



Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

LARIA Newsletter December 2021

LARIA Council Member Jason Lowther (INLOGOV, University of Birmingham)

Councils are making great strides using data, but old problems remain

As LARIA's autumn seminars have been discussing some of the innovative uses of intelligence in local government, a new report from the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation (CDEI) highlights some of the major developments in local authorities' use of data during the pandemic and some of the enduring problems that we really need to address.

LARIA's seminars are always a highlight in my calendar. This year's series kicked off with Essex explaining a longitudinal qualitative project that provided insight into how the pandemic affected working families in the county, and Manchester describing their partnership working with local universities. In the second seminar, Barnett shared their work with [LOTI](#) on Mapping Digital Exclusion in London, while Richmond and Wandsworth Councils explained their new Data and Analytics strategy. The final session, on 6th Dec, sees CACI and Oxfordshire discussing routes to the successful roll-out of EV charging. It's great to see so many excellent developments in local government's use of data and intelligence. If you didn't

catch the live seminars, make sure you view the recordings on the LARIA [website](#) later.

The CEDI [report](#) recognises a wide range of related developments. Based on discussions with ten councils last year, they highlight the range of data innovations councils led in response to the pandemic. This included work to identify residents who are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19, emergency services sharing data in real time during the pandemic, and using free school meals data to provide targeted support while schools were closed.

Despite the excellent work, the report highlights several concerns. The rapid progress in sharing health data during the pandemic was not generally matched by opening up other data sharing opportunities. Long-standing barriers to data-driven innovation remain, such as ‘skills gaps, budgetary constraints, poor technical practice, and a lack of legal clarity regarding how data can be used’. And the report finds that current initiatives, such as (the department formerly known as) MHCLG’s COVID-19 Challenge Fund for digital and data projects that help with the pandemic response and recovery, are too narrowly focussed “to move the needle in how local authorities use data”.

LARIA Updates

LARIA Membership Fees

Thank you for your continued support over the last 12 months. We held a successful Webinar Series in the Spring, and look forward to our Autumn webinar series starting on 30th November. The webinars will again be free to attend for all Full Individual and Corporate Members.

In order to continue to support LARIA Membership, the Council have made the difficult decision to increase membership fees from 1st January 2022. In addition to continuing to provide our core offer to members including the newsletter, access to the knowledge hub and annual awards, this increase in fees will bring more opportunities for virtual conferences and networking events.

We have also been hard at work behind the scenes upgrading the LARIA website and members area. As well as a new look the members area offers:

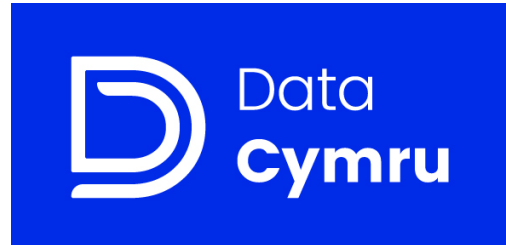
- A jobs and training board which allows you to post jobs and upcoming training, events and webinars that may be relevant to other members.
- An online events calendar which will allow members to book on to future LARIA webinars and events directly through the system.
- Networking opportunities with other LARIA members via the members directory. For corporate members, all contacts are listed under one entry.
- Ability to update your member profile.
- The lead contact for Corporate and Full Corporate Members can add an unlimited number of additional contacts under their organisation who will then all have access to the members area.
- Finally, as a reminder, the members' area also hosts past editions of the LARIA Newsletter, previous webinar recordings and conference presentations that you can access at any time.

Membership fees from 1st January 2022 will be:

- Associate Membership– free
 - Full Individual Membership – £20
 - Corporate Membership – £130
 - Full Corporate Membership – £150
-

News

Data Cymru launch their new 'Inform and Inspire' webinar programme



Data Cymru host regular webinars as part of their [capacity building programme](#) of support.

There are two main themes:

- **Data to Inform** webinars offer a high-level introduction to various topics related to data, statistics and research.
- **Data to Inspire** webinars showcase innovative and inspiring work that we and/or other organisations are doing with data.

For more information and to sign up to any of their sessions, please visit [Tocyn Cymru](#). Future sessions will be added each month.

You can also get involved

Data Cymru are always looking for webinar content. If you have seen, done, or are doing something interesting, innovative and inspiring with data they would love to hear about it – successful or otherwise.

Equally, they would love to hear your suggestions for future **Data to Inform** webinars – what data, statistics or research topic would you like to learn more about?

For further information please contact Suzanne Draper at

Suzanne.Draper@data.cymru

CACI - ESG Score

Consumers are increasingly concerned about their environmental impact, demanding higher standards of sustainability and employment practices from the organisations they interact with. In response, these organisations are rising to the challenge to improve their environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) credentials.



Being able to identify those community groups who are most concerned about ESG issues can enable local government to prioritise and deliver appropriate services that resonate with these residents and help encourage behaviour change.

CACI have developed an ESG Score to drill into each aspect of how important environmental, social and governance issues are to individuals, enabling the public sector to better understand their communities and act accordingly.

To find out more click this [link](#) and register.

Jobs

Manchester City Council



**MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL**

Position Title: **Senior Analyst**

Salary: Grade 8 £34,728 to £38,890 (Bar at £37,890) per annum

Contract Type: Full time (permanent x 2 & 1 fixed term until 31 March 2023)

Hours: 35

Work Location: Town Hall Extension, St Peters Square Manchester M60 2LA

DBS Check Required: Yes

Closing Date: 17 December 2021

Reference: MCC401281/CS

There are 3 roles available, 2 permanent positions and 1 fixed term until 31st March 2023. These roles will all join our existing team of 18 senior analysts within PRI with the opportunity to work with analysts from partner organisations. The role will provide data, analytical and evaluation support to commissioning and operational services within Manchester.

