

The Coroners' Courts
Support Service

Here for you

National Expansion Plan

2020-2023

Welcome to the Coroners' Courts Support Service (CCSS)

and thank you for taking the time to read about us.

Many in the justice system talk about bereaved families being at the heart of the Inquest process but what does this actually mean? – you might be forgiven for thinking this means that bereaved families are treated fairly and justly and given the same access to justice that other interested persons receive when they attend an Inquest at the Coroner's Court.

However, if you have ever attended an Inquest as a bereaved family member you might also be forgiven in thinking that the hospital trust, the prison or police service are at the heart of the Inquest process. After all, they are legally represented as a matter of course and will be supported by a legal team throughout. Whereas, the family often attend alone with little or no understanding of what to expect, what the purpose of an Inquest is and what will happen on the day.

The staff and volunteers of the CCSS are committed to righting this injustice and we truly believe and demonstrate in our practice and support, that the bereaved families are put at the heart of the Inquest process. We also believe that anyone attending an Inquest anywhere within England and Wales should be entitled to be offered the same support from the CCSS and that this is not dependent on your postcode. That is unjustifiable.

We are the only charity whose sole reason for being is to offer emotional and practical support to bereaved families, witnesses and others when they attend an Inquest. Yet despite the evidence of the overwhelming benefits, we receive no central government funding.

We would really love you to help us rectify this imbalance and give those attending the respect, dignity and access to justice they so rightly deserve.

Thank you.



Beverley Radcliffe
Director

How we help

The Coroners' Courts Support Service (CCSS) is an independent charity founded in 2003. Trained volunteers offer free, confidential, emotional support and practical help to bereaved families, witnesses and others attending an Inquest at some of the Coroners' Courts in England where we have a presence. We can signpost people to other appropriate organisations and we can give support and information via our Telephone Helpline.

National Helpline

Our Helpline team will offer emotional support and practical information about the Inquest process.

Our lines are open **Monday to Friday** between **09.00 – 19.00** and **Saturday** between **09.00 – 14.00**.

Call us on **0300 111 2141**, or email us at: helpline@ccss.org.uk.



Telephone



Live Chat



Website



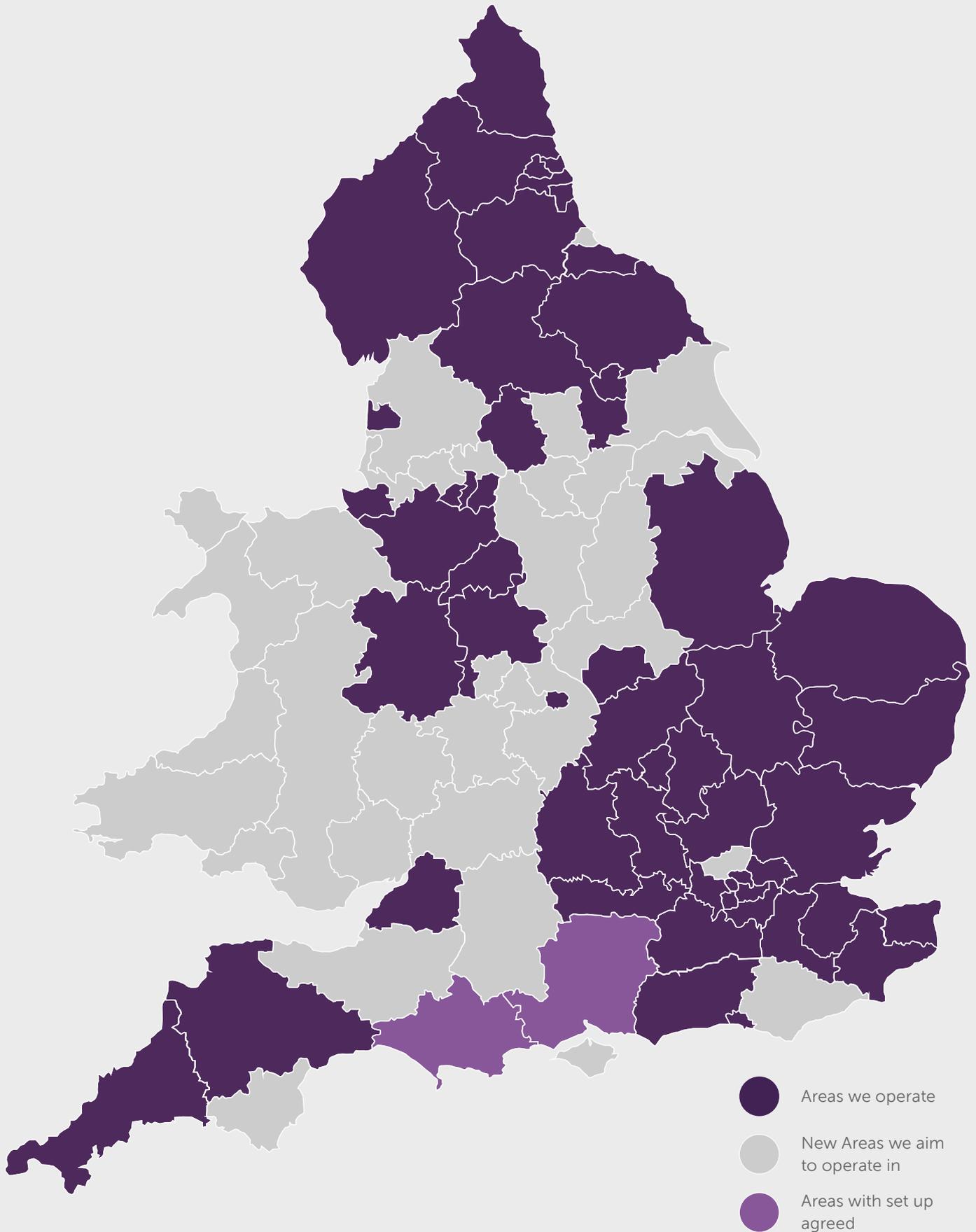
Court

Our goal is...

To expand the service to **all** of the **Coroners Courts** within **England and Wales**, to ensure **bereaved families, witnesses and others** have **access** to the **Service wherever** they **attend an Inquest**.

In order to achieve our goal we will require: **13 Coordinators**, over a **1,000 Volunteers**, and support from Coroners in the areas where we don't operate.

Where we operate



**We need your financial
support to achieve our
national expansion**

We are calling on corporate **sponsors, benefactors, individual & legacy donations,** and **public bodies** to support us financially.

We welcome the support of **trusts, foundations** and other **charitable bodies.**

We welcome the support of **organisations** and **individuals who fundraise** on our behalf.

We have a **designated staff member** who is able to assist you with your **fund raising activities.** Please see **our website** for further details.

To make donations visit:

www.coronerscourtsupportservice.org.uk/donate/

"The CCSS is an absolutely essential part of the Coronial service. I would not want to offer a service to the public without the invaluable input of our volunteers. Attending a Coroner's Court is a distressing and daunting experience for most families. In my Court as soon as families arrive at the Court door, they are greeted by a warm, friendly and professional face of a CCSS volunteer."

Testimonial from a Senior Coroner

The Coroners' Courts Support Service

T: +44 (0)300 111 2140

E: info@ccsupport.org.uk

coronerscourtssupportservice.org.uk

