**Job Description for Breastfeeding Peer Supporter**

**Background and Purpose of the Post**

The Breastfeeding Network (BfN) has been commissioned by Haringey council to provide the Haringey breastfeeding peer support service offering mother-to-mother breastfeeding support in local hospitals and in the community.

Working closely with local stakeholders, peer supporters will provide a universal peer support service supporting pregnant women and mothers across the borough.

Breastfeeding Peer Supporters will provide face to face support via breastfeeding groups and in the Whittington and North Middlesex hospitals throughout the week. There may be ad hoc requirements to attend home visits along with health professionals.

# *Main duties and responsibilities*

* Provide Haringey 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 at the breastfeeding groups, working within your boundaries as a peer supporter.
* Provide 1-1 peer support to mothers on the postnatal ward, working within your boundaries as a peer supporter.
* Provide occasional cover for other breastfeeding support groups and in the hospital to ensure consistent delivery of the peer support service
* Promote the breastfeeding groups, distribute relevant leaflets and increase public awareness of support available.
* Help to deliver antenatal workshops in Haringey by providing information about breastfeeding and explaining what support is available.
* Be prepared to have newly qualifying peer supporters shadow you where necessary.
* Keep accurate data records 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 and information governance procedures.
* Liaise with other project staff with regard to the updating of hospital processes and community support details
* 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 the training required for peer supporter to fulfil the requirements of this role
* Participate in regular 1 to 1 meetings (including annual performance reviews if relevant) with the Project Coordinator
* Keep up to date with personal administration including timesheets, leave forms and shift forward planning schedules.

# 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 peer supporter with ongoing supervision/reflective sessions | Yes |  |
| Breastfeeding Supporter Registration with the BfN or currently in training to become a Breastfeeding Supporter |  | Yes |
| Experience of working as a peer supporter offering breastfeeding support to mothers | Yes |  |
| Show evidence of continued professional development since qualification |  | Yes |
| **Experience and Knowledge**  Experience of supporting mothers face to face with breastfeeding | Yes |  |
| Experience of working in a health or community setting in paid or volunteer capacity | Yes |  |
| Experience of working with diverse ethnic and social groups |  | Yes |
| Knowledge of importance and application of the BfN Code of Conduct | Yes |  |
| Knowledge of the BfN Equality and Diversity Policy |  | Yes |

| **Requirements** | **Essential** | **Desirable** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Skills and abilities**  Ability to speak and write fluently in English | Yes |  |
| Ability to provide information and support to mothers in a non-judgemental fashion. | Yes |  |
| Ability to provide an effective ‘hands off’ approach when helping mothers with positioning and attachment | Yes |  |
| Ability to organise and manage work and personal administration independently | Yes |  |
| Ability to work effectively as part of a team | Yes |  |
| Excellent interpersonal and communication skills | Yes |  |
| Ability to work with people from different cultures sensitively | Yes |  |
| Ability to keep the confidentiality of the mothers and their families | Yes |  |
| IT skills including Word, Excel, email and internet use | Yes |  |
| Ability to maintain records and write reports | Yes |  |
| Awareness and commitment to equal opportunities | Yes |  |