



Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

## LARIA Newsletter June 2021

### LARIA Council Member - Jason Lowther

#### **IMPACT: IMProving Adult Care Together**

This month, a new 'UK Centre for Evidence Implementation in Adult Social Care' (called IMPACT) started its initial engagement work. IMPACT aims to both enable practical improvements in adult social care and contribute to longer-term cultural change. LARIA colleagues working in the sector are invited to participate in the first stage of engagement to guide development of this work.

IMPACT will be an 'implementation centre', using knowledge from 'different types of research, the lived experience of people using services and their carers, and the practice wisdom of social care staff'. It will take a distinctive approach in each of the four nations of the UK, recognising the different policy contexts in each, as well as sharing learning across the UK as a whole.

Their core belief is based on the words of one of the people using services who has helped to shape proposals for the new centre:

*“good support isn't just about ‘services’ – it's about having a life”.*

The centre aims to provide practical support in implementing evidence, bring stakeholders together to share learning, and create sustainable change in adult social care. Working with people with lived experience of adult social care services and a range of existing policy and practice partners, their objectives are:

**Supporting more widespread use of evidence** in adult social care, leading to better care practices, systems and outcomes for people who use services, their families and communities

**Building capacity and skills** in the adult social care workforce to work with evidence of different kinds to innovate, improve care and deliver better outcomes

**Facilitating sustainable and productive relationships** between the full range of adult social care

stakeholders to co-create positive change/innovations and improve outcomes for people using adult social care and their families

Improving understanding of the **factors which help and hinder** the implementation of evidence in practice, and using this to overcome longstanding barriers to positive change

Directed by Professor Jon Glasby from the University of Birmingham, the centre has a Leadership Team of 12 other academics, people using social care services, and policy and practice partners - along with a broader consortium of key stakeholders from across the sector. Funding of £15 million has been provided by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), part of UK Research and Innovation, and the Health Foundation.

IMPACT will then have a one-year establishment phase in which its key projects, delivery models and work programme will be refined in discussion with the sector, ready for delivery (2023-2027).

The initial engagement process includes a survey of stakeholders, to which LARIA colleagues working in social care are invited to contribute, to help identify priorities for the sector, and to help develop a draft work programme and ideas for delivery. The survey can be found [here](#).

In addition, there will be five linked 'IMPACT Assemblies' (two in England and one each in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) to identify and build consensus around IMPACT's priorities; test and refine proposed delivery models; and support subsequent scaling up and cultural change. There will be a national exercise to build links with user-led organisations and community groups that work with and for people with seldom heard voices. Finally, there will be a review and synthesis of the key principles and frameworks currently used in social care and health to support co-production. If you want to find out more as IMPACT starts its work, please email [impactcentre@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:impactcentre@contacts.bham.ac.uk) with your name, role and location.

It's exciting to see this centre starting its important work, especially given the long delays to the promised White Paper on social care and the critical challenges facing the sector after Covid.

**Jason Lowther,**

**Director – Institute for Local Government Studies (INLOGOV), University of Birmingham**

[This article is based on information from the IMPACT team, their full briefing document is available [here](#)]

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### **Urgent need for support on LARIA Council**

LARIA Council is the group of volunteers that give their time to make LARIA what you need. Most LARIA Council members work in local authorities, academia, or organisations that support local area researchers and analysts.

Due to some recent changes, we need additional capacity on LARIA Council. All we ask for is a bit of your time, your ideas to inform our plans and a commitment to work on a couple of actions to make a difference. All our meetings are currently online and we tend to meet quarterly on average.

If you want to play a role in steering your sector's body then please get in touch with Mike Walker, chair of LARIA at [mike.walker@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:mike.walker@lancashire.gov.uk) to learn more.

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## News

### **LARIA Research Impact Awards**

The winners of the LARIA Research Impact Awards were announced on Thursday 27th May 2021 at the virtual awards ceremony. They are the only awards specifically designed to showcase the work of those researching local areas and we welcomed entries from across the public and private sector that show the value of this work in helping public sector bodies to make better evidence based decisions.

The key criteria are that award winners should show us excellence in research and analysis that is making a real difference to the people they serve. The awards focus on research impact based on a sound evidence base.

