help young people develop the skills they need to live independently, a group of young people, with support from Coram staff, produced a toolkit called Life in your Hands. Now available online, it covers everything from setting up home to managing personal finances on a tight income.

Some young people need more specialist support to help protect them from risk. An intervention support worker was appointed, through a three-year grant from Comic Relief, to help those at risk of developing alcohol related problems.

Skills for employment and independent living

An independent living fair run by young people featured cookery demonstrations and careers advice, with CV and interview workshops provided with support from our corporate partners, including Mishcon de Reya, Ask-re and Olswang.

There were also opportunities to broaden horizons in other ways. Young people represented Coram at a Downing Street reception held by Prime Minister's wife Samantha Cameron and put forward their views to Government as members of the National Youth Reference Group. A visit to Georgia in Eastern Europe gave four care leavers the chance to meet young people from other countries to explore common issues.

As a provider of vInspired's 24/24 programme, Coram offered young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) the chance to take part in structured volunteering placements. Coram supported 25 unemployed young people through placements in retail, the arts, childcare and landscape gardening, with opportunities for social entrepreneurship training and an accredited qualification. Young people also published a cookery book of tasty, healthy but inexpensive donated recipes for other young people, including dishes from celebrity chefs Rick Stein and Gary Rhodes.

Learning from the past

Young disadvantaged people are working alongside professional archivists to explore the charity's historic roots. A Heritage Lottery grant is funding a 12-month project which will see training workshops take place at the Foundling Hospital archive at the London Metropolitan Archives and the British Library. Young people will learn about the history of residential care and interview people cared for by the Foundling Hospital. It will culminate in an exhibition and theatre performance.

Recognising achievement

Coram's first youth awards were developed by a group of young people who use Coram's services. The Inspire Awards recognised a variety of skills and achievements and Coram has committed to making this a regular event.

“Coram was there for me when I needed help”

After spending much of her life in foster care, Yasmin moved in to one of Coram’s supported houses at the age of 16.

“Coram helped me so much. When I moved in to the house I was so shy. My support worker and other staff helped me build my confidence. They helped me with my college work and gave me good advice on budgeting and how to manage my rent.

“With their help, I found volunteering work to get more skills and experience. This included going on a 10 week expedition to Costa Rica and Nicaragua, where I got to stay with local families and helped build a community centre. It was amazing.

“I am still involved with lots of things at Coram, like helping out at the marathon. A special memory is when I was invited to 10 Downing Street as part of a Coram charity event, where I got to meet Samantha Cameron.”

Yasmin, (pictured here with Samantha Cameron and Coram Chief Executive Carol Homden) achieved The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, completed her college course and now hopes to work in the travel industry.



“Without them I don’t know what I would have done”

Joy was just five years old when she was trafficked into the UK from Nigeria to work as an unpaid domestic servant for a family in London. She endured almost daily beatings and wasn’t allowed out to go to school nor to a doctor if she became unwell.

One night, when she was 15 years old, Joy was unable to stand the violence anymore, and ran away. She was placed with a foster family and began going to school. The local authority, however, decided that Joy was older than she claimed and refused to pay her accommodation and education costs. Coram Children’s Legal Centre took Joy’s case to the High Court.

After winning the case, aged 18, Joy was given a firm financial footing, with local authority funding, to help her find housing and study childcare at college.

She said: “CCLC were really understanding and stood by me every step of the way. Without (them) I would have never won and I don’t know what I would have done.”



Ensuring children's access to justice

Protecting children's rights has always been an important element of Coram's work. This commitment was formally embedded when we welcomed The Children's Legal Centre into the Coram charity group.

Coram Children's Legal Centre provides free legal advice and representation to children, their families and carers, and professionals, as well as international consultancy on child law and children's rights. CCLC has legal aid contracts to provide family, immigration, asylum and education law. More than 155,000 children and parents benefited in the past year.

During the year, First4Adoption, the nation's adoption information service, was launched by CCLC, Coram and Adoption UK (see p11).

Extending access to legal advice

With families facing increased pressure as a result of cuts to legal aid and other support, the Child Law Advice Line received more than 20,000 calls with questions ranging from parental contact to school admissions. Cherie Booth QC, CCLC's Patron, launched an online expansion of the service. Almost 40 per cent of those seeking advice had a household income less than £15,000. As one of only three legal aid providers of education law advice in the country, with a particular focus on special educational needs, over the past year CCLC offered advice and representation to families eligible for legal aid.

