



Trustee Recruitment Pack

Coram's
Fields

Supporting Local Families since 1936

May 2026

INTRODUCTION FROM CHARLOTTE ROBINSON - CHAIR

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Non-Executive Director at Coram's Fields

Founded in 1936 on the historic site of the former Foundling Hospital, Coram's Fields has a long and proud history of providing a safe haven and green oasis for children and young people in the heart of London.

Today, Coram's Fields is a unique children and young people's charity whose impact extends far beyond its seven-acre park. Alongside our much-loved green space and playgrounds, we deliver a wide range of community services supporting children and young people from birth through to early adulthood.

In recent years, we have developed an even closer working relationship with Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH), enabling us to offer targeted support for patients and their families.

Many of the families and young people we work with face significant disadvantage, including low incomes, overcrowded housing, and limited access to safe outdoor space. As pressures from the cost-of-living crisis continue, demand for our services remains high.

Recent years have reinforced just how vital Coram's Fields is to the local community. Our park and playgrounds have provided essential space for play, respite, and social connection, particularly at a time when children and young people's physical and mental wellbeing has been under growing strain. Attendance across our community services has continued to rise, underlining both the scale of local need and the trust placed in us by families.

Looking ahead, the coming years will be a critical period for Coram's Fields. We are focused on building long-term financial resilience, strengthening and expanding our services, and ensuring we can continue to meet the evolving needs of children and young people. Alongside this, we are investing in our historic estate – the majority of which is Grade II listed – balancing preservation with improvements that enhance our offer and ensure our spaces remain safe, inclusive, and inspiring for future generations.

To support these ambitions, we are seeking committed Non-Executive Directors to join our Board. You will work alongside a dedicated group of Trustees and a passionate executive team, contributing strategic insight, oversight, and ambassadorial support to help guide the charity through its next phase of development.

If you are interested in this exceptional opportunity and would like to discuss it in further detail with either our CEO, or myself, please contact Stuart Woods (CEO) at stuart@coramsfields.org.uk

Yours sincerely,
Charlotte Robinson
Chair of Trustees





ABOUT US

Coram's Fields is a pioneering charity for children and young people based in central London. We own and manage a unique seven-acre park and playground dedicated entirely to children. Providing a safe sanctuary is at the heart of all we do and, since our inception, adults have only been permitted to enter when accompanied by a child.

Our purpose is to improve the lives of children and young people through access to open space, recreational facilities, and community programmes. We support children at key points in their lives –

from Early Years services for parents and carers of children under five, through to youth programmes offering skills, confidence and routes into employment.

In recent years, we have invested in our facilities while adapting services to meet local needs. In 2024/25, we welcomed over 250,000 visitors to our park, playground and sports facilities, and our community services worked directly with just under 2,000 children and young people. Responding to local need underpins everything we do and will continue to shape our work.

OUR PARK AND GREEN SPACE

Our under 5s play area, large adventure playground and paddling pool, provide the perfect opportunity for children to explore, play and challenge themselves. As of June 2026, our play offer now includes a new £200k junior play area at the front of our site.

Alongside this, our 2 acres of sports facilities, including a basketball court and three 8 a side 3G football pitches, offer free access for local young people to some of the best sports facilities in London.

Our two large lawns provide the perfect spot for families to relax, as well as playing host to a number of community events across the year, whilst our wildlife garden offers children a unique opportunity to connect with their natural environment, developing their knowledge of local habitats including our resident bees!

For many, Coram's Fields remains the back garden they don't have.

OUR SERVICES

Our extensive portfolio of community services support thousands of children, young people, and families each year. For many, these services provide a vital lifeline – from essential respite for parents of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), to early intervention for young people affected by serious youth violence. We work with children and young people from birth through to early adulthood.

Our integrated, place-based model means we deliver our services from a single, seven-acre site,

EARLY YEARS

Our Early Years services, comprising our Nursery and Under-5s Drop-In, provide essential support to parents & carers of under 5s at a critical stage in family life. Together, they offer high-quality, affordable childcare and accessible early help, while connecting families to wider networks of advice, guidance, and community support.

Our Nursery, rated Good by Ofsted in 2024, offers one of the most distinctive childcare settings in London. Children benefit daily from our seven-acre site, with regular access to green space and growing areas that support physical development, social skills, curiosity, and learning.

The Nursery participates in the Government childcare subsidy scheme, offering up to 30 hours of funded childcare for eligible two-, three-, and four-year-olds, supporting parents into work and

enabling the building of deeper relationships across multiple teams, a more holistic understanding of the whole family, and the delivery of more coordinated support.

This unique approach, steeped in trusting relationships, has over many years, proven to be one of the key factors enabling us to deliver higher-quality, more effective interventions and better outcomes for children and young people.

You can read more about our community services below.

helping families manage financial pressures.

Our Under-5s Drop-In, open five mornings a week, delivers free, engaging activities in a welcoming environment that reduces isolation, supports development, and builds strong family connections.

