

The Breastfeeding Network
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www.breastfeedingnetwork.org.uk

Biographies of Directors Standing for Election

Sukie Woodhouse

My relationship with BfN began after the birth of my first child, Mia. I started going to a local weekly drop-in and found the Supporters there to be both welcoming and accepting. Without their support and cheerful empowerment I would have struggled to continue. It seemed a natural next step to train as a Helper, and then whilst breastfeeding my second child, Misty to train as a Supporter. I have a background as a secondary school Teacher and drew on this experience to subsequently train as a Tutor and Supervisor.

I am now tutoring and supervising in the Greater Manchester area and have been with BfN for nine years.

I was asked to join the Directors a couple of years ago and was inspired by the challenge of looking at our organisation in a more strategic way. I have enjoyed volunteering in this capacity and feel I have energy and lots of ideas to explore taking us forward.

I would like to stand for re-election, as it has taken me this long to get to grips with the role of Director and to start making a difference. I hope to build on my time volunteering for BfN and my experience and knowledge of working with the Directors to take the Breastfeeding Network, under our new dynamic leadership, into an exciting new phase, underpinned by my fundamental belief in our vision and charitable objectives.

Maddie Lowe

I came to the BfN following my own experiences breastfeeding my son Barney who is now 2 years old (how time flies!). I received an enormous amount of wonderful support from the BfN without which I am certain we wouldn't have succeeded. I am immensely grateful for this support, which has ultimately changed the course of both our lives. I feel passionately that women need and deserve support when breastfeeding their children and hope that I can be a part of providing that. The ethos and independence of the BfN set it apart, and make it an inspirational organisation that I would be honoured to be a part of.

I am a practicing GP and live and work just outside Oxford. I love my job and patients, finding it both rewarding and immensely challenging. Part of the challenge in general practice is working out how to provide excellent healthcare to large populations (with ever decreasing pots of money). This is more and more falling into the hands of GP's and I take this responsibility seriously. It is a wonderful opportunity to shape and develop the healthcare system that I am proud to be a part of. During my medical training I worked in a rural hospital in Malawi and learnt a great deal about the provision of limited resources whilst there. It was an incredibly humbling experience and one that still influences both my medical practice and personal life today.

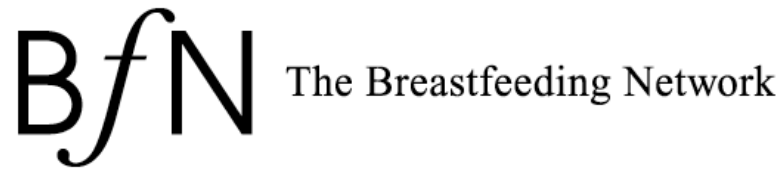
I hope that I can use this knowledge and experience to aid the Board of Directors as it steers the BfN through this exciting time in its history and would feel honoured to be elected to the Board of Directors.

Wendy Barber

I am a Solicitor with 20 years legal experience, in both the public and private sectors. I've spent most of my career in Scotland, but I've also worked for a year in the South Pacific with Voluntary Service Overseas, and for 2 years in New Zealand with a commercial law firm.

I now live just outside Edinburgh and work part-time for a local council. I have 3 boys, aged 6, 4 and 1, who have curtailed my wanderlust, but taken me on a whole new adventure.

I don't have any prior involvement with BfN but I'm passionate about the benefits of breastfeeding, committed to volunteering, and I like a challenge! I hope my pragmatic approach and experience in contracts, procurement and data protection will be of real use to the BfN Board.



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Debbie Lawrence

I came to the BfN after I had breastfed my two children. The BfN doesn't have a large presence in the North East but I was lucky to be supported on my journey by a fantastic group of women who ran a local support group. My initial peer supporter training was with the local sure start centre but I have subsequently completed the BfNs Helpers course.

This time last year I attended my first AGM, little did I realise the impact it would have on me. I was empowered by the stories of Sandwell and Fleetwood but was blown away by Cheryl Smith and her tenacity that led to the "Where Breastfeeding is always welcome" signage. I was aware of the vacancy for Treasurer prior to the AGM but had dismissed it due to a lack confidence in the skills I had acquired prior to motherhood, as a qualified Accountant, however by the time I was on the train heading home I had convinced myself I needed to apply.

I would like to stand for re-election as I have only been in role for a little over 8 months. During this time I have found my feet as a Director and grasped the financial challenges that the BfN faces. I feel I have established a sound knowledge base from which I can utilize my financial experience to assist the Senior Management team and my fellow Directors with the opportunities and challenges facing the BfN.

Ann Kerr

Ann Kerr has a background as a General and Sick children nurse with obstetric certificate, and has worked in health promotion for over 20 years. She is currently a senior manager in the NHS and has been involved with breastfeeding locally and nationally.