Further to your information request FOI65015 please find your questions and our responses below:

1. What is the current name, title, contact email and telephone number for the most appropriate individual in the council able to respond to any queries that independent sector providers may have in regards to commissioning arrangements for looked after children.

Response: Neil Harris, Children’s Service Manager.  
Neil.harris@rbwm.gov.uk  01628 683208

2. When sourcing care placements for looked after children, does your council have a policy of always looking exclusively at availability within your in-house provision before considering the wider market or do you adopt a level playing field approach and look at options across in-house and external provision at the same time?

Response: Policy attached. Please see Section 3 “Alternatives to an out of borough placement”

3. Could you please forward a copy of the form (blank template), detailing needs and placement requirements that is used to inform providers that you are seeking a placement for an individual child.

Response: Referral form attached. Although it is based on the South Central Region IFA Framework it contains all the necessary fields to provide the information on the child and the placement requirements and is, therefore, used for all out of borough placement requests, including residential.

4. There are anecdotal reports that LA’s across England have a policy of ensuring that, wherever a child is accommodated and there is a need to place the child with an independent provider, contracting officers are regularly being instructed to limit the placements to 28 days. The rationale being that this becomes a ‘holding placement’ and provides time for a Local Authority to find a vacancy within their own provision. Please could you inform me if (a) this practice exists in your Local Authority and (b) the estimated % of placements made with the Independent sector on this basis

Response: a) This practice does not exist in this local authority  B) 0%

5. Please can you confirm your involvement in any regional commissioning arrangements for fostering / residential framework contracts or preferred provider lists

Response: We are partners with the South Central Region IFA Framework and the Pan London or London Care Placements Consortium.

This concludes your request FOI65015.

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_requests.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  
Information Management Officer  
Legal Department  
Corporate Directorate  
Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead  
Town Hall, St.Ives Road  
Maidenhead SL6 1RF