**Trainee Buddy Group Role**

**Terms of Reference**

**School of Applied Psychology UCC**

**Doctor of Clinical Psychology UCC**

The Trainee Buddy Groups are a new PPD initiative commencing in September 2024.

A Trainee Buddy Group will consist of 4-6 trainees, with 1-2 trainees from each year group represented in each group.

**Roles & Responsibilities of Trainee Buddy Groups**

* To meet informally and provide a welcome, support, suggestions and information for buddy group trainees.
* To be mindful of different stages of training
* To be kind, helpful, considerate and responsible as a Buddy.
* To signpost to other forms of support if needed, such as the Course Team, Course Tutor, HSE Line Manager, or University Supports
* For Year 2 and Year 3 trainees to have an opportunity to begin the experience of peer supporting other colleagues with less experience on training.
* If a buddy is concerned about a colleague in their buddy group, this can and should be relayed to the course team.

**What is outside the remit of the Buddy Groups:**

* Provision of substantial pastoral care for a buddy colleague. If a buddy is concerned about another trainee colleague, this should be relayed to the course team.

**Trainee Buddy Group Initial Meeting**

* The Course Team will facilitate the initial meeting of the trainee buddy groups. This will likely be on a teaching day early in the new semester when all three year groups are in UCC.
* At the first meeting, each Trainee Buddy group will meet.
* Each Buddy Group can agree their own further contact arrangements (e.g. further meeting in person or sharing of contact details).
* Subsequent contact and meetings of the Buddy’s group is at the discretion and agreement of each buddy group.
* The forum of communication for any subsequent Buddy Group meeting (e.g. in person Buddy Group Meetings, emails, whatsapp groups etc) needs to be agreed while being mindful to be respectful of each other’s time commitments.

Any issues arising should be flagged with Fiadhnait O’Keeffe (fokeeffe@ucc.ie) or any member of the Course Team.