Job Description:

Breastfeeding Peer Supporter (Lambeth)

**Background of post:**

The Breastfeeding Network has been commissioned by the London Borough of Lambeth to provide breastfeeding peer support to Lambeth families.

We are looking for a passionate and motivated peer supporter to join an established Peer Support team to offer infant feeding support in the community: leading drop-in groups, providing home visits or 1-1 appointments and remote support and signposting families as necessary to local Early Years support and Family Hub services.

The post holder will be a team player as well as be able to work independently, liaising closely with local health teams, key partners and stakeholders.

**Main duties**

* Provide 1-1 and group peer support antenatal and postnatal support in the community, working within your boundaries as a peer supporter.
* Provide occasional cover for other community breastfeeding 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 families 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 and BfN policy and processes at all times such as safe lone working practice
* Contribute to special events to promote breastfeeding awareness e.g. Study Days, National and World Breastfeeding Week events
* Be prepared to have newly qualified peer supporters, volunteers, HV & MW students shadow you as 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 service staff with regard to updating processes for hospital 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 1-1 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 |
| **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 maintain confidentiality  Proficient T skills including MS Office, Sharepoint, email, dataprocesing, email, internet use and social media  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 |