

Core Document

Midwife Leaders' Executive Sponsorship Programme – Information for Executive Sponsors

Revised 2025

Introduction

The Midwife Leaders' Executive Sponsorship Programme provides a unique opportunity for senior healthcare leaders to support the development of midwifery leadership. Through this Programme, executive sponsors mentor, advocate for and guide emerging midwife leaders, strengthening the future of midwifery leadership and supporting succession planning for organisations.

Role of an Executive Sponsor

As an executive sponsor, you will:

- Provide strategic guidance and mentorship to a sponsee.
- Facilitate networking and exposure to high-level professional environments.
- Offer professional insights into leadership approaches and the maternal health agenda, particularly into areas of identified growth for the sponsee
- Commit to a 24-month engagement with regular meetings and check-ins.

Who Can Apply?

Ideal candidates for executive sponsorship are:

- Senior leaders at an executive or ministerial level working in midwifery or maternal healthcare
- Individuals with experience in leadership, mentorship, and advocacy.
- Individuals committed to supporting midwifery leadership development.
- Individuals willing to dedicate time for bi-monthly meetings with their sponsee and twice annual programme check-ins.

Benefits of Being an Executive Sponsor

- **Leadership Development:** Enhance your mentorship, coaching, and advocacy skills.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Engage with emerging midwifery leaders
- **Organisational Impact:** Contribute to strengthening midwifery leadership within your own organisation and beyond
- **Reciprocal Learning:** Gain fresh perspectives and insights from emerging midwife leaders.
- **Recognition:** Be acknowledged for your contributions to professional development and midwifery advancement.
- **Strengthen the maternal health landscape:** Ensuring improved experiences for midwives and safer outcomes for women and babies.

Programme Components

1. **Selection & Matching:** Executive sponsors will be paired with a midwife leader aligned to your joint expertise, interests, and professional development goals.
2. **Goal Setting & Development Planning:** Sponsors and midwife leaders will collaboratively establish career development goals.
3. **Regular Meetings & Check-ins:** Bi- Monthly one-on-one meetings and twice yearly programme check-ins.
4. **Evaluation & Feedback:** Mid and end-point evaluations to track progress and the personal impact of the programme.

Application Process

1. Complete the self-referral form online. This will include uploading a recent short biography, a recent copy of your CV, and outlining your current areas of expertise and interest.
2. The ICM will review all applications and, where suitable, match you with sponsee in your country.
3. If you have been approached by a midwife and have agreed in principle to act as their executive sponsor, please include their details in your application form and your preferences will be considered in the review process.
4. We will have a launch event for all participants of the programme on Friday, 06 March 2026.

You can apply through this link: <https://zfrmz.eu/Nqx2zsjZJfXOK83gqHcE>

Key Dates

- **Application Deadline:** 19 January 2026
- **Programme Commencement:** 6 March 2026
- **Programme Conclusion:** March 2028

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