Protecting the rights of migrant children

The Migrant Children's Project works to ensure refugee, trafficked and migrant children are able to access the support and protection to which they are entitled in the UK. It provided advice, information and training, legal casework and outreach and co-chaired the Refugee Children's Consortium. Staff carried out research and policy advocacy, and published the report, 'Happy Birthday? Disputing the age of children in the immigration system', highlighting the harm and high costs caused by lengthy disputes about the age of children who arrive alone in the UK.

Influencing legislation

CCLC's lawyers took on test cases and acted as interveners so more children could benefit from wider reform. In a Supreme Court case in 2012, CCLC intervened on the issue of the weight to be given to the best interests of children when parents face

extradition.¹ The judgment led to a review of practices and a duty on the UK to perform more detailed examinations of the impact on children where parental extradition would curtail family life. CCLC also intervened in a landmark case on the rights of 17-year-olds held in police custody.² It was brought by a teenager held in custody and prevented from contacting his parents before being released without charge. The court held that 17-year-olds must be treated as juveniles rather than adults and that their parents must be informed by police at the time of arrest. The Government is now required to change legislation. Advocacy for the promotion of children's rights in UK policy and law reform continued to be a key consideration in reforms under the Children and Families Bill.

International reach

CCLC's international team provided expert technical assistance to the UN and NGOs in 11 countries including Ghana, Sierra Leone and Vietnam. Their research, analysis, recommendations and project implementation focused on numerous child rights issues, including access to justice, child protection, juvenile justice, children and armed conflict and gender rights.

Next steps:

- Expand the provision of representation to vulnerable migrant children under our new immigration contract
- Continue our work on a new project to provide legal aid, advice and support to administratively detained migrant women and children in South Africa
- Develop an advocacy strategy for UNICEF to end the death penalty for children in the Middle East and North Africa.

¹ Supreme Court cases of BH, HH and others, 2012

² HC v The Metropolitan Police, 2013

Helping every child find their voice

Children in care and care leavers often struggle to be treated fairly, and may not receive the state support to which they are entitled. But this is not inevitable. Coram Voice aims to ensure children and young people in care get the same opportunities as those from more stable backgrounds so they can reach their potential and lead happy and healthy lives.

Coram Voice was formed in late 2013 by the amalgamation of children's rights charity Voice into the Coram group, and together we are looking forward to making a greater difference to the lives of children and young people across the country. Now known as Coram Voice, the charity will continue to help children and young people vulnerable to harm or exclusion from society, and who have a particular reliance on the state or its agencies for their rights and well-being.

By providing advocacy and independent services and by campaigning for system change, Coram Voice helps children and young people participate in shaping their own lives and hold to account services responsible for their care. Services include a national advocacy helpline, community advocacy, visiting advocacy, independent visitors and providing 'independent persons' when children need to make a complaint about their care when a decision to accommodate them in a secure unit is being reviewed. Outreach work takes services to children who may need our help most but are the least likely to ask for help.

Coram Voice is the officially contracted advocacy provider for more than 24,000 children across the country and, in the past year, directly supported more than 6,000 children to hold to account those responsible for their care. More than 7,000 helpline calls were answered, helping children to access education opportunities, prevent unnecessary placement moves and get the support they needed to be removed from harmful situations. All of the children and young people who provided feedback said their advocate listened to their views, with 86 per cent saying they got the result they wanted.

A groundbreaking outreach programme provided advocacy for children in care and care leavers facing homelessness. Within the first six months of the pilot, developed with the New Horizons Day Centre in London, 33 homeless young people were supported to have somewhere safe to live.

Improving practice

Young people are consulted to ensure their views inform the charity's work. Their views informed a response to a government consultation on Ofsted inspections in children's homes and, as a result of Voice's lobbying, Ofsted's inspectors will now spend more time speaking with young people, examining case-files and tracking care journeys.

To support social services to improve practices, Voice provided 45 training courses for professionals working with children in care, 15 of which were co-delivered by qualified 'young trainers', with positive feedback on the training experience.

To extend support to even more of the most vulnerable young people, advocates visited children with mental health problems living in secure children's homes and other specialist mental health units to help them understand and meaningfully engage in decisions being taken about them. In addition, as a result of Voice's lobbying, new protocols to increase safeguarding for all young people subject to isolation or restraint within medium-secure mental health units have been rolled out as 'best practice' across the mental health sector.

