



Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

LARIA Newsletter March 2021

Juliet Whitworth, LARIA Council Member & Trustee

The benefit of being based in a central organisation is that, over the last year, I've seen the full range of councils' activity in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It's not an exaggeration to say that staff with research and data skills have been the foundation of the response, with work such as identifying potentially vulnerable people who may need support, or managing (and making sense of) the vast array of data from central government in all its many formats. And although local government is still in the response phase, alongside this the sector is already considering the future, and data and evidence is just as crucial to that: researchers and analysts are pulling together information about the impact of COVID-19 on local areas, and the views of local businesses and residents, to help plan for the future.

I'm really pleased that the [LARIA Spring Webinar Series](#) will give more of you a chance to see what I've been lucky enough to see: there's a wide range of examples of great work from local analysts and researchers. And though they're focussed on the response to COVID-19, the techniques and innovation will all be applicable in 'normal' times! What's more, they are a very good advert for '[Analysis in Government](#)' which, co-incidentally, will be taking place in May at the same time as our webinar series. This is an event to celebrate and raise awareness of the analysis work across government, both central and local, by holding a month of activities and events. LARIA is supporting this, and our Spring Webinar Series is included as part of those events. There's also a series of events from central government, many of which could be of interest to you, so do check them out.

While I'm writing about celebrating our successes, I'm delighted to announce the launch of the [LARIA Awards 2021](#). Last year's awards sadly had to be cancelled, as we were all pulled away onto more important work, so even more reason now to take the time to reflect on what you've done over the year which you're proud of – and bung in an entry form! And for the first time, this year we'll be giving a new award targeted specifically at district councils. We're really keen to hear about all your interesting projects, however well-resourced your council is, and to share them with other LARIA members. They can be COVID-related or 'business as usual' – so please do think seriously about applying. Look out too for the 'Best Use of Data Award', which has the additional attraction of a year's free CACI data – see the application notes for further information.

It's fair to say I've been really proud of local government over the last year, and so pleased to have heard large numbers of councillors and senior officers talk about the importance of data and research. Well done, all of you, and I hope you can find the time to join at least some of the events and activities above, to celebrate the fact that our contribution has finally been recognised.

Juliet
Research and Information Manager, Local Government
LARIA Council member and trustee **Whitworth Association**

Spring Webinar Series 2021 - Registration Open

Battling Covid-19 using research, analysis and insight

We are pleased to announce the [programme](#) for our 2021 Spring Webinar Series. The series is free to attend for Full Individual & Corporate Members and will be hosted via Zoom Meetings.

The first webinar will be hosted and sponsored by our partners [CACI Ltd](#) on Monday 12 April, 14.00-15.30:

The Devil is in the detail - Using small geography, administrative data to understand and tackle the impact of COVID within authorities



THE ROAD TO RECOVERY: where we have come from, where we are going to.....

Stewart Eldridge, Associate Partner – Public Sector and Charlotte King, Senior Consultant – Location Intelligence, CACI Limited

Using ACORN segmentation to improve take-up of mass LFT Testing in Coventry

Dr Harriet Rowthorn, Coventry City Council

Covid-19 case disparities in Oxfordshire: postcode evidence

Alick Bird, Insight Analyst and John Courouble, Business and Customer Insight Manager, Oxfordshire County Council

If you are interested in finding out more about CACI Ltd and their work, there is opportunity to book 121 meetings before and after the webinar.

We are also pleased to announce our webinar sponsor [OCSI](#) for the **'What to do with all this data? – Developing platforms to analyse and share COVID-related data with professionals, service users and citizens'** webinar taking place on Thursday 27 May.



Finally, the [Research Design Service \(RDS\)](#) is offering the chance to 'drop' in to an informal discussion with RDS advisers about health and social care research, after the following LARIA Spring Webinars:

Thursday 22 April: "None of us had a manual for this" Lived Experience of residents requiring care and support in Essex during the Covid-19 pandemic

Wednesday 12 May: Understanding the impact of COVID and lockdown

Do 'Drop-in':

- if you have an idea for research that needs external funding
- would like to develop partnerships with academic researchers
- or are considering becoming more involved in academic research as a career

Email martin.stevens@kcl.ac.uk if you would like to 'drop-in' or just enter the breakout room that will be available immediately after the Webinar for a more general discussion.

