

Job Description: Weekend Peer Supporter, Birmingham

Background of post

The Breastfeeding Network have been awarded funding by Birmingham City Council to develop a local breastfeeding peer support service. We are looking to recruit BfN Breastfeeding Peer Supporters to focus on supporting families within community settings alongside a growing team of volunteers. The project aims to enable those families who choose to breastfeed to access appropriate support regardless of age, ethnic origin, beliefs, sexual orientation, social status and employment status.

We are looking for someone who can work on Saturday and Sunday. We would consider employing two individuals.

This post is funded until July 2025, with potential to extend based on securing funding.

Main duties

The Peer Supporters will report to the BfN Service Manager and liaise with local BfN staff and volunteers. There will be a need for a high level of collaboration and partnership working with the local Hospital Infant Feeding teams, our public health colleagues at the council, the Family Hub venue teams, local NHS services and other third sector organisations linked to delivery of infant feeding peer support in the area.

The Peer Supporters will attend the local community venues to support families at breastfeeding groups, lead antenatal classes, offer home visits, telephone and video support to new parents.

Leadership and activities

- Provide in person breastfeeding support to families within the community and home settings.
- Provide 1:1 when antenatal parents require, as well as group support
- Work closely with the Service Manager and team colleagues to plan and deliver activity
- Prepare antenatal session plans and resources
- Submit procurement requests for resources as needed.
- Carry out admin tasks as needed to help plan groups/classes and engage with attendees before during and after the sessions, including sharing information and resources
- Complete data records on project activity etc. for reporting purposes.
- Ensure appropriate referral and signposting of women and breastfeeding parents with more complex breastfeeding issues.
- Encourage and support BfN volunteers
- Participate effectively in meetings with line management.
- Communicate key practical breastfeeding messages in a clear, persuasive and empathetic manner.
- Develop partnerships by engaging and communicating with other organisations and community members, some of whom may have barriers to understanding health messages.
- Assist with organisation of promotional events e.g. world breastfeeding week, Breastfeeding Friendly Scheme

Analysis and data management

- Gather feedback from service users.
- Maintain up to date knowledge of BfN's policies.
- Keep accurate and up to date records in line with BfN Information Governance policy and BfN Code of Conduct.
- Support the Service Manager to prepare reports by submitting data in a timely fashion.
- Assess the effectiveness of the service using a range of qualitative and quantitative data from a variety of sources.

Equality and Diversity

- Ensure compliance with BfN policies, including the BfN Equality & Diversity Policy.
- Work in a way that supports inclusion and values diversity. This responsibility includes actions in relation to service users, volunteers, work colleagues, people in other organisations and members of the public.
- Consider ways to remove barriers to accessing support, especially for families from diverse backgrounds and where English is not their first language

Health & Safety

- Follow standard Health and Safety guidelines.
- Undertake a proactive role in the management of risks in compliance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and subsequent legislation.
- Take care of your own personal safety and that of others.

Personal

- Maintain registration with BfN with regular supervision, mandatory training and continuing professional development

This is not an exhaustive job description and may be subject to change according to the needs and development of the role. It is expected that the post holder may undertake such other duties as may be reasonably be requested.

Person Specification: Peer Supporter Birmingham

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
Registered as a Breastfeeding Helper or Supporter with The Breastfeeding Network (BfN) and have had at least minimum supervision required to retain registration from your named supervisor since qualification		✓
Be prepared to transfer into The Breastfeeding Network if not already a member but hold a qualification from another accredited breastfeeding organisation course.	✓	
Willing to participate in the next available Supporter Course (BfN Helper only)	✓	
Show evidence of continued professional development and ongoing learning	✓	

Experience and Knowledge	Essential	Desirable
Experience of supporting families face to face with breastfeeding – in person at groups and 1:1 as well as virtually/video	✓	
Experience of working as a volunteer with BfN offering breastfeeding support in a variety of settings		✓
Experience of working with diverse ethnic and social groups	✓	
Knowledge of BfN, its ethos, policies and procedures	✓	
Knowledge of how breastfeeding can help address inequalities	✓	
An awareness and understanding of supporting equality and valuing diversity within the role	✓	
Experience of multi-agency partnership working		✓
Knowledge of the Infant Feeding culture in Birmingham and the specific issues that affect local families	✓	

Skills and Abilities	Essential	Desirable

Excellent active listening skills	✓	
Ability to work effectively with all colleagues, parents, members of the community and Health Professionals	✓	
Excellent written and oral communication skills for a variety of audiences	✓	
Excellent interpersonal skills, including sensitivity to different perspectives, diplomacy and negotiating skills	✓	
Excellent organisational skills, including project management, prioritisation and time management skills	✓	
IT skills (Word, Excel, Outlook, shared documents, video calling software – Zoom, Teams and Internet)	✓	
Ability to research evidence-based information	✓	
'Can-do' attitude and evidence of delivering results	✓	
Ability to travel frequently within the local area to community venues and family homes	✓	