The coming year will see the launch of the Bright Spots project. By identifying 'Bright Spots' of very good care, and understanding what is being done differently, the project aims to produce guidance on what makes an excellent journey through care, and then to challenge and support all local authorities to bring their practices up to the standards of the best. Funded by the Hadley Trust, it will also give children and young people an opportunity to share, from their own perspectives, the key elements of a good care journey.

“I thrive off knowing I can educate others”

Kirby is a fully qualified Young Trainer who has experience of being in care and has used Voice’s services in the past.

“When I was asked if I wanted to have training to become a trainer, I thought I would have to endure a series of long, mundane, rigid lectures.

“Instead I was confronted with a mixture of presentations, written exercises, role plays and interactive brainstorming sessions. I loved it. Who knew being trained could be so much fun!

“Being asked to co-train was one of my most nerve wracking experiences. Now having done it, I enjoyed it. It has actually helped me build my confidence as a person. I feel like Voice has really empowered me and given me a voice to speak outside of the box and defy the stigma attached to those in care.

“Now I can’t get enough. I grab every opportunity that comes my way to train and thrive off knowing that I, Kirby, can actually educate others. All thanks to Voice and ironically my experience of being in care.”

Next steps:

In the coming year, Coram Voice will:

- Through the Bright Spots project, support local authorities to deliver best practice so that children and young people get the best service possible from those responsible for their care
- Extend our outreach programme for those facing homelessness to ensure more young people understand their rights and have somewhere safe to live
- Step up our ability to tell the stories of the children and young people we serve to engage people in the shocking realities of the injustices they face.



Hitting the headlines



Prime Minister David Cameron met families at Coram as he launched the government's CANParent sessions.



Coram adopter with son on the BBC Politics Show



Parents who adopted through Coram on BBC One's Postcode Lottery series



Coram's Head of Adoption interviewed on the adoption process

Sharing best practice and raising awareness

A key element of Coram's work is to develop and promote best practice in support of vulnerable children, young people and their families. We do this through research, evaluation and policy development and by speaking out on the issues that matter most to children.

Coram works to keep major issues affecting children and young people, including adoption, children's rights and representation, at the top of the political agenda and in the public eye. We seek to influence policy makers to ensure children's best interests are represented in policy reform, for example, through responses to key elements of the Children's and Families Bill. We are a strategic partner to the Department of Education and help influence adoption reform as part of the Government's Adoption Implementation Group and National Adoption Recruitment Forum. Through the Children's Inter-Agency Group, we work with other lead organisations to help shape children's services.

Coram champions key issues, thanks to support from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, including:

Timely decision-making for vulnerable children

Even when it's highly likely a baby will need a permanent alternative family, they may have several changes of carer during early months when consistency is key. Coram has sought to address this by providing practice expertise to local authorities. An interim report on practice outcomes in 2012 based on interviews with families using our Concurrent Planning service was widely referenced and a guide was published in Community Care Inform. Coram made a presentation on this subject at the Conservative Party Conference in 2012.

Contact for infants and young children in care

Building on research by child psychotherapist Jenny Kenrick, Coram raised awareness of the impact of contact arrangements for vulnerable young children subject to care proceedings. Practice Notes were created for professionals and Coram's policy submissions to the Government's adoption review highlighted continuity of place, time and escort as key to achieving stability.

Listening to children (in court and in care)

Children's perspectives are often not heard as they should be in key decisions, making them feel ignored, and leading to their remaining in situations of risk. Coram addressed this through advocacy to the Government, during the Munro social work review and Family Justice Review processes, and ran a seminar for experts and young people to improve the way the family justice system hears children's perspectives.

Outreach to disadvantaged black and minority ethnic families

Effective outreach is key to enabling children's centres and safeguarding services serve those in need. Coram's work in Ealing engaged diverse families, with outreach for migrant children provided by Coram Children's Legal Centre. Creative therapies for pre-schoolers with developmental delay were particularly well received by minority ethnic parents.

Evaluation consultancy

Coram's consultancy work for other charities includes a peer learning evaluation of telephone helplines, funded by the Dulverton Trust, and evaluation of Relative Experience, a scheme supporting grandparents helping to raise their grandchildren.

Spreading the word

Media coverage about Coram's work was the highest yet, reaching 21 million people, up by 15 per cent in the last year. Coram's adoption partnership with Harrow Council was featured on BBC1's prime-time Postcode Lottery series. Coram was featured on six TV news programmes, including: BBC Breakfast, Daybreak, the Politics Show and Sky News, and made the front pages of The Times, the Guardian and the Times Education Supplement. Coram was featured 16 times on radio, helping us to tell a diverse audience about our work. Website traffic increased by 13 per cent, with 100,000 visits, and we doubled our followers on Twitter to 2,500.