If you're not coming to the relevant webinars, but are interested, do make contact anyway through the 'request support' button on your [local RDS homepage](#).

[Download Full Programme](#)

[Book Now](#)

If your organisation is interested in sponsoring a webinar, please email admin@laria.org.uk for more information.

LARIA Research Impact Awards 2021

We are delighted to announce that the competition for this year's LARIA Research Impact Awards 2021 is now open. After a year in which data, in particular, has been at the forefront of much of local authorities' work, these awards aim to showcase the impact research and data analysis has at a local level. We welcome entries for one of five categories.

Since last year's awards were cancelled, due to the pandemic response, this year will be the first time we have an award targeted at district councils, who may have less research resource than others. We're really keen to hear about districts' interesting projects, even if they are less ambitious than some of our award-winners in the past.

This year's categories are:

A: Best use of local area research – sponsored by the Local Government Association (LGA)

B: Best use of data – sponsored by CACI, and offering an additional prize for the winner

C: Best use of data or research in a district council – NEW FOR 2021

D: Most engaging communication of local area research or analysis

E: New researcher/analyst of the year



More details of what we're looking for can be found [here](#). Please note, any entries which were sent last year before the awards were cancelled will be considered alongside this year's entries.

The deadline for entries is by **4pm Friday 7 May 2021**, and winners will be announced at a special LARIA webinar at the end of that month.

We look forward to hearing from you, and good luck.

Research

LGA/Britain Thinks research: Has COVID-19 changed the way communities behave?

To help councils as they respond to the coronavirus pandemic, the LGA commissioned Britain Thinks to explore the ways in which COVID-19 has changed public attitudes and behaviours. The research, '[Has COVID-19 changed the way communities behave?](#)', also aimed to understand more about how the public defines 'local' as a result of the pandemic, including any changes in attitudes towards civic participation. The research found a desire to return to normal, coupled with a need to build back better, fairer and healthier – and puts forward the case for 'making normal better' as a path to recovery that is ambitious and in touch with local people.

Webinars

Children & Young People Now Online Conference Evidence, Evaluation and Impact: Improving Outcomes for Children

30th & 31st March 2021
Registration fee: £99 + VAT

Organisations serving children, young people and families have made great progress in recent years in evidencing the impact of their work. However, the increased constraints on resources and capacity that have been created by the pandemic highlight the importance of ensuring that services are actually making a real difference.

Faced with these additional challenges, practitioners must continue to overcome barriers in adopting practical, evidence-based approaches to achieving outcomes.

CYP Now is bringing together a range of experts and leading practitioners who will provide practical tips, case studies and actionable insights to support your endeavours in improving outcomes for children, young people and families.

Taking place on 30th and 31st March 2021 from 2.00-5.30pm, this online conference will provide essential learning for the entire children's workforce.

[Click here](#) for the full details.

Making sense of behavioural insights: Using behavioural insights to address Coronavirus vaccine hesitancy, 21st April 2021

12.30pm-2.45pm

This webinar will be hosted by the North West Behavioural Sciences Hub as part of the programme of learning to support the development of behavioural sciences in the North West.

It is a free online event open to those working in the Public Health workforce in the North West area of England, including Public Health departments, commissioners, strategic leads, communications teams, voluntary sector and service providers.

Webinar objectives:

To demonstrate to the workforce how the behavioural science can be applied to Coronavirus vaccine hesitancy.

To share examples of how behavioural science has been applied to Coronavirus, and findings that can be applied in practice for Public Health teams.

To share tools and resources that can support the workforce with gathering behavioural insights which will support them with understanding and overcoming vaccine hesitancy in the population.

The event will be chaired by Professor Dominic Harrison, Director of Public Health & Wellbeing, Blackburn and Darwen Borough Council, with a keynote address from Professor Jim McManus, Director of Public Health, Hertfordshire County Council on the power of behavioural science in the public health response to Coronavirus.

[Click here](#) to find out more and to book your place.

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LARIA Contact Address - Tower House, Mill Lane, Askham Fields Lane, Askham Bryan York YO23 3FS
Tel: - 0345 676 9598 Email: - admin@laria.org.uk

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