



**coram** | better chances  
for children  
since 1739

Appointment of

# President and Chair of the Board of Trustees

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**Coram champions children's rights and wellbeing, making lives better through legal support, expert advocacy, adoption services and therapeutic, educational and cultural programmes.**

# Welcome

I am delighted as Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees that you are exploring becoming President & Chair of Coram at a time of exciting development for the first and longest continuing charity for children.

Every day Coram continues to champion the rights of every child to have the very best life they can and - leading with the Coram Charter for Children - the President will play a highly significant role in enabling the organization's to fulfil the Coram key ambitions for children.

As a national centre of excellence for children, the Coram group of charities has a vision to make change happen for children in the UK and Beyond.

The Coram Board of Trustees has members from an extensive range of backgrounds, expertise and skills with an established relationship between the CEO and Executive Leadership Team. The Trustees are committed to diversity and inclusion in the workplace and in our future where everyone can belong and progress.

Being President of Coram is a unique and ambitious opportunity at a pivotal time for children growing up in our society. We seek a new President to take over from Sir David Bell, who is completing his tenure, during which time Coram has continued to diversify and extend its reach to children and families whose voices need to be heard.

Do find out more about Coram and the role of President. We look forward to hearing from you

Jenny Coles  
**Vice Chair**









# Introduction

## About Coram

Founded as The Foundling Hospital in 1793, Coram is the UK's first and longest continuing children's charity founded by Thomas Coram in London helping vulnerable children and young people since 1739.

Today, we are dynamic group of specialist organisations helping more than one million children, young people, families and professionals every year across children's rights and voice, adoption and family services, education and training.

Our vision is bold and ambitious – to be the Institute for Children, driving insight into impact, creating better chances for children child by child and changing the odds of the next generation through policy, legal and practice development.

## Work in action

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

The Coram Group helps more than one million beneficiaries each year with a combined turnover of £27m per annum.

In addition to the services we deliver we provide extensive research and specialist advice to local authorities, national and international governments.

Led by its CEO Dr Carol Homden CBE, Coram has a clear vision for the future, advancing its distinctive role at the heart of the children's sector and changing lives, laws and systems.

We aim to become, a recognised research organisation, the Institute for Children and to further regenerate our campus in central London.

We are now seeking a new President and Chair of the Board of Trustees to succeed Sir David Bell and to lead the next chapter in Coram's development.



# Our goals for children

## **A loving home**

Coram is an outstanding adoption agency providing direct support to children and carers through creative therapies, national matching and regional agency delivery. Coram Intercountry Adoption Centre is the national specialist service.

## **A Fair Chance**

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

## **A Voice That's Heard**

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

## **A Chance to Shine**

The national writing competition for children in and leaving care and the largest youth drama festival provided by the Coram Shakespeare Schools

Foundation aim to help children expand horizons and be proud of who they are.

## **Skills for Life**

Coram Life Education is the largest provider of personal, social and health education to some 3,000 primary schools, helping 600,000 children each year to develop critical thinking and wellbeing skills whilst Coram Beanstalk provides reading volunteers in schools.

## **No Matter Where**

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

## **A Society That Cares**

Coram's research and policy authority is at the heart of the vision to be recognised as the Institute for Children.

We aim to build public understanding and work with children and young people to advance their place in society with our new building opening in 2025.







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continues Thomas

the care, education

of children today.

Queen Elizabeth II Centre

and swimming



# Governance overview

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

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

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

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

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

We were delighted that from May this year Queen Camilla has become our Royal Patron celebrating the long association of the Royal Family with Coram since the granting of the Royal Charter in 1739 and Her Majesty's commitment to all our work and to the children and families we support.





Established  
as The  
Foundling  
Hospital  
in 1739  
[coram.org.uk](http://coram.org.uk)

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THOMAS CORAM





# Our Impact

Coram published its 2022/23 Impact Report, setting out where the Coram Group organisations have been supporting children and young people over the last 12 months.

The 2022/23 report sets out where we worked to deliver on seven strategic outcomes for children and young people through our range of services, including legal advice and advocacy, reading support, adoption services, and the wide range of therapeutic, educational and cultural programmes run by the Group.

The report also sets out where we have worked to bring about better practice, systems and laws for children and young people, and highlights our new partnerships with Newcastle University and the Churchill Foundation.

Looking ahead, it sets out our plans for the Coram Institute for the Future of Children, designed to turn insight into impact as a think tank dedicated to developing understanding of the evolving needs of children and young people in the world today.

Click here to view the report: [Coram Impact Report](#)

Our next impact report will be published on 26<sup>th</sup> June this year.

**In 2023-4, Coram Group worked directly with 155,000 children and families, with a further 580,000 children benefitting in schools and supported local authorities and thousands of professionals through training and specialist advice services.**



**“Coram changes lives, laws and systems to create better chances for children, now and forever.”**





# About the position

The role offers an outstanding opportunity for a distinguished and established leader with extensive networks to make positive change happen for children in the UK and beyond.

Candidates are likely to be existing chairs or non-executive directors with substantial experience of both commercial and not for profit profile organisations.

They will be empathetic and be able to build a great team culture around the Board table.

Candidates should have a deep personal interest in Coram's mission, strategy and ethos and a strong personal commitment to helping it achieve this.

The President attends five board meetings per annum in person and leads the Annual Court meeting of Governors and

summer showcase. This is alongside four committee meetings and attendance at key events. The President should be prepared to devote around one - two days a month to Coram business and be based in or within easy reach of London.

The position is unpaid and, when in person, meetings take place at Coram Campus, 41 Brunswick Square, London WC1N 1AZ.



# Duties of the role

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

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



# Person qualities

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







# The commitment

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

- Five board meetings per annum in person and leading the Annual Court meeting of Governors and summer showcase.
- Four committee meetings and attendance at key events.

The Chair should be prepared to devote between one –two days a month to Coram business and be within easy reach of London.

## **Process**

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

Appointment will be followed by the completion of a DBS check.

## **Due diligence**

Due diligence will be carried out as part of the application process, which may include searches carried out via internet search engines and any public social media accounts.



# How to Apply

**Saxton Bampfylde Ltd is acting as an employment agency advisor to Coram on this appointment.**

Candidates should apply for this role through our website at [www.saxbam.com/appointments](http://www.saxbam.com/appointments) using code **RBPOA**

Click on the 'apply' button and follow the instructions to upload a CV and cover letter and complete the online equal opportunities monitoring\* form.

The closing date for applications is noon on **Thursday 4 July**

\* The equal opportunities monitoring online form will not be shared with anyone involved in assessing your application. Please complete as part of the application process.

## **GDPR personal data notice**

*According to GDPR guidelines, we are only able to process your Sensitive Personal Data (racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, genetic data, biometric data, health, sex life, or sexual orientation) with your express consent.*

*You will be asked to complete a consent form when you apply and please do not include any Sensitive Personal Data within your CV (although this can be included in your covering letter if you wish to do so), remembering also not to include contact details for referees without their prior agreement.*