Celebrating 275 years of creating better chances for children

2014 marks the 275th anniversary of the signing of the Royal Charter which led to its creation as the Foundling Hospital, the birthplace of children's social care. In a year of celebration, we will reflect on our fascinating social and cultural heritage and demonstrate the lasting difference Coram makes for children and young people.

Coram began as the Foundling Hospital, London's first home for children whose mothers were unable to care for them. These children lived and were educated at the Hospital, and later placed in employment and supported until the age of 21. The Foundling Museum, next to Coram's London campus, displays moving letters and photographs relating to the lives of the children who lived there. The Museum, which was visited by more than 45,000 people in the past year, also displays the Foundling Hospital Art Collection of eighteenth-century paintings and sculptures donated by artists.

Famous early supporters

The artist William Hogarth and the composer George Frideric Handel were both Governors of the charity. Hogarth donated paintings, encouraging many other artists to do the same and, with his wife, fostered children from the Hospital. Handel composed the Foundling Anthem and performed annual concerts of the Messiah. Charles Dickens, another famous supporter, rented a pew in the Hospital chapel, referred to the Hospital in *Oliver Twist* and created the foundling character Tatty Coram in *Little Dorrit*. In 1853 Dickens published the article *Received, a Blank Child*, the emotive title taken from the entry form for children accepted into the Hospital's care.

Tokens of love past and present

Tokens of fabric left by mothers with their children admitted to the Foundling Hospital, now in Coram's institutional archive, form the largest collection of everyday textiles surviving in Britain from the eighteenth century. As Foundling babies were given new names, the tokens helped ensure correct identification should a parent return to claim their child. The *Threads of Feeling* exhibition in 2010 displayed these along with modern day tokens made by Bangladeshi mothers who

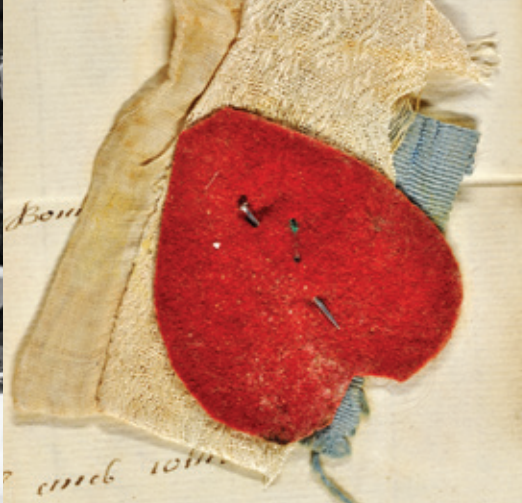
attended drop-in sessions at Coram. *Threads of Feeling* has since travelled to The Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg in the United States to be exhibited until mid 2014.

Experiences of care then and now

The fascinating personal stories of 70 people brought up in the care of the Foundling Hospital with tales of family separation, the stigma of illegitimacy and strict routine of school life can now be heard online. Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, *Foundling Voices* was part of a four-year Foundling Museum project to preserve the memories of former pupils through oral interviews. In addition, looked-after young people from Coram took part in an oral history project documenting their experiences of life in and after care in response to conversations with former Foundling Hospital pupils. A Coram special event, exploring the experiences of looked-after young people today and former pupils was hosted by Professor Sir Michael Rutter, the eminent consultant child and adolescent psychiatrist. These stories will contribute towards a legacy experiences of life in care past and present.

275th anniversary celebrations

A year of celebrations to mark Coram's historic 275 milestone will feature a series of concerts, including *City Rocks*, a high profile rock concert in April, and *Sing for Coram*, a summer choral celebration led by distinguished conductor Brian Kay. A special reception will be held at Somerset House, where the Royal Charter was signed. Through these, and a range of other events, we aim to bring together many of those who have already been part of the Coram story and reach out to many more who will help us continue Thomas Coram's legacy for generations to come.



“A seaman, a composer and a painter, and the moving story of the charity they started 270 years ago. A recipe of art and care, which still looks after kids today. Coram, Handel, Hogarth, what’s not to love?”

Grayson Perry RA, artist & 2010 Foundling Museum Hogarth Fellow



Next steps:

- Coram plans to digitise our Threads of Feeling records to extend public access of the collection
- The experiences of Foundlings at War will be featured in exhibitions marking the anniversary of WW1
- An exhibition at The Foundling Museum from October 2014, on Dr Richard Mead, court doctor to George II and medical consultant to the Foundling Hospital.