Congratulations to the winners

### **Best Use of Local Area Research 2021**

**With thanks to our award sponsor LGA**

Essex Centre for Data Analytics

*Exploring citizens attitudes towards data sharing and analytics within the public sector*



### **Best Use of Data 2021**

**With thanks to our award sponsor CACI**

Powys County Council: Transformation and Communications Team  
*Integrating health and social care to improve outcomes*



**Most Engaging Communication of Local Area Research or Analysis 2021**

Essex County Council and the University of Essex

*'We're in this too..' exploring the lived experience of young people in Essex during the COVID-19 pandemic*

**New Research of the Year 2021**

Alick Bird

*Oxfordshire County and Cherwell District Councils*



**Staff changes at Data Cymru**

On 28 May we said a sad [farewell](#) to Andrew Stephens who has now retired, after 40 years of public service in Wales. Andrew who many of you will know has been our Executive Director at Data Cymru for 18 years. Before Andrew left he wrote a [blog](#) called 'New tomorrows', which reflects on his time at Data Cymru and his career more generally.

Richard Palmer, previously Assistant Director at Data Cymru, is now our Chief Operating Officer.

**OpenDataWales**

Our new open data portal, [Open Data Wales](#), is now live. The website allows local authorities and other public bodies to publish their open data on a centrally-located site that can be accessed and used freely and easily, without the hassle of having to develop their own website.

We have been working with partners for 18 months to develop and test the site, and we hope it will become the 'go to' location for public sector open data in Wales.

To support the principle of open data across Wales, we coordinate a public sector open data virtual network - a 'community' of individuals from across the public sector who are interested in open data and

are keen to learn and share with each other.

For more information, please contact [Daniel.cummings@data.cymru](mailto:Daniel.cummings@data.cymru)

### **CACI Paycheck data**

We are approaching the third year of our current three-year consortium deal between Welsh authorities and CACI, which provides access to Paycheck data at a reduced rate for authorities. We will be contacting authorities over the Summer to understand their use of the data and any future demand for Paycheck data.

For more information, please contact [Duncan.mackenzie@data.cymru](mailto:Duncan.mackenzie@data.cymru)

### **Support to Public Services Boards and Regional Planning Boards**

We have published a [Core dataset](#) on our [Open Data hub](#). This is designed to support the data collection exercise that partnerships will carry out as part of their respective assessment processes.

We will also be publishing a Data Catalogue, which outlines the data and information published by a range of regional and national public/voluntary sector organisations that could inform assessments. The catalogue will also include contact details for each organisation if partnerships need more information.

For more information, please contact [Duncan.mackenzie@data.cymru](mailto:Duncan.mackenzie@data.cymru)

### **Data Management Workshop**

On 28 May, Data Cymru co-hosted a workshop around data management with the office of the Welsh Local Government Association's Chief Digital Officer. The workshop was attended by over 40 colleagues from across the public, private and third sector. The workshop was an opportunity to get colleagues to think about their organisation's data journey; where they are and what can be done to move them closer to their strategic aims.

The session was extremely productive and we plan to schedule further workshops/events in the future.

For more information, please contact [Sam.sullivan@data.cymru](mailto:Sam.sullivan@data.cymru).

## Plan

### *Lucy Bush, Research Director at BritainThinks and Garry Palmer, Strategy and Commissioning Lead at Warwickshire County Council*

To help inform the development of its LTP4, WCC commissioned BritainThinks to run an exercise in 'deliberative consultation', a new way to engage local communities on the decisions that will affect their lives.

The research asked a representative panel of residents to tell the Council about their vision for transport in the county and what they want the LTP to deliver for them. Special care was taken to ensure that more vulnerable and harder-to-reach members of the community were included and their voices were heard too. Over the course of two weeks Panellists were given the time and space to review and debate the key themes and trade-offs in the LTP and to tell WCC what matters most to them. Transport issues relating to wellbeing and the environment emerged as key priorities, with economic interests (especially as related to jobs, education and tourism) seen to underpin everything else.

The level of engagement and enthusiasm from the Panel was brilliant to see and their contributions provided a fresh view on the LTP. Garry Palmer from WCC says: *"The deliberations of the panel provided a very different and informative insight that has proved complementary to our more traditional methods of consultation. The recommendations they have made will undoubtedly improve the quality of our next LTP and I'm looking forward to exploring the possibility of using such methods to complement future consultations"*.

If you're interested to hear more about 'deliberative consultation' and the findings from the project, or wish to be put on the invite list for a webinar BritainThinks/WCC will be running on the topic this summer, please email [lbush@britainthinks.com](mailto:lbush@britainthinks.com).

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## Local Government Association (LGA)



The Local Government Association (LGA) Analysis and Research Bulletin is a comprehensive monthly publication which keeps you informed about key issues and developments in research impacting on local government.

The bulletin brings together the work of the LGA and also features relevant publications from the wider

research community.

The latest edition features the LGA COVID-19 Workforce Survey and updates from LG Inform and LG Inform Plus.

