



Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

LARIA Newsletter January 2022

LARIA Chair - Mike Walker

Our year of opportunities

I hope that you and your families had a safe and relaxing break over Christmas. Whilst it may, already, seem like a distant memory, I hope it has left you refreshed to continue to make a difference in your local area.

I wrote my previous piece for the LARIA newsletter about this time last year. I said then that there were some signs of optimism, and looking at it now compared to 2020, there probably were. As local area researchers and analysts, we continue to be at the centre of insight and the opportunities that presents. We continue to support Covid-19 decision-making and actions. We are supporting the recovery of services and local areas. And we are supporting the deeper understanding of inequalities, which have become of even greater significance over the last two years and will continue to be a central focus in our local areas.

As with many things in life, the rate of change and development we are experiencing in our analytics sector is massive. New technology and the

availability of more data creates the opportunity to continue to add yet more value in our work. We are able to visualise and present greater and deeper insights to our leaders and decision-makers. We are able to connect data and test out hypotheses and scenarios.

But it also comes at a price (and opportunities).

The more exciting analysis that we produce, the more we are asked for, which impacts on our capacity. And the more platforms we have to keep up-to-date to meet and satisfy the need. We increasingly need to be even more multi-skilled. As researchers and analysts, we have always had to tread the line between technical knowledge of systems and data, subject expertise, analysis techniques and statistics, quantitative and qualitative, and writing, presentation and influencing. However, now data science skills are evermore needed. If we are fortunate, we may have some of those skills ourselves or in our teams or partnerships, but for many of us, we need to turn our hand and head to further broadening our skills base.

We have always been skilled at manipulating and using data. However, the size, range and complexity of the data we now have available is sometimes pushing our ability to manage it, and it is certainly pushing the capacity of some of the hardware and software we use. To truly harness the power of data combined with our analytical skills, we need to work differently and learn some new techniques. The opportunities are there for us and we are best-placed to capitalise on them.

So, make one of your plans for this year to share your expertise, or indeed your challenges, with your fellow research and intelligence colleagues in LARIA. Throughout this year, there will be opportunities to share your work with others,

and to learn how others are meeting the same problems that you face. You can include links to your work in this newsletter. You can use the [LARIA Knowledge Hub](#) to post your ideas or issues, or to respond to other colleagues' challenges. We will be running more LARIA webinars this year on the demands we face and how these can be met, and you can find our previous webinars in the LARIA website [members' area](#). These are your opportunities.

Thank you for being part of LARIA.

News

CACI

Health Inequality Local Government Data Initiative

Health inequality was with us long before COVID-19, but it has put issues within our communities including deprivation, social exclusion and health inequalities under a microscope. Data and the insights it provide are crucial if we are to support our most at risk and vulnerable communities now and in the future.



In order to be able to support those with poor health and wellbeing, it is essential for central and local government to have access to an up-to-date and reliable source of health and wellbeing data. This will help to assess need and prioritise the delivery of services to those who really need it at such a challenging time.

For this reason and in association with our partner LARIA, CACI are launching a new Local Government Data Initiative to provide free access* to our unique health and wellbeing segmentation, Wellbeing Acorn for use to specifically tackle health inequality until 18th April 2022.

For further information and to register your interest in accessing this data, complete your details using the link below and we'll be in touch walk you through next steps.

[Register](#)

*Subject to contract. CACI's Local Government Data Initiative is only available to Public Sector organisations.

Data Cymru

Are you looking to learn more about collecting and using data? Do you work with data and want to extract more value from it? Are you thinking of expanding your skills?



We have developed a suite of training that will introduce you to:

- Using and producing summary statistics
- Presenting data
- Survey design and analysis
- Planning and delivering focus groups

Furthermore, to accompany this training we will release a series of comprehensive guides on our website. Information to follow shortly...watch this space!

If you'd like to discuss your requirements further then please get in touch with [Sam Sullivan](#).

QA Research

Three innovative approaches that make social research more accessible and engaging



Qa Research's Georgina Culliford reflects on some new ways **R E S E A R C H** of getting more people involved with social research at every stage.

How do you make research accessible? And by that, I mean really accessible – to the commissioning organisation, to service users, to all stakeholders?

Any professional piece of research will conclude with a detailed report, comprehensively setting out the work undertaken and the insights gained. But not everyone finds it easy to digest a dense and complex written publication. And those in busy, stressful jobs may struggle to set aside the time to read such a report.

So are there supplementary ways we can reach target audiences – perhaps using more engaging methods?

Happily, the answer is a resounding yes – which was confirmed to me at this year's [annual conference of the Social Research Association](#).