The Foundling Hospital became the nation’s first public art gallery with the display of paintings, by Hogarth, Gainsborough and others, donated to support children brought into our care

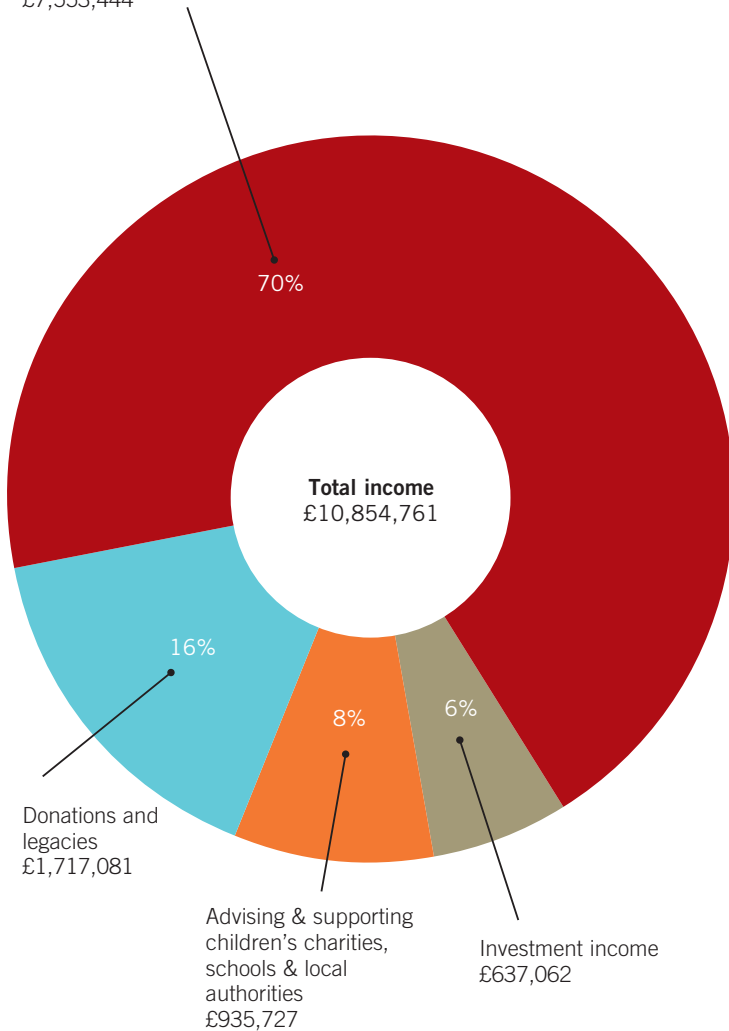


Money matters

Coram needs to raise more than £200,000 every week to continue our work. These pages show where our money comes from and how it is spent.