For more information and to sign up to the research bulletin visit:

[Sign-up for LGA Research bulletin](#)

### Advanced and Predictive Analytics network (APAN)



With the increasing interest in the use of predictive analytics and artificial intelligence in the use of data, the LGA has started the new [Advanced and Predictive Analytics network for data practitioners in local government](#) (APAN). This network is open to local government officers working in data use and data analysis. We currently have almost 240 members. The network provides a safe online space for local government to discuss, share and learn about the techniques, solutions, risks and opportunities of advanced methodologies.

The network is running a series of 75-minute online webinars for members led by experts in the field to discuss topical themes and issues, please see the Events, Training and Webinar's section further down for details.

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### M·E·L Research



In May M·E·L Research launched its new Research With A Purpose Omnibus. This will regularly deliver fresh insight on emerging social issues, particularly in the areas of health and wellbeing, employment and skills and housing. The first edition collected over 2,500 responses from UK residents on key issues as we tentatively emerge from the pandemic, including the impact of the third lockdown on loneliness, the impact of COVID-19 vaccination on public confidence, the perceived benefits of home workers returning to the office and the impacts of furlough experiences on levels of employee engagement.

Commenting on this, Steve Handley, M·E·L Research Director said:

“Our Research With A Purpose Omnibus is an exciting development for us. At M·E·L Research our vision is to make a positive difference to organisations, employees, customers and wider society. Having a flexible resource that allows us to examine and track some of the key issues within this unprecedented period will really help us to support our clients in a pro-active way. The first set of results have been fascinating to explore.”

Key findings from this research can be found via the M·E·L Research [linkedin page](#) . If you are interested in adding a question to the next omnibus please email [info@melresearch.co.uk](mailto:info@melresearch.co.uk)

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**NIHR** | Applied Research Collaboration  
South London



**KING'S**  
*College*  
**LONDON**

**New report: Caring in Company: a pre-Covid snapshot of day centres in south London**

Day services support the wellbeing and health of people with social care and support needs who want to live at home. Their staff and volunteers offer companionship, care, advice and support. Centres have different purposes and support different groups of people, often from diverse backgrounds. They support older people, people living with dementia, with long-term disabilities or needing mental health support, family carers, people experiencing homelessness or who have palliative care needs.

Our new report [Caring in company: a pre-Covid snapshot of day centres in south London: Report of a mapping exercise of publicly available information from four south London boroughs](#) (April 2021) reveals how hard it is to find information about these services. With websites an increasingly important information source for us all, work is needed to make day centres more visible to those who may benefit from them.

This report was developed as part of the Social Care theme work programme of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Applied Research Collaboration South London (NIHR ARC South London) at King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

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## Essex County Council



In 2020, Essex County Council undertook a series of engagement activities in relation to our Short Breaks service. We conducted an extensive survey, spoke directly with parents in one-to-one conversations and in focus groups. This has given us invaluable insight into families' experiences of the current Short Breaks offer for children and young people with special educational needs and / or disabilities.

Following the end of the election period, all final outputs from Shortbreaks for CWD research (including the short film and full research report) have been made available publicly via [ECC's website](#).

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## Jobs

### Intelligence Officers x 2 – Derby City Council

Job Title: Intelligence Officer – 2 posts  
Grade: H (£30,451 to £32,910)  
Hours: 37 hours  
Contract Type: Fixed Term - 12 months  
Location: Council House, Derby (currently home working)  
Application closing date: 12/07/2021



Are you an intelligence analyst, insight officer or research professional that would like to play a key role in our ambition to transform the city through the Derby Recovery Plan? If so, we would like to hear from you.

As an Intelligence Officer, you will lead on research, analysis and information to inform either the economic recovery or the community recovery of the city. We are looking for two individuals who can think strategically, work collaboratively with stakeholders and provide evidence-based insight to drive outcomes. The candidates should have a proven track record in delivering high quality research or analysis and experience in translating evidence to meaningfully inform decision making.

This is an exciting opportunity for a dynamic and innovative professional who would like to work at a place where they can make a real difference.

You can apply [here](#) or for an informal chat about this post please contact Natalie Tuckwell – Corporate Insight Manager on 01332 643465.

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## Training, Events and Webinars

### M·E·L Research



#### **SROI Evaluation with Impact: Making Connections Walsall**

In 2017 Walsall Council set up Making Connections Walsall (MCW) to address loneliness and social isolation in older people. MCW is a social prescribing programme, with West Midlands Fire Service operating as a central referral point, four local hubs led by third sector organisations, and lots of location activities and services for older people in the Borough.

This free virtual webinar will highlight the vital role that evaluation has played in informing the development of MCW and evidencing its' impact.

To find out more about the event, who it will be of interest to, and for booking information, please see the [event listing](#).

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#### **Advanced and Predictive Analytics network (APAN)**



The next webinar will take place at **2:00pm on 5<sup>th</sup> July**. It will consider the content of the new guidance document published by government on [Ethics, Transparency and Accountability Framework for Automated Decision-Making](#) and discuss its impact and use in local government.

