Job Description:

Weekend Breastfeeding Peer Supporter (Lewisham)

**Background of post:**

The Breastfeeding Network has been commissioned through the London Borough of Lewisham to set-up and develop a breastfeeding peer support service across borough working closely with Lewisham NHS Trust Maternity Service, Health Visiting Teams and Family Hubs partners.

As a well - established service in Lewisham, we would like to expand our support. We are looking for passionate and motivated peer supporters to offer breastfeeding support over the weekend to families on the postnatal ward of the Lewisham Hospital as well as in Community if necessary.

The post holder will work independently, supported the hospital team at the weekends. We are looking for someone who can work on Saturday, Sunday and evenings. We would consider employing one individual.

**Main duties**

* Provide bedside support for families on the maternity wards of Lewisham Hospital, who have initiated breastfeeding or wish to
* Listen to parent’s concerns and answer questions about breastfeeding
* 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) and encourage parents to go to their local breastfeeding groups once they’ve left hospital
* Follow local service policy and processes at all times such as safe lone working practice
* 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:

What we are looking for

**The following criteria will be used to help us assess candidates for this role.**

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| **Essential** |
| * Level 2 accredited Helper - peer support training with The Breastfeeding Network (BfN) & have had at least minimum supervision required from your named supervisor. Or equivalent training and prepared to transfer into BfN
* Experience of supporting breastfeeding face to face with parent
* Experience of working in a health or community setting in paid or volunteer capacity
* Knowledge of importance and application of the BfN Code of Conduct
* Knowledge of the BfN Equality and Diversity Policy
* Ability to speak and write fluently in English
* Ability to provide information and support to parents 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, organise and manage 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 the parent and their families
* Good IT skills including Word, Excel, email and internet use
* Ability to maintain electronic records and write up notes electronically
* Awareness and commitment to equal opportunities
* Ability to work well with a range of health care professionals
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| **Desirable** |
| * Experience of working with diverse ethnic and social groups
* Experience of volunteering at Princess Anne Hospital with Breastfeeding Network
* Level 3 accredited Breastfeeding Supporter Registration with the BfN or be currently in training to become a Breastfeeding Supporter, or be prepared to sign up to the next Breastfeeding Supporter training course
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