Read more about our [Nursery](#), and [Under 5s](#) by clicking on the links.



PLAY SERVICE (OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB)

Our Out of School Club (OSC) provides after-school and holiday childcare for children aged 4-12. During term time, we support an average of 30 children each day, collecting from five local primary schools, and during school holidays we welcome 65-70 children daily.

The service is one of the most highly regarded play provisions in Camden. In March 2025, Ofsted praised our strong standards across almost all assessment areas, reflecting our commitment to high-quality childcare for local families.

The OSC is though much more than childcare. Many families face disadvantage and complex challenges, and our experienced Play Workers work closely with them as trusted advocates and mentors. We offer subsidised and free places for eligible low-income families, including children on Children in Need and Child Protection Plans, alongside specialist support for children with SEND.

Across term time and holidays, the OSC delivers a diverse, child-centred programme including sports, fitness, gardening, cooking, arts, and trips.

[Read more about our Out of School Club by clicking on the link](#)

SPORTS

Our community sports programme provides free, high-quality sports activities for young people aged 4-19, delivered after school and throughout the school holidays. The programme prioritises young people facing the greatest barriers to participation, using sport as a tool for inclusion and social good, while creating pathways to wider support for young people and their families.

This approach has led to the development of targeted provision for girls and young women, young people with disabilities, and those at risk of social exclusion. Activities include specialist SEND interventions in local primary schools, bespoke sessions for young people affected by homelessness, and tailored support for young refugees.

Alongside weekly sessions, the programme delivers a range of annual events, including a Young Women's Sports Day, an Annual Country Dance, and six football tournaments in partnership with London Youth. Since 2018, we have proudly hosted the Camden Youth League, engaging around 300 young people each week throughout the football season.

Developing pathways into sporting careers is integral to the programme, with volunteering, training, and work placements offered annually.

[Read more about our Community Sports Programme by clicking on the link](#)

YOUTH PROGRAMME

Delivered from our three story youth centre over five days a week, our youth programme delivers a wide range of support for young people aged 11-19 years. Alongside our core programme, the delivery of targeted support for girls and young women has led to girls making up a remarkable 35% of our cohort, whilst our youth employment programme provides vital support in preparing young people for the world of work.

In addition to this, our pioneering partnership with the North London NHS Trust has seen us deliver life changing outcomes for many young people involved in violent crime over recent years.

We have achieved this through the delivery of a trauma informed approach that brings mental health services together with conventional youth work practice.

In addition to our centre-based work, our dedicated outreach programme enables us to reach deeper into the communities around us, utilising the local knowledge of our youth workers to engage young people where they feel most comfortable - strengthening connections and pathways into our wider youth work programme.

Read more about our [Youth Programme](#) by clicking on the link

EVENTS

As the only green/open space dedicated to children and families in Central London, Coram's Fields plays a vital role as a social hub for local families. We deliver, and host, a range of events across the year to celebrate the diverse community we serve.

Our annual Play Day, delivered in partnership with play providers, neighbours Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) and other voluntary sector organisations, celebrates the importance of play in childhood development and promotes community cohesion.

Our annual fireworks display sees around 6,000 people descend on Coram's Fields for what is now the only free fireworks display in Central London - In 2025, for the first time, our fireworks and community stage performances were livestreamed directly into children's bedsides at GOSH - ensuring children in the hospital didn't miss out on one the most memorable days of the year.

We also host several events in partnership with other local organisations, including the Camden Mela, Spread A Smile's Summer Fun Day and The Place Dance Studio's Family Dance Day. Each year, our events reach just under 20,000 children and families.

FINANCES

It costs around £2.9 million to run the charity - this includes the management and maintenance of our seven-acre park, playground, Grade II listed buildings and all our community services.

Like many charities, we rely on the generous support of donors, including trusts, foundations, grant-giving bodies, the local authority, individuals, and local businesses. Alongside this, just under half of our income is generated through commercial activity, primarily from events and the hire of our sports facilities and community spaces. This diversified income mix provides a degree of financial resilience.

However, we continue to face growing financial pressures, with rising running costs, coupled with essential investment in our buildings, facilities and ageing play equipment, as well as employing a team of around 50 staff - all of which requires a substantial fundraising programme, which can be challenging in the current climate.

Over the past two years, we have delivered modest operating surpluses and built reserves equivalent to approximately seven months' expenditure.

GOVERNANCE

Coram's Fields and the Harmsworth Memorial Playground, the official name of the Charity, is registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales (#302963).

In 2014 to limit the personal liability of Trustees of the charity, we set up a company limited by guarantee (Coram's Fields Company Trustee Ltd Co. No.: 9001024). All the charity's Trustees are Directors of the Company Trustee and Coram's Fields Company Trustee Ltd is the sole Trustee of Coram's Fields and the Harmsworth Memorial Playground.

THE FUTURE

This has enabled essential capital investment across the site, including addressing long-standing issues with our historic buildings. Looking ahead, further diversification of income will be critical to long-term sustainability and continued investment for local families.