Local Government officers can register to join APAN via the [Knowledge Hub registration page](#).

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**University of Manchester**



**MSc in Social Research Methods and Statistics (FT/PT)**

The University of Manchester

[Social Statistics at University of Manchester](#)

[The MSc programme](#) provides a firm grounding in advanced quantitative methods, taught within an applied framework. The programme is designed to be accessible to people without a statistical background. It includes training in: survey design, statistics, how to analyse data and how to use statistical analysis software such as R, SPSS, Stata and MLwiN. The MSc modules are taught with an emphasis on hands-on training in the application of methods and software. Modules include: Statistical Foundations, Introduction to Statistical Modelling, Survey Research, Demographic Analysis, Social Network Analysis and Longitudinal Data Analysis. The MSc includes a series of pre-sessional training courses before the MSc starts. It is available full-time over one year or part-time over two years.

The MSc course offers relevant and marketable skills for a career in research and consultancy and is recognised for PhD training by the Economic and Social Research Council. Many SRMS MSc graduates often go on to study for a PhD. Advanced skills in data analysis and research are at the heart of social research and policy making across government and consultancy. [Graduates of the MSc are in a good position to obtain jobs in government, the academic sector, local government and within the commercial research sector around the world.](#)

Social Statistics and the School of Social Sciences at the University of Manchester are [home to world leading academics](#).

[How to apply](#)

**Application Enquiries:** Please email [pg-soss@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:pg-soss@manchester.ac.uk)

**Course Content Enquiries:** Please email the PGT Programme Recruitment Director, [Dr. K. Purdam](#).

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### **Health Studies User Conference 2021**

8 July 2021

Online, 09.30 - 16.30 BST

**Do you want to know the latest developments in health data from social surveys? Would you like to understand more about the impact of COVID-19 on these studies and their outputs? Are you interested in research using health data?**



The annual Health Studies User Conference is a one-day conference organised by the UK Data Service in collaboration with UCL and NatCen Social Research. The conference will be held online and is free to attend.

We are very pleased to announce that the keynote speaker for this year's conference is **Guy Goodwin, Chief Executive, National Centre for Social Research (NatCen)** who will be discussing the future of surveys post-pandemic.

There will be parallel research presentation sessions on the themes of health and inequalities, ageing, ethnicity and mental health, and COVID-19.

[More information and booking](#)

### **Family Finance Surveys User Conference 2021**

14 July 2021

Online, 09.30 - 16.30

**Are you interested in research on family finances? Do you want to know the latest developments in family finance data from UK social surveys?**

The annual Family Finance Surveys User Conference features a mix of updates from data producers of the key UK Surveys on family finances and research presentations based on analyses of the data.

This one-day conference is organised by the UK Data Service in collaboration with the Department for Work and Pensions and the Office for National Statistics. The event will be held online and is free to

attend.

[More information and booking](#)

### **UK Data Service Computational Social Science Drop-in**

11 May – 14 December 2021

Online, 13.00 - 14.00

**Stuck on a project? Not sure what to learn next? Want to meet other computational social scientists? Learn or teach some data skills with like-minded individuals?**

These free monthly UK Data Service Data Drop-in sessions, to get or give some help on Computational Social Science projects, are continuing throughout the year. The events will take place on Zoom. There will be a data expert from the UK Data Service present to chair the session. Feel free to join for general advice on getting data, learning to code and much more.

The sessions take place on the second Tuesday of the month. Sign up by following the link below and we will see you soon.

[More information and booking](#)

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**NIHR Research Design Service London**

**NIHR** | Applied Research Collaboration  
South London

Free online social care workshop: Building capacity in social care research on the 12 July 2021.

The workshop aims to:

- Raise awareness of the support and funding available for social care research through the NIHR
- Share learning from successful collaborations and partnerships
- Offer an opportunity to network with people with shared interests, with a view to collaborating and building capacity in London and the South East.

Who should attend

- Researchers with an interest in social care or the interface between health and social care
- Social care practitioners
- Health professionals working in social care settings or with social care users

- Social care users and their informal carers
- Commissioners and providers of care.

You can find more information and booking details [at our Eventbrite listing](#). Although the event is targeted at London and the South East, we are happy for people to attend from anywhere in England.

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### **Are you a Corporate or Full Corporate Member?**

Your LARIA Corporate Membership entitles you to submit content to the monthly LARIA newsletter, if you have any research, events, job adverts, resources or news which you would us to include please send it to [admin@laria.org.uk](mailto:admin@laria.org.uk).

The next newsletter submission deadline is [Monday 19th July](#).

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