Find out more... [Three innovative approaches that make social research more](#)

[accessible and engaging – Qa Research](#)

Jobs

WDH

Location: Wakefield district - Hybrid working in line with our WorkSmart policy

Salary: £31,736 - £35,174

Closing date: 9 Feb 2022

Contract: Permanent

Hours: Full time



WDH is one of the largest social housing providers in the UK, with 32,000 properties. Our Customer Insight Team has undertaken cutting-edge research on social issues and is looking for a dedicated individual to make a significant contribution to the team.

You'll be delivering our Customer Insight Programme, which aims to further understand issues such as debt, mental health, health care, housing needs and fire safety to allow WDH to deliver against the aims in WDH's business strategy.

Applicants must have a strong track record in managing large scale customer insight projects. You will be experienced in both quantitative and qualitative research methods, and be keen to move the team forward with new ideas, approaches and methodologies. You will also line manage the team's assistant, overseeing their development and delivery of work.

You'll act to amplify WDH's customers' views, making recommendations to ensure customer insight and customer views are at the heart of service development.

For more information and to apply, see the [Job Vacancy advert](#)

To submit a job advert to appear in the newsletter or on the LARIA website, please download and complete this [form](#) (Full Corporate and Corporate Members only). You can also post Job Vacancies on the Jobs Board in the LARIA [Members' Area](#).

The next newsletter submission deadline is [Monday 14th February](#).

Webinars

UK Data Service

Labour Force and Annual Population

Surveys User Conference 2022

Thursday 27 January 2022, 10.00 – 16.00



The free Labour Force and Annual Population Surveys User Conference, organised by the [UK Data Service](#), will be held online in January 2022 (rather than the usual November date). The programme includes a mixture of presentations from the [Office for National Statistics](#) (ONS) and researchers who have used data from the UK Labour Force Survey (LFS) and Annual Population Survey (APS).

This year the conference also includes a keynote presentation by Nye Cominetti, Senior Economist at [Resolution Foundation](#).

Follow the event on Twitter: [#LFSAPS22](#)

[View the programme and book a place](#)

Webinar: Reproducibility: Collaborative working

Online, 15 Feb 2022 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Working together on a software or data project is a challenge. You have probably heard of git and GitHub but do you know what they are? Join the UK Data Service for this free webinar on collaborative working, version control, git, GitHub and beyond.

Level: Absolute beginner

Experience/knowledge required: Any knowledge of git or Github would help but is not needed

Target Audience: Anybody interested in tracking their changes on long form projects, or working with others

[Book a place](#)

Population & Public Health Apprenticeships Showcase

Wednesday 9 February 10:00 – 12:00

On Wednesday 9 February 2022, there will be a national webinar providing an overview of the family of apprenticeships available in public health and how they work in practice, including 3 key standards:

- [Community Health & Wellbeing Worker at level 3](#)
- [Public Health Practitioner at level 6](#)
- [Health & Care Intelligence Specialist at level 7](#)

This webinar is an opportunity for employers to learn about and deepen their understanding of how apprenticeships can develop current and future workforces to have the confidence and skills to contribute to public health activities.

There will be time to ask plenty of questions to the panel, which includes representatives from Health Education England (HEE), the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), employers delivering the apprenticeships, and current apprentices.

[Book your place here](#)

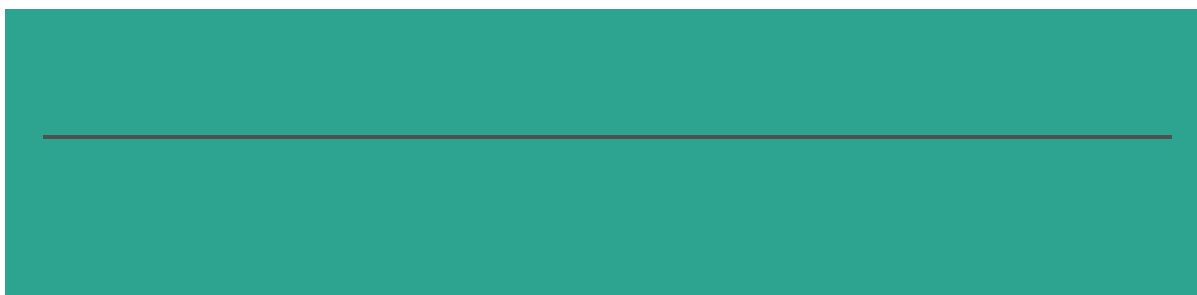
Are you a Corporate or Full Corporate Member?

Laria

Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

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.

The next newsletter submission deadline is **Monday 14th February**.



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