**Application form to be a Buddy**

Dear midwife

Thank you very much for offering to be part of our buddy scheme. The scheme has been set up to support midwives applying for the two RCM-funding awards: The Wellbeing of Women Entry level Research Scholarship and the Iolanthe Trust Jean Davies award.

As we are asking you to give your time without payment, we would like to emphasise that you only need to commit to the time you have available. There is no minimum number of hours that we are asking you to give. However, what would be helpful is for you to be able to support a prospective applicant through their application. Please note, we are not expecting you to provide any type of supervisory role if the applicant is successful with their funding application. We will make this clear to the applicants.

Please would you complete the following:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Job/role |  |
| Email address to share with your participant |  |
| RCM membership number |  |
| Which award were you awarded? |  |
| Year of award |  |
| Area/s of interest |  |
| How much time could you commit each month? (in hours) |  |
| Any other information |  |

The RCM will act as a conduit between the applicants and the buddies, so you will not be inundated with requests. The applicants do not know who has volunteered to be a buddy. We will upload your details to our Buddy research application support iLearn module and send you a link. When applications for support are received, we will post these for all buddies to see on the discussion board.  You will get notifications once you are registered on the platform. We ask all buddies to review the details of applicants and decide whether they wish to support them, and then amongst yourselves who is going to provide support. Once a decision has been made the RCM research team will put the relevant buddy in email contact with their applicant.

 The discussion board will enable the buddies to network and discuss topics and ask questions. The research team will be on hand to support you.

 A member of the RCM research team will contact you via email each month to ask about your buddying experiences, and to collect information on how much time has been provided by you during the month.

 Please could you sign to state that you understand the following:

1. That all buddies who support the scheme will be visible to each other within the bespoke RCM iLearn module
2. That you consent for the email address you provide being shared with an applicant that you have agreed to support
3. That there is no payment for the time that you give to this scheme
4. The role of buddy does not equate to formal academic supervision for an applicant

Name         Date

Please return this form to: [research@rcm.org.uk](mailto:research@rcm.org.uk)

Thank you for your interest and support