As Coram's Fields celebrates its 90th year, our park remains one of the most treasured green spaces for children, young people, and families, while our community services continue to provide a vital lifeline for some of the most marginalised in our community.

Our priority in the coming years is to deliver the best possible outcomes for young people by evolving our services to meet changing needs, increasing our reach, and strengthening our impact.

This includes developing a clear, long-term vision for the site, informed by engagement with users and stakeholders and a growing understanding of the condition and needs of our Grade II listed buildings.

[Read our most recent accounts and impact report here](#)

ROLE PROFILE

Job title: Non-Executive Director

Location: Coram's Fields, 93 Guilford Street, London, WC1N 1DN

This is a voluntary appointment. If you would like to make a difference in our world, this is a great opportunity to bring your skills, knowledge and experience to help us deliver on our mission.

Non-Executive Directors (known as Trustees) are appointed for an initial 4 year term with the opportunity to extend for a further 3 year period subject to board performance reviews.

The time commitment is c.8-10 days a year, comprising 5 Board meetings (early evening), and other strategy and committee meetings. There are always opportunities to be more involved with specific projects if desired. Reasonable expenses directly incurred in your role on official business are reimbursed.

The responsibilities of a Board Member;

The Trustees, acting together, govern the charity, safeguarding its assets and applying them as efficiently and effectively as possible to further the charity's objects as set out in its governing document.

Specific responsibilities:

- Ensure the organisation complies with its governing document and operates within all relevant legal and regulatory requirements.
- Periodically review the charity's mission and purpose to ensure it remains relevant and responsive to the needs of its beneficiaries.
- Safeguard the charity's ethos, reputation, and values.
- Work in partnership with the Executive Team to develop, agree, and review strategic goals and objectives.
- Assess whether proposed strategies are appropriate and proportionate in relation to identified risks, available resources, and anticipated benefits.
- Provide constructive support and challenge to the Executive Team, contributing specialist expertise and participating in collective Board discussion and planning.
- Monitor progress against agreed strategic objectives and review the impact of the charity's activities on its beneficiaries.
- Agree the framework and assumptions for the annual budget, approve the budget, and monitor financial performance throughout the year.
- Review and approve the charity's annual accounts, including the assessment of going concern.
- Ensure effective systems are in place for risk identification, internal controls, and the provision of timely management information



- When required, appoint and support the Chief Executive Officer and Trustees, agree performance objectives, review performance, and, in the case of the CEO, approve remuneration.
- Act as an ambassador for the charity and the Board, representing the organisation professionally and consistently at events, meetings, and through external communications.

Requirements

To carry out your duties as a Trustee you will be required to:

- Act in the best interests of the present and future beneficiaries setting aside any other interests you may have;
- Be committed to attend all Board meetings during the year
- Devote the necessary time and effort to developing a good understanding of Coram's Fields and its activities.

Trustees will be able to

- Identify with, and be motivated by, the values and objectives of Coram's Fields;
- Inspire and champion Coram's Fields mission, values and unique significance in the wider world
- Think innovatively, critically, independently and strategically, with the ability and a proven track record of translating strategy into operational plans;
- Demonstrate a healthy understanding of risk, its benefits and be prepared to take risks, to further the objectives of the charity;
- Contribute effectively within a diverse Board, and bring your own unique experience and skills to the Board;
- Command the respect of fellow Trustees and management;
- Have well developed communication skills with a constructive approach
- Demonstrate a consultative, strategic and supportive style; and
- Demonstrate Nolan's seven principles of public life, namely: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

Diversity and inclusion matter to us. Coram's Fields is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion, and welcomes applications from all sections of the community and a broad range of backgrounds. We strive for our Trustees to be representative of the communities we serve and believe that greater diversity leads to stronger governance and better outcomes for the families and children we work with.

Coram's Fields is committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of all children and young people. All applicants are subject to robust safeguarding checks and must clearly demonstrate their commitment to safeguarding. All appointments are subject to a satisfactory enhanced DBS check, and all post holders are required to register with the DBS Update Service.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for this position, please forward a copy of your CV together with a supporting statement (no more than 2 sides of A4) explaining why you would like to take on the role and the specific skills that you would bring.

It would be helpful to provide names, organisations and contact details of two referees, relevant to this role, although references will only be taken once your express permission has been granted.

We would also be grateful if you could let us know if you will require any special provision as a result of any disability or access needs, should you be invited for interview.

Finally, please ensure that you have included a mobile number, as well as any dates when you will not be available for interview.

All applications should be returned to:

Loura Handovsky, our Office Assistant by 9am on 13th July 2026.

Applications are only accepted by e-mail and should be submitted to:

recruitment@coramsfields.org.uk

Please note: We receive many applications for Trustee roles and can't respond to all applications personally. Should you not hear from us within a month of the application deadline, please consider your application to have been unsuccessful.

