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5<sup>th</sup> February, 2018

	<b>For Action</b>	<b>For Information</b>	<b>Meeting</b>
<b>To: Headteachers of all schools in West Sussex</b>	✓		

Dear Colleague

**Supporting vulnerable children through fostering and adoption**

As 2018 begins, there may be people within your school community who are seeking a new challenge and who have the skills to support a vulnerable child through fostering or adoption.

We are running a number of local information sessions and would ask for your help in promoting these to your parents and carers, and also to staff who could spread the word on our behalf. There is a £500 'refer a friend' payment available to West Sussex County Council employees who refer someone personally to the Fostering Service.

I have enclosed a short article for both fostering and adoption; I can also provide adverts which you can add to emails to staff or parents/carers – please do let me know if you have the capacity to use graphics and I will supply them.

We received an enquiry in the autumn from someone who had seen an advert on their child's school website so it would be fantastic if we could have a couple more this spring!

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely,

**LISA COLE**

Marketing & Recruitment Officer

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## **Support, believe, foster**

Could you, or someone you know, support a child who is going through a difficult time in their lives?

As a West Sussex foster carer you will benefit from local support and training as well as a competitive fostering allowance.

The County Council would be especially keen to hear from people who have childcare experience (either personal or professional) or those who could support older children, sibling groups or children with additional needs.

A series of local information events is taking place; dates and times below:

- 20 February, Burgess Hill Town Council, 6.30-8.30pm
- 27 February, Felpham Community College, 6.30-8.30pm
- 21 March, Southwick Community Centre, 6.30-8.30pm
- 27 March, County Hall North, Horsham, 6.30-8.30pm

You can also call the Fostering Recruitment Team on **0330 222 7775** or visit **[www.westsussex.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/fostering)**

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## **Change a life – adopt a local child**

Have you, or has someone you know, been thinking about adoption?

There are currently many children in foster care in West Sussex, waiting for a new adoptive family. West Sussex County Council's Adoption Team is keen to hear from you and answer any questions you may have.

The children waiting for adoption have had a difficult start in life; there is a need for adoptive families from all backgrounds to match the needs of these children.

The County Council is particularly keen to hear people with a medical or caring background and who would consider adopting a child with learning needs or medical conditions, such as Foetal Alcohol Syndrome.

Find out more at a local information session, dates of which can be found at [www.westsussex.gov.uk/adoption](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/adoption) or call the team for an informal chat on 0330 222 7777.