**Job Description: Peer Supporter (Antenatal Education & Princess Anne Hospital Southampton)**

**Job Title:** Breastfeeding Network Peer Supporter

**Salary:** £12.60 per hour

**Number of posts:** 1 post (open to job share)

**Type of contract:** Fixed term temporary until 31st March 2026

**Start date:**

**Hours of work:** Regular evening and/or weekend availability required each month; in addition to working during weekday office hours.

Total 5 hours per week.

**Work location:** Southampton City & Princess Anne Hospital

**Responsible to:** Project Manager – BfN Southampton

**Background and Purpose of the Post:**

The Breastfeeding Network (BfN) is commissioned by Southampton City Council, Public Health to deliver a universal breastfeeding peer support service in the community; across Southampton City. Southampton Family Hubs commission the breastfeeding peer-support services within the maternity wards of Princess Anne Hospital; where BfN work closely with the NHS Maternity Infant Feeding Team to provide bedside peer-support.

The community service includes delivery of training, supervision and breastfeeding support, as well as implementing a scheme to welcome and support breastfeeding in public. The current community service is primarily daytime, weekday, drop-in groups in Family Hubs and public venues, as well as home visits through the Health Visitor Infant Feeding Team along with ongoing phone and online support. Together with the Hospital Peer Supporters offering weekend and evening breastfeeding support on Princess Anne Hospital’s maternity wards.

This new, exciting post will allow the BfN, Maternity Services and Family Hubs to co-deliver antenatal breastfeeding education to families in Southampton City; offering in-person monthly, antenatal breastfeeding classes to expectant parents. As well as providing beside peer support on the Princess Anne Hospital Maternity Wards.

The service will contribute to improving health outcomes by increasing peer support in the maternity wards and offering antenatal breastfeeding education and awareness of the broad support available to families in the perinatal and early years’ period. It will enable those people who wish to breastfeed/chestfeed/give humanmilk, to have access to appropriate support regardless of age, ethnic origin, beliefs, gender, sexual orientation, social status and employment status.

# Main duties and responsibilities:

* To deliver monthly antenatal breastfeeding classes together with maternity services
* To work together with BfN and Maternity staff to administrate the registration & attendance for classes
* To provide information to families and fellow professionals on the Family Hub offer across the city
* To support Southampton City families to engage and register with the Family Hub service
* Provide support for all families in the community and on the maternity wards who have initiated breastfeeding or wish to
* Listen to parent’s/parents’ concerns and answer questions about breastfeeding
* Offer support with positioning and attachment and provide key information about breastfeeding
* Provide information about the Southampton infant feeding support services and BfN national support (National Breastfeeding Helpline, Drugs in Breastmilk Service and BfN Website)
* Encourage parents to go to their local breastfeeding groups and give out the groups information
* Ensure the BfN hospital resource store is maintained with up-to-date resources of breastfeeding leaflets, stickers and leaflets on local and national support
* Keep accurate data records to enable evaluation of the service in accordance with BfN’s Information Governance Policy and local processes
* Ensure all data and attendance records are maintained accurately and submitted in a timely manner for reporting purposes
* Refer parents with complex or medical breastfeeding problems to the Infant Feeding Team, Midwives or other Health Professionals on the ward
* Attend Family Hub, Hospital meetings pertaining to the Hospital Peer Supporter role and attend BfN team meetings as appropriate
* Provide support to Volunteer Peer Supporters on the wards and in the community by way of shadowing
* Provide occasional cover for other BfN peer supporters in the hospital
* Build on the existing close relationships with the Hospital; working with management and frontline staff to continually improve the integration of Peer Supporter, systems and pathways so that our work complements maternity staff and creates seamless care for families.
* Work within the Baby Friendly Initiative remit
* Work within the BfN’s Code of Conduct and Information Governance procedures, seeking supervision on a regular basis from a BfN Supervisor to fulfil the requirements of this role
* Liaise with other project staff about updating Family Hub, hospital processes and community support details.
* Maintain up to date knowledge of BfN’s Policies
* Undertake the supervision and training required to maintain peer supporter Level 3 registered status with BfN, and fulfil the requirements and demands of the role
* 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

*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.*

# Peer Supporter (Antenatal Education & Princess Anne Hospital Southampton) 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.

| **Requirements** | **Essential** | **Desirable** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Qualifications**  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  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  Experience of working as a volunteer with BfN offering breastfeeding support to families  Show evidence of continued professional development since qualification | **√** | **√**  **√**  **√** |
| **Experience and Knowledge**  Experience of supporting breastfeeding face to face with parent  Experience of working in a health or community setting in paid or volunteer capacity  Experience of delivering & administrating classes or facilitating workshops  Experience of working with diverse ethnic and social groups  Knowledge of importance and application of the BfN Code of Conduct  Knowledge of the BfN Equality and Diversity Policy | **√**  **√**  **√**  **√** | **√**  **√** |
| **Skills and abilities**  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  Basic IT skills including Word, Excel, email and internet use  Ability to maintain records and write reports  Awareness and commitment to equal opportunities  Ability to work well with a range of health care professionals | **√**  **√**  **√**  **√**  **√**  **√**  **√**  **√**  **√**  **√**  **√**  **√** |  |