Job Description:

Breastfeeding Peer Supporter (Lewisham)

**Background of post:**

Breastfeeding Peer supporters provide infant feeding support to families in the hospitals and community. We are looking for passionate and motivated peer supporters to cover the postnatal wards (University Hospital Lewisham) and in the community offering home visits or 1-1 appointments. The post holder will work independently, working closely with local health team and other stakeholder, with support by the local Service Manager and Deputy Coordinator.

The Breastfeeding Network has been commissioned through the London Borough of Lewisham and the Royal Borough of Greenwich to set-up and develop a new breastfeeding peer support service across both boroughs working closely with Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust Maternity Service, Health visiting teams and Family Hubs partners.

**Main duties**

* Provide 1-1 and group peer support on the postnatal ward and in the community, working within your boundaries as a peer supporter.
* Provide occasional cover for other community and Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Maternity hospital activities where required, to ensure consistent delivery of the peer support service.
* Promote the BfN service and local breastfeeding groups, distribute relevant leaflets and increase public awareness of support available.
* Provide local mothers and breastfeeding parents with information about local breastfeeding support services and BfN national support (National breastfeeding Helpline and BfN website).
* Signpost to other services, as needed (such as specialist infant feeding team and health visitors)
* Share information, case studies and feedback with the team and partners as necessary to provide continuity of care and to support the service delivery
* Follow local service policy and processes at all times such as safe lone working practice
* Help to deliver occasional antenatal sessions, by providing information about breastfeeding and explaining what support is available.
* Contribute to special events to promote breastfeeding awareness e.g. National Breastfeeding Week
* Be prepared to have newly qualifying peer supporters shadow you where necessary.
* Keep and provide 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; giving feedback on highlights and challenges to strengthen the service and sharing ideas to support team well-being.
* Maintain up to date knowledge of BfN’s policies
* Undertake the training required for peer supporter to fulfil the requirements of this role and in order to remain BfN registered.
* 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.

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.**

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| **Qualifications** | **Essential** | **Desirable** |
| Level 2 breastfeeding training or equivalent and willing to become a BfN registered member (transferring in will be provided at no cost)  Accredited BfN ‘Helper’ or ‘Supporter’ or in the process of working towards this  Evidence of continued professional development since qualification | X | X  X |

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| **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 (see BfN website)  Knowledge of the BfN Equality and Diversity Policy (see BfN website) | X  X | X    X  X |

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| **Skills and Abilities** | **Essential** | **Desirable** |
| Ability to speak and write fluently in English  Ability to speak fluently in another language  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 | X  X  X  X  X  X  X  X  X  X  X | X |