Further to your Information request FOI64099 please find your questions and our responses below:

A. The policies and procedures which relate to social services removing children from the care of their parents.

Response: The policies which we apply are “Children in Care, policy procedures and guidelines” on our internal server Hyperwave. This is based on the provisions detailed in the Children Acts 1989 and 2004 and the pan Berkshire online Child Protection Procedures which are based on the government guidance “Working Together to Safeguard Children published in 2010. Whilst children can come into the care of the local authority through a number of ways including under section 20 of the Children Act 1989 with the consent of parents, the ultimate responsibility for removing children permanently from the care of their parents lies solely with the Courts where a judgement will be made as to what action needs to be taken to ensure the child is protected from risk of significant harm. This may also include children who are beyond parental control. Additionally there are, of course, instances where a child is relinquished at birth by the parent or parents for adoption. In such cases the parents are always advised to seek professional legal advice and a Children’s Guardian will be appointed from CAFCASS to represent the interests of the child.

B. The criteria which has to be fulfilled to make a child eligible for being adopted out of a parents care.

Response: The criteria is as laid out in the RBWM Adoption Agency Statement of Purpose 2011-2012 (section 9). This is on our intranet on Hyperwave but is also on the RBWM website. The website has much more additional information about adoption including a section entitled “Adoption Information For Birth Families” and “Why Children need Adopting”. There are links for additional information and services through the Berkshire Adoption Advisory Service which, again, can be accessed through the RBWM website.

C What psychological assessments are used on the parents? (or other assessments) and a copy of a blank version.

Response: We do not undertake Psychological assessments on parents. These, when they are used, are commissioned through Court related processes e.g. in care proceedings, where an independent psychologist will be appointed in agreement with all the parties to the proceedings and that report is then made available to the court and to all parties through their respective legal representatives. Accordingly we do not have blank versions that can be made available as we do not own this process.

This concludes your request FOI64099.

If you require translation of the information you have been sent please do not hesitate the contact us.
If you are unhappy with the information we have provided in response to your request please write to:

Information Management Team Manager  
Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead  
Town Hall, St Ives Road  
Maidenhead  
SL6 1RF  

or send an e-mail to martin.tubbs@rbwm.gov.uk

We are proud to be one of the leading authorities in England for consistently responding to information requests within the 20 working days set down by statute. Information about our performance and summaries of requests received can be found on our website:

http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/foi_information_request_statistics.htm

We are keen to hear about your experience with the Information Management Team here at the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead and look forward to receiving any comments you have about the way your information request was processed.

Please send any feedback to the Information Management Team Manager either by e-mail martin.tubbs@rbwm.gov.uk or in writing to the address above.

Yours sincerely

Chris Daniels  
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Information Management Team  
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