**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** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **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 mothersEvidence 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 capacityExperience of working with diverse ethnic and social groupsKnowledge of importance and application of the BfN Code of ConductKnowledge of the BfN Equality and Diversity Policy | **✓****✓****✓****✓****✓** |  |
| **Skills and abilities**Ability to speak and write fluently in EnglishAbility 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 attachmentAbility to organise and manage work independentlyAbility to work effectively as part of a teamExcellent interpersonal and communication skillsAbility to work with people from different cultures sensitivelyAbility to keep the confidentiality of familiesIT skills including Word, Excel, email and internetAbility to maintain recordsAwareness and commitment to equal opportunities | **✓** **✓** **✓****✓****✓****✓****✓****✓****✓****✓****✓** |  |