

YOUNG PEOPLE'S GUIDE TO CORAM ADOPTION EAST MIDLANDS



Adoption & Permanent Families Service
Children and Young People's Guide to the Coram Adoption Service
August 2018

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S GUIDE TO THE CORAM ADOPTION SERVICE

Coram is an adoption agency. We find families who want to adopt and give a child the love and security that comes from belonging to a family. At Coram we also help families to give adopted children the care and understanding they need.

Some children have sad or angry or confused feelings about the past, and feel upset about all the moves in the past. Because the social workers at Coram have worked with adopted children for many years, we understand some of the reasons why children may be upset and find it hard to manage at times. Sometimes Coram social workers can help the children's mums and dads to understand some of the children's feelings. Sometimes we can help the children to make sense of their worries so that they feel better. And sometimes we can help the mums, dads and children to find better ways to practice being a new family and to have some fun times together. We can help explain to teachers at school why a child may be finding school hard, so that the school can help. Some of the children have worries about someone from the past, and need to talk to someone who can try to help them with this worry.

If you have worries about being adopted or about something from the past, Coram's social workers will listen to you. Usually we will also meet with your mum or dad and try to find a way to help you.

Coram also likes to help adopted children to meet with other adopted children, and each year we have an Annual Family Fun Day for all the families who have adopted children in the past so everyone can get together and enjoy a special adoption celebration. We also have groups for adopted children and young people. We meet 4 times each year, usually on Saturdays between 11am and 4pm. The Best Group Ever is for 7-10 years, BISKICS 11-16 years and. At the groups we have time together at our office in Shepshed where we play games, talk and plan or do crafts, depending on the age of the group. We always have lunch together and leave the office to do some kind of activity such as bowling, ice skating, swimming or football. We encourage the children and young people to make decisions about the groups, like choosing group names, the activities we do and the group rules. We also have a group for over 16's who meet once every month on a Tuesday evening. We think we can learn a lot from adopted young people so we sometimes ask group members to help us with our work, for example, by creating a booklet for new group members, or thinking about interview questions for people who want to work for Coram.

Young people who are over 18 years old can talk to a Coram social worker if they want to think about finding out more information about their birth family or possibly making contact with someone from their birth family. Often young people who want to do this will first talk to their mum or dad who can also help the young person to contact Coram.

Contact details:

If you want to contact a Coram social worker or support worker, please phone Lorraine Wallis on 01509 600306 or email Lorraine.Wallis@coram.org.uk, or Julie Hall on the same telephone number or e-mail Julie.Hall@coram.org.uk

If you feel that someone at Coram has not helped you, and that you have not been able to sort it out with them, you may want to make a complaint. To do so, please contact Hayley Howlett on 01509 600306 or email Hayley.Howlett@coram.org.uk

Complaints

If you have tried to make a complaint, and you feel that Coram has not listened and tried to help you, you can contact Alice Noon (Tel: 020 7520 0350; e-mail: alice.noon@coram.org.uk).

If you still feel that Coram has not listened and tried to help, you can contact Ofsted. Ofsted is an organisation which is responsible for seeing that adoption agencies behave in a helpful way when dealing with adopted children and young people.

You can contact Ofsted at:

Ofsted
Piccadilly Gate
Store Street
Manchester
M1 2WD

Email:	enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk
General enquiries	0300 123 1231
About concerns	0300 123 4666