Job Description

**Birmingham Outreach Peer Supporter**

**Background of Post**

The Breastfeeding Network have been awarded funding by Birmingham City Council to develop a local breastfeeding peer support service. 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.

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

**Role Summary**

This is a flexible, part time role. We are looking to recruit an Outreach Peer Supporter to focus on developing relationships with local communities, promoting The Breastfeeding Network Birmingham and supporting families within community settings alongside a growing team of volunteers. This role is key to the service as we strive to reach more parents in the community to make them aware of the support offered by the service; as well as improving engagement.

The Outreach Peer Supporter 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.

# **Main duties**

Promote The Breastfeeding Network Birmingham services to families and health professionals in Birmingham and support parents with their infant feeding education and choices through:

* identifying, attending and speaking at relevant events, local activities, meetings and conferences
* increase awareness of antenatal education on postnatal support for infant feeding
* working with healthcare professionals to identify opportunities to promote the services through children’s centres, social media, community venues, clinical settings and outreach in target areas
* Support families pre and postnatally with infant feeding following BfN’s Code of Conduct and policies
* Organise and deliver awareness-raising activities and sessions
* Identify and develop opportunities for further training and service development, in discussion with line manager
* Provide statistical information as and when required by line manager and commissioners
* Work closely with the Service Manager and team colleagues to plan and deliver activity
* Participate effectively in meetings with line management and colleagues
* Lead on organisation of promotional events e.g. world breastfeeding week, family activities

**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 requested.*

Person Specification: Outreach 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.

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| **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  | ✓  |   |

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| **Experience and Knowledge**  | **Essential**  | **Desirable**  |
| Experience of supporting families face to face with breastfeeding  | ✓  |    |
| 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 Experience of working with the public to promote a service or event | ✓  |  ✓  |

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| **Skills and Abilities**  | **Essential**  | **Desirable**  |
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| 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 Report writing to evidence impact of your work | ✓  |  ✓  |
| 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  | ✓  |   |