Summary of income

Income from government and other public authorities
£7,553,444

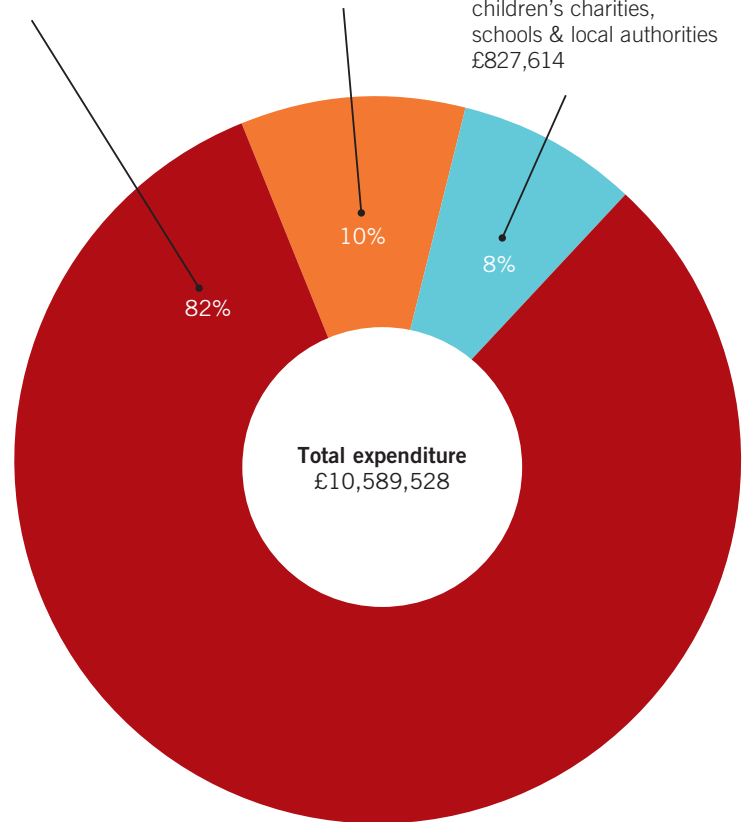


Summary of expenditure

Charitable expenditure
£8,712,659

Fundraising, governance & other costs
£1,049,255

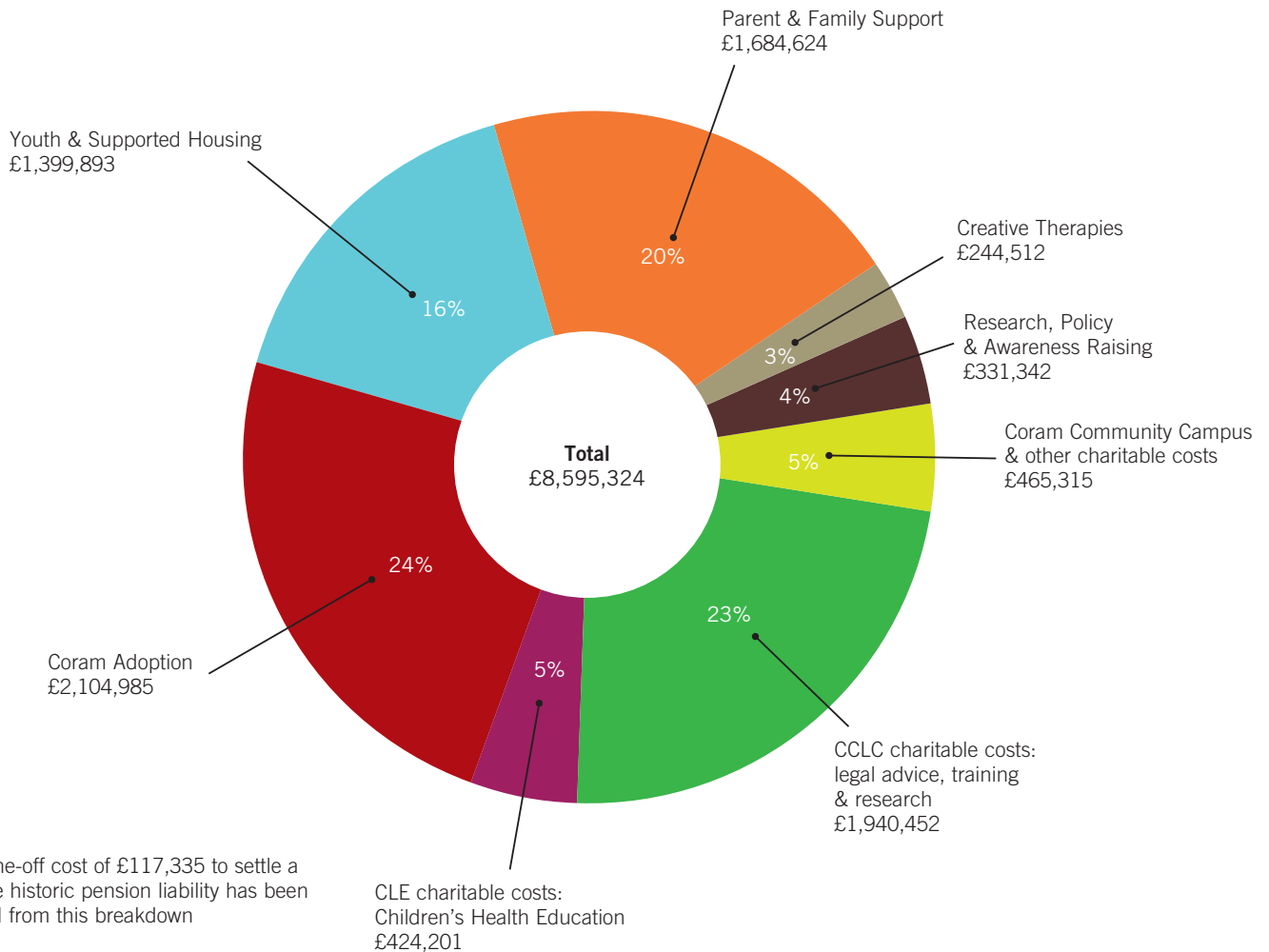
Advising and supporting children's charities, schools & local authorities
£827,614



“It’s not often you come across organisations like Coram. They are remarkable people who genuinely emotionally connect to the organisation’s core purpose and live the organisational values.”

