**Job Description for Breastfeeding Peer Supporter**

**Background and Purpose of the Post**

The Breastfeeding Network (BfN) is an established commissioned project in Islington providing a universal breastfeeding peer support service in Whittington and UCLH hospitals, at drop-in groups across the borough and via telephone support and home visits.

Working closely with local stakeholders, peer supporter/s will provide breastfeeding peer support to mums on the postnatal ward and in the community in Islington.

# *Main duties and responsibilities*

* provide mothers with information about local breastfeeding support services and BfN national support (National Breastfeeding Helpline and BfN website)
* provide 1-1 peer support to mothers in the hospital, by telephone and at home visits (and other areas such as covering drop-in sessions where agreed)
* promote the breastfeeding groups and distribute relevant leaflets
* increase public awareness of the breastfeeding support available
* keep accurate and up to date records in line with BfN Information Governance policy and BfN Code of Conduct
* provide the required data in order to enable evaluation of the service in accordance with BfN’s IG Policy and local processes
* work within the BfN’s code of conduct
* work within the Baby Friendly Initiative remit
* attend team meetings as required
* assist with the organisation of special events to promote breastfeeding awareness e.g. National Breastfeeding Week
* seek supervision from a BfN Supervisor in accordance with BfN’s Code of Conduct and Guidance Documents
* maintain up to date knowledge of BfN’s policies
* undertake training as required to fulfil the requirements of this role
* participate in regular 1 to 1 meetings (including annual performance reviews if relevant) with the Service Coordinator

# Breastfeeding Peer Supporter Person Specification

Please refer to this document carefully when completing your application form and preparing for your interview. You must demonstrate how you meet the criteria on your application form.

| **Requirements** | **Essential** | **Desirable** |
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| **Qualifications**  Accredited BfN ‘Helper’ with ongoing supervision/reflective sessions  Breastfeeding ‘Supporter’ Registration with the BfN or willing to work towards this  Experience of working as a peer supporter offering breastfeeding support to mothers  Evidence of continued professional development since qualification | **✓**  **✓**  **✓** | **✓** |
| **Experience and Knowledge**  Experience of supporting mothers face to face with breastfeeding  Experience of working in a health or community setting in paid or volunteer capacity  Experience of working with diverse ethnic and social groups  Knowledge of importance and application of the BfN Code of Conduct  Knowledge of the BfN Equality and Diversity Policy | **✓**  **✓**  **✓**  **✓**  **✓** |  |
| **Skills and abilities**  Ability to speak and write fluently in English  Ability to provide information and support to mothers in a non-judgemental fashion.  Ability to provide an effective ‘hands off’ approach when helping mothers with positioning and attachment  Ability to organise and manage work independently  Ability to work effectively as part of a team  Excellent interpersonal and communication skills  Ability to work with people from different cultures sensitively  Ability to keep the confidentiality of families  IT skills including Word, Excel, email and internet  Ability to maintain records  Awareness and commitment to equal opportunities | **✓**  **✓**  **✓**  **✓**  **✓**  **✓**  **✓**  **✓**  **✓**  **✓**  **✓** |  |