For more information about the vacancies and to apply, see the [job advert](#).

Manchester City Council



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL

Position Title: **Performance and Insight Manager**

Salary: Grade 10 £44,863 to £46,845 (Bar at £45,859) per annum

Contract Type: Full time permanent

Hours: 35

Work Location: Town Hall Extension, St Peter Square, M60 2LA

DBS Check Required: Yes

Closing Date: 17 December 2021

Reference: MCC/406526/CS

We are looking for an outstanding manager to take on a role in our Performance, Research & Intelligence service. The postholder will work alongside a network of other managers each with a thematic focus but with opportunities for joint work on

a range of cross-cutting projects.

The primary focus of this role will be Education and the postholder will be responsible for ensuring that the Education service has access to assured quality, reliable data and evidence. The service works with partners to support Manchester's children to be safe, happy, healthy and successful, fulfilling their potential by making sure they access high quality education, have the best start in life and are ready for school and adulthood.

For more information about the vacancies and to apply, see the [job advert](#).

Colchester Borough Council

Research and Change Officer (home-based)



Job reference: COLREQ00670

Date posted: 26/10/2021

Application closing date: 04/01/2022

Salary: £28,465 to £32,961

Job description

Contract Type: Full or part-time – Fixed Term Contract (with potential for permanent) or temporary 1 year secondment for CBC employees

Length of Contract: 12 months

Work Hours: 37 hours per week. This role can be both part or full time and is homebased

Duties of the role

As an essential member of the Research and Engagement Team, you will provide expertise, project management, mentoring and training to Council Teams in research, including resident and customer engagement, surveys and data analysis to shape and contribute to corporate objectives, projects and partnership initiatives.

For more information and to apply, see the [job advert](#).

Doncaster Council

Policy & Insight Officer (Track & Trace Co-ordination)

Fixed term until March 2023 (possibility of extension depending on funding)

Grade 8, £27,049 - £30,564 (22/23 Pay Award

Pending)

Closing date 16th Jan



**Doncaster
Council**

We are looking for an insight officer to deliver our targeted work to support the Council and partners response to the Coronavirus pandemic. This will involve the review, collection and maintenance of data to understand outbreaks and incidents across the borough, which will inform decision making and ensure effective incident management and to assess what preventative action we might take. This post will be based in the Policy, Insight and Change Team, and you will support the track and trace data and information collection, plus secretariat support for the Covid-19 Incident Management Team.

For more information and to apply, see the [job 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 17th January](#).

Webinars

Day Centre Research Forum (DCRF)

The next Day Centre Research Forum (DCRF) will take place virtually (Zoom) on **Thursday 20th January 2022 from 2-4pm**.

Please find attached the flyer which we encourage you to share. If you tweet, please use #DCRForum @katitao @ARC_S_L.



We are delighted to have the following speakers:

- Caroline Bucklee and Angela Denvir (Northern Health and Social Care Trust, Northern Ireland) will be talking about **providing day centre services for mixed groups of adults** (adults and older people with mental health issues, physical disabilities and/or learning disabilities). They will be discussing how services are organised and managed to promote inclusion for all service users, and will explore some of the benefits and challenges of delivering services for mixed cohorts of adults.
- Robert Hagan (Manchester Metropolitan University) will be speaking about **reasons for, and responses to, time-limited day centre programming**. In line with reablement principles, one health and social care trust in

Northern Ireland adopted time-limited services. He will explore both the service provider's rationale for this, and the impact on and view of participants.

This event is free and open to all, however, booking is essential in order to be sent the Zoom link during the week before the event. Please book on [Eventbrite](#). Please only book if you know you can attend as there is a capacity limit. If, at any time, you become aware that you will no longer be able to attend, please cancel your place (or let me know and I can cancel for you) as we have a capacity limit and there are usually people on the waiting list.

Please see [further information](#) about previous DCRF events and [our NIHR Applied Research Collaboration South London Social Care work](#).

UK Data Service agent-based modelling training series



Social science seeks to understand and predict patterns involving human behaviour, many of which are large-scale and complex. However, social science explanations or predictions can be difficult to test and refine because of the serious ethical and practical barriers to running experiments on the real world! For example, there are many possible explanations for the complex patterns of urban mobility, but when traffic calming measures fail to produce the desired results it can be difficult to identify why or how the situation can be improved.

One possible solution is to run social science experiments 'in silico' via an agent-

based model (ABM) in which simulated actors have features, behaviours and actions informed by real world data. Such ABM experiments allow social scientists to test and refine their understanding of problems and possible solutions and to explore how emergent patterns might change under alternative conditions.

This free online training series, organised by the UK Data Service, shows how to use agent-based models combined with real world data to address social science questions. Following an introductory webinar, there will be two workshops and then a guest seminar featuring Kavin Narasimhan from Surrey University (date TBC). Follow the links to book a place:

- Webinar: [Introduction to agent-based modelling for social scientists](#), 19 January 2022
- Workshop 1: [Adding real world data to agent-based modelling for social scientists](#), 2 February 2022
- Workshop 2: [Conducting experiments with agent-based modelling for social scientists](#), 16 February 2022

These events will be livestreamed on [our UK Data Service YouTube channel](#) but the chat will not be monitored. By registering and attending the Zoom event you will be able to ask questions and interact.

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.

The next newsletter submission deadline is **Monday 17th January**.

Copyright © 2021 LARIA, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

Our mailing address is:

LARIA

LARIA

Tower House

Mill Lane, Askham Bryan

York, North Yorkshire YO23 3FS

United Kingdom

[Add us to your address book](#)

Tel - 0345 676 9598

Email - admin@laria.org.uk

Web - www.laria.org.uk

Twitter - [@laria](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