Investors in People Assessment Report 2012

Breakdown of charitable expenditure



Working together for children

We would like to thank every one of our supporters for their gifts of funds, time and expertise which have helped make our work with children possible. Coram benefitted from the generous support of some of the UK's most influential individuals, organisations and trusts. Here we feature some of our fundraising highlights.

Lord Mayor's Appeal

Coram continued to benefit from being the lead charity of the Lord Mayor's Appeal 2011, Bear Necessities, a proud moment in Coram's history. From the spectacular Lord Mayor's Show where Coram paraded in front of half a million people, to the final celebratory concert at the Royal Festival Hall, the year included: City Rocks, the City of London's first rock concert headlined by Bryan Adams; a debate on the Future of London's Children hosted by Kate Adie, and countless fundraising events and gifts. A total of £4 million was raised for the appeal charities including Coram.

Cycling to Cannes

Our long-term partnership with CYCLE TO..., whose flagship property sector challenge CYCLE TO MIPIM covers a gruelling 1,500km from London to Cannes each March, brought together architects, investors and developers from over 60 companies to support Coram and other charities. CYCLE TO... riders have already raised more than £250,000 for Coram and we are delighted that additional rides for other sectors are being planned.

Corporate partnership growth

Income from companies has more than doubled in the past three years. Staff at Balfour Beatty, one of Coram's major partners, raised substantial funds to help find 'forever' families for children in care awaiting adoption and to provide creative therapies for vulnerable children. By demonstrating the impact such support had on children's lives, Coram also helped Balfour Beatty, and other valued supporters, to reach their own community investment targets.

Strengthening donor relationships

Our individual supporters are more important to us than ever, and we continued to encourage greater numbers to support Coram's work.

Coram's number of Charter Patrons more than doubled over the past two years. Charter Patrons, who pledge to give or raise more than £1,000 each year to our work, attended our Annual Court reception, participated in research and briefings, and celebrated with us at our annual carol concert. Several other fundraising initiatives have achieved record levels of income thanks to donations from individuals, and we continued to benefit from the generosity of those who leave gifts to Coram in their will. The Friends of Thomas Coram continued to strongly support the work of the charity with events and grants.

Going the extra mile

From running the London Marathon to kayaking the River Thames, we are grateful to each of our supporters who fundraised on our behalf. During the past year, happy couples swapped wedding presents for donations to Coram, choral societies and jazz bands performed to raise funds, and the prestigious annual Handel birthday fundraising concert celebrated the great composer's support of Coram.

Strategic partnerships to extend our reach

Coram and the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation formed a long-term partnership to help share our expertise with a wider audience to change more lives. With the Foundation's help, we are able to put forward clear proposals with the potential to influence public policy and best practice to create a 'ripple effect' to benefit children and young people everywhere. (see p27 for details). The Paul Hamlyn Foundation has been a long-standing supporter of Coram Children's Legal Centre's Migrant Children's Project, helping us offer immigration advice to vulnerable families and young people, and providing vital long-term core support.

See p36-7 for a wider list of supporters.

Famous supporters pictured opposite: Bryan Adams (centre), Grayson Perry and Pattie Boyd (middle right), Nicola Horlick and Kate Adie (bottom right).



@juliangbell

Completed day 1 of my charity
@cycle2cannes #cycle ride!
Please donate to Coram & other
chosen charities online.



“The London Kayakathon
combines two things
I’m passionate about –
kayaking and supporting
a charity that does
amazing work to support
some of society’s most
vulnerable children.”

Adrian Simpson, of ING, who kayaked
from Tower Bridge to Chiswick Bridge
and back in aid of Coram



@French_Dan

I’m back at my desk slightly stiff
but still buzzing with excitement.
I can’t remember what mile it was
I passed the Coram cheer point,
but I appreciated it!

Dan French, who ran the London Marathon
to raise funds for Coram



Looking to the future

Coram has ambitious plans to make a lasting difference: to help every child find their voice, to feel safe and, most of all, to make sure they are loved.

Coram is committed to touching the lives of a million children and families every year. In the context of a challenging economic climate, and social and legislative change, we shall use our specialist skills in social care, law and education to apply best practice and enable greater benefit for children from the organisations who support and protect them.

