

Job Code: _____

Job Description: Peer Supporter (Southampton – maternity leave cover)

Background of post

The Breastfeeding Network is commissioned by Southampton City Council, Public Health, to deliver a universal breastfeeding peer support service across the area. This includes delivery of training, supervision and breastfeeding peer support in the community as well as implementing a scheme to welcome and support breastfeeding in public.

Paid roles will provide breastfeeding support at 3 community groups, located in the East, West and one to be set-up in the Central locality.

The 2 current group locations and times to be covered are:

Cutbush Childrens Centre, Townhill Park (Mondays 1pm to 2:30pm)

The Ashby Centre, Shirley (09:30am to 11:15am)

Main duties

- Provide Southampton 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 various settings including community groups and 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.
- 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 Information Governance Policy and local processes.
- Work within the BfN's Code of Conduct and Information Governance procedures, seeking supervision from a BfN Supervisor when needed.
- 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
- 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 Service Manager.
- Keep up to date with personal administration including timesheets, leave forms and shift forward planning schedules.

To speak to a Breastfeeding Supporter call the National Breastfeeding Helpline on 0300 100 0210

Person Specification: Peer Supporter (Southampton)

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.

Qualifications	Essential	Desirable
Level 2 accredited peer support training and completed transferring in to BfN process by Friday 22 nd July	✓	
Willing to undertake BfN Level 3 'Supporter' or in the process of working towards this		✓
Evidence of continued professional development since qualification		✓

Experience and Knowledge	Essential	Desirable
Experience of supporting mothers face to face with breastfeeding	✓	
Experience of working or volunteering in a health setting		✓
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	Essential	Desirable
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 follow established processes and 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 the families	✓	
Basic IT skills including Word, Excel, email and internet use	✓	
Ability to maintain records and write reports	✓	
Awareness and commitment to equal opportunities	✓	