Job Description: Breastfeeding Peer Supporter (Dorset)

# Background of post

The Breastfeeding Network have been commissioned by Public Health Dorset to provide breastfeeding peer support services across the county, including Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch areas. This role involves providing breastfeeding support at groups and alongside health professionals across Weymouth, Wareham, Dorchester and Bridport areas, working closely with local volunteers to attend the breastfeeding groups, offering breastfeeding support over the phone and via email and Messenger, and assisting with the development of new initiatives aimed at young parents.

# Main duties

The Breastfeeding Peer Supporter (Dorset) will report to the BfN Dorset Service Manager and liaise with other key roles in Dorset and throughout the wider charity. There will be a need for collaboration and partnership working with Public Health Dorset, Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust and Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. They will offer breastfeeding peer support in person at breastfeeding groups, antenatal sessions and alongside health professionals, ensuring accurate records are kept and completing required monitoring and evaluation. A key part of this role is to assist with the set-up of new groups, working with the Service Manager and Volunteer coordinator to identify target areas, liaise with potential venues, and promote the group.

* Provide peer support in person at breastfeeding groups.
* Promote the breastfeeding groups and distribute relevant leaflets/posters in the local area.
* Work with the Service Manager and Volunteer Coordinator to identify and liaise with suitable venues to establish groups within the target areas as set out by the contract.
* Supporting the set-up of new groups by coordinating resources and publicising the group.
* Supporting new volunteers in the Dorset area to cover the breastfeeding support groups
* Increase public awareness of the breastfeeding support available
* Refer mothers with complex or medical breastfeeding problems to relevant health professionals according to local pathways,
* Work as an effective team member with other peer supporters and volunteers and take part in regular team meetings.
* Provide absence and holiday cover for other peer supporters and volunteers.
* Develop and maintain good working relationships with other peer support organisations, peer support volunteers, health professionals and other third sector partners.
* Participate effectively in meetings with partners as required.
* Undertake further training as advised by the Service Manager.
* Assist with running antenatal sessions.
* Assist with the development of new initiatives aimed at young parents.
* Assist with the organisation of special events to promote breastfeeding awareness, e.g. National Breastfeeding Awareness Week.

# Compliance with Policies and Procedures

* Keep accurate and up to date records in line with BfN Information Governance policy and BfN Code of Conduct.
* Provide the required data in order to enable evaluation of the service in accordance with BfN’s IG Policy and local processes.
* Become a registered BfN Volunteer if not already registered.
* Work within BfN’s Code of Conduct and Staff Handbook.
* Seek supervision from a BfN Supervisor in accordance with BfN’s Code of Conduct and Guidance Documents.
* Maintain up to date knowledge of BfN’s policies.
* Participate in regular 1 to 1 meetings (including annual performance reviews if relevant) with the Service Manager.

# Personal

* Maintain BfN Registration as a Peer Supporter or Helper.

# Equality and Diversity

* Understand and implement the BfN Equality and 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.

# Health and 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 1973 and subsequent legislation.
* Take care of your own personal safety and that of others.

*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 requested.*

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** |
| Registered / willing to transfer in 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. |  |  |
| Completed recognised breastfeeding peer support training. |  |  |
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| Show evidence of continued professional development and ongoing learning. |  |  |
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| Experience of working/volunteering as a peer supporter offering breastfeeding support to parents. |  |  |
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| Advanced breastfeeding training or willing to undertake the next BfN Level 3 ‘Supporter’ training course |  |  |

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| **Experience and Knowledge** | **Essential** | **Desirable** |
| Experience of working/volunteering with BfN (or other organisation) offering breastfeeding peer support. |  |  |
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| Experience of working with diverse ethnic and social groups |  |  |
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| Knowledge of BfN, it’s ethos, policies and procedures |  |  |
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| An awareness and understanding of supporting equality and valuing diversity and inclusion |  |  |
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| Knowledge of the local Dorset area |  |  |

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| **Skills and Abilities** | **Essential** | **Desirable** |
| Ability to write and speak fluently in English |  |  |
| Ability to provide information and support to mothers in a non-judgemental fashion. |  |  |
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| Ability to organise and manage work independently |  |  |
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| Excellent interpersonal and communication skills |  |  |
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| Ability to work with people from different cultures and backgrounds sensitively |  |  |
| Ability to keep the confidentiality of parents and their families. |  |  |
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| IT skills, including Word, Excel, email and internet use. |  |  |
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| Ability to travel between locations in the local area to attend groups within Weymouth, Wareham, Dorchester, Bridport, and occasionally the wider Dorset area and elsewhere. |  |  |
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| A space at home to work with reliable, secure internet access. |  |  |
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| Ability to maintain records and write reports. |  |  |
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| Ability to provide an effective ‘hands off’ approach when helping mothers with positioning and attachment. |  |  |
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| Familiarity with different social media platforms and their use to assist with promoting groups. |  |  |