Creating a National Centre of Excellence

Our plans to create a National Centre of Excellence for Children on Coram's historic site are fast becoming reality. Through our Build the Love campaign, we aim not only to increase Coram's sustainability and efficiency in the long term, but to also help many thousands more children today.

Work began in early 2013 to build the first phase of our planned development, a new West Wing and education centre. From 2014, it will be Coram's new place of arrival and offer powerful learning experiences including Coram Life Education to thousands of local children, and train educators to help children nationwide to make healthier choices in life.

We are immensely grateful to Bear Necessities – Lord Mayor's Appeal 2011, the Garfield Weston Foundation, the United Children of the World Charitable Trust, the Tokens of Love Gala Dinner committees, the Beatrice Laing Trust, the Fawcett Family, the Worshipful Company of Paviers, CHK Charities Limited, and many others for making this development possible.

The coming year will see the development of the Pears Pavilion, a new home for our Centre for Creative Therapies, which is being made possible by the support of the Pears Foundation and others.

Pictured in the artist's impression opposite, it will support the growth and impact of our Creative Therapies programme, train the next generation of music and art therapists and build new partnerships to help more vulnerable children to access the therapy they need.

Our continuing work

Coram Adoption will increase the number of adopters we can support to provide loving homes for children in the care system and, through our Centre for Early Permanence, we shall work with local authorities to help to ensure children find stability as early as possible in their lives.

Our Centre for Creative Therapies will advance music and art therapy for children who struggle to communicate, enabling them to better understand their world and build relationships and increase support available for adopted children.

Coram Voice will provide advocacy for children reliant on the state or it agencies for support to ensure that no child is turned away when they need someone to help get their voice heard.

Coram Children's Legal Centre shall provide information and advice on family and education law and lead national policy development, including on behalf of migrant, refugee and trafficked children.

Coram Life Education will advance work with secondary schools to pioneer social and educational techniques to help young people (aged 11-14) develop the skills they need to make responsible choices.

Championing what matters most for children

In celebrating the 275th anniversary of the granting of the Royal Charter and Act of Parliament, we will bring together existing and new supporters as part of a modern day pledge to continue our work in helping vulnerable children. Coram will champion what matters most for children and develop further our historic campus as a National Centre of Excellence for Children.



Our supporters

We wish to thank everyone listed here and our many other supporters, including those who wish to remain anonymous.

Aedas
Aberdeen Asset Management
The Adint Charitable Trust
D.C.R. Allen Charitable Trust
Ansva
Argent
Balfour Beatty
The Batchworth Trust
BBC Children in Need
BBC Connect and Create
The Bedford Estates
Ewan Berkeley
Richard Briance
Broadgate Estates
The Cadogan Charity
Cairn Capital
The Calleva Foundation
CBRE Global Investors
The Chear Foundation
CHK Charities Limited
Comic Relief
CYCLE TO...
D&D London
Design Bridge
The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund
DTZ
Glenn Earle
Department for Education
Estates Gazette
European Union
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
The Fawcett Family
John Frieda
The Friends of Thomas Coram
J. Paul Getty Jnr Charitable Trust
Gleeds
Andrew Goldstone
The Haberdashers Company
The Paul Hamlyn Foundation
Hammerson
The Headley Trust
Geoff Heppell
Heritage Lottery Fund
The Hobson Charity
Hogarth Worldwide
Dr Carol Homden CBE
ING
Knight Frank
Lansdowne Partners
Beatrice Laing Trust
Christopher Laing Foundation
Lord Mayor's Appeal 2011 - Bear Necessities
Mace Foundation
MediaCom
Mishcon de Reya
Crispin Odey
Olswang
Old Coram Association
The Worshipful Company of Pavors
Pears Foundation
Grayson Perry CBE
PF Charitable Trust
The Presidents Club Charitable Trust
ZVM Rangoonwala Foundation UK
The Albert Reckitt Charitable Trust
Resolution, London Region
Basil Samuel Charitable Trust
Savills
Sodexo Foundation
Stanhope plc
Tesco Charity Trust
Tokens of Love gala dinner committee 2012
Tokens of Love gala dinner committee 2013
Trust for London
Unbound Philanthropy
United Children of the World Charitable Trust
URS Infrastructure & Environment UK
v
Elliott Wood
Volant Charitable Trust
Garfield Weston Foundation
Anthony and Rachel Williams Charitable Trust

pears
foundation



Mishcon de Reya

Balfour Beatty



BEAR
Necessities



CYCLETO...
A BUSY YEAR OF CHARITY



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Thank you

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