Information included in Brighton and Hove School Bulletin 18th May 2015

Networks for Adopters in Schools
The Virtual School in partnership with the Adoption and Permanence Team are keen to develop Networks for Adopters in Brighton and Hove Schools.

The potential benefits of these networks in Schools are that they:

• **Improve peer support** for adoptive parents - by linking adopters within the school community for mutual support

• **Provide a forum for adopters** to discuss key school/home issues affecting parents and their children and determine best routes to address these

• **Enhance the ability of parents to influence school practice and policy** - by enabling parents to use their network to highlight adoption specific concerns to their school and to wider services

• **Assist schools in developing adoption competency further** - by offering a contact point to consult with adopters on practice and policy, including Pupil Premium Plus.

Your school may already have set up such a network, in which case please email us your key contact person and details.

Sarah Lindfield will now make contact with schools with the highest numbers of adopted children to support you to develop a network. Subsequently, we plan to contact schools with fewer adopted children and propose networks forming across clusters/partner schools.

We encourage all schools to develop a network and you may wish to initiate this process yourself, rather than waiting to be contacted. You may also wish to consider including long term foster carers and families holding Special Guardianship Orders, Residence Orders/Child Arrangement Orders where the family’s experience may be similar to that of adoptive families.

Sarah Lindfield is carrying out this piece of development work for the Virtual School in her role as Education Support Worker, Adoption/Previously in Care. Sarah can be contacted to advise and support schools at any point, or on any aspect of setting up a network for adopters in your school.

Contact can be made with Sarah Lindfield on sarah.lindfield@brighton-hove.gov.uk