**Education and research conference 2022:**

**Ensuring every voice is heard:**

**promoting inclusivity in education, research and midwifery care**

**23 -24 March 2022,**

**Call for abstracts: deadline for submission**

**12pm 16 January 2022**

This exciting annual conference is aimed at all those involved or interested in midwifery education and research. We encourage submissions that support the overall theme of promoting inclusivity in research and education.

**Education key themes**

We are interested to hear from educators and students who have led work on developing the following in educational programmes:

* **Widening access to midwifery education**:

For example,for MSWs, care experienced people, those without the traditional formal academic qualifications, representation of local communities in the student midwife population; supporting students with disabilities.

* **Improving accessibility of midwifery education:**

For example, flexible approaches and part-time courses; return to practice and shortened programmes.

* **Addressing inequalities**:

For example, ensuring that students have access to learning resources and materials that reflect different ethnicities; providing student midwives with anti-racist education; educating students to better support women and people with disabilities or from the LGBTQI+ communities.

* **Supporting the mental health and wellbeing of educators and students**

For example, how you have supported staff and students to cope with the huge challenges presented by the pandemic.

We are also keen to hear from educators and students who have some positive work to share about:

* How to meet the challenges of the expansion of student midwife numbers to ensure the continued quality of education;
* Adapting midwifery education to use digital technologies positively – including tackling digital poverty and supporting IT literacy among students;
* Supporting midwives in practice to support students effectively on the new future midwife standards programmes

**Research key themes**

We are interested to hear from researchers who have undertaken research in the following areas:

* How to use inclusive methods in designing and undertaking research studies. How to include service users and seldom heard voices in setting research priorities, questions and in undertaking research. Using ‘by and for’ methodologies.
* Improving the experience and outcomes of maternity service users of colour, disabled women and people, LGBTQI+ women and people; pregnant women involved with the criminal justice system; women experiencing homelessness or domestic abuse; women survivors of sexual violence; women with substance misuse problems; women with mental illness and mental health problems.
* Supporting the mental health and wellbeing of midwives, maternity staff, student midwives and educators.

**Why should I submit an abstract?**

• To disseminate and profile your work

• To enhance research in midwifery

* To inform your peers about positive, innovative approaches to improve midwifery education
	+ To share learning about inclusive approaches to education
	+ To promote the translation of research into education and practice
	+ To get support feedback/critique from your peers
	+ To network with others who are interested in the same topic area

We invite you to submit an abstract of **no more than 300 words** (in English) for consideration as

* oral presentation
* poster presentation
* pre-recorded 3 minute ‘elevator pitch’.

You may select to be considered for a specific presentation type or a selection and this must be specified on the abstract submission form. We ask that all abstracts, presentations and posters

**Your abstract must specify the aims of your innovation, project, research, your research processes or methodology, the main outcomes/results obtained and the main conclusions. Please identify if you required and received ethical approval.**

All abstracts will be reviewed by our judging panel, who will be looking to accept submissions that display high levels of innovation, relevance to current and/or best practice and provide high-quality research/evidence or practice.

We are also asking those who submit abstracts to identify their ethnicity and any other protected characteristic, so that we can include this as one element of the judging criteria, to ensure that we hear from speakers from a range of backgrounds and experiences at the conference.

**All successful abstracts will be published in a 2022 RCM education and research conference supplement and authors will be invited to submit a short paper for publication in the MIDIRS Digest RCM education and research conference edition.**

Successful submissions will be notified by 18 February 2022.

**Send your abstract to** **events@rcm.org.uk**

**We highly recommend booking your place at the conference when you submit your abstract to avoid disappointment.**