



Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

LARIA Newsletter February 2022

LARIA Council

Levelling up and the focus on data

by Juliet Whitworth, LARIA Trustee and LARIA Council member

Since our last LARIA newsletter, we have taken delivery of the long-awaited Levelling Up White Paper. Though much delayed, now it's finally arrived it contains a lot which will be of interest to LARIA members, with its sections on the establishment of a new independent data body, and details of 12 new missions and a consultation to identify metrics to measure the success of them.

The 12 new missions are across four broad areas:

- boosting productivity and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging
- spreading opportunities and improving public services, especially in those areas where they are weakest
- restoring a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost, and
- empowering local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency.

Each of the missions has an identified set of [headline metrics](#) and supporting metrics, through which progress will be monitored. The aim is that they help measure intermediate outcomes, provide additional context and act as an early indicator of progress towards meeting the mission. Now the white paper has been published, the full suite of supporting metrics will be developed, based on further engagement with a wide range of stakeholders. And the Levelling Up White Paper also commits to creating a statutory responsibility on government to report on its progress.

The new data body is for England and will be focused on data, transparency and robust evidence. The objectives of this body include empowering citizens with information about their local area, strengthening local leaders' knowledge of their services, increasing central government's understanding of local government, and enabling sector support to be better tailored. The headquarters will be outside London, and the body will be co-designed with local government.

In my day-job at the LGA, we are anticipating that we will work closely with government on the development of the new independent body relating to data transparency. Our thought is that this new organisation must add value to what already exists and not duplicate the work of other bodies. We're hoping that [LG Inform](#), the LGA's benchmarking tool, might be able to support the new body.

We also anticipate contributing to the discussion about the set of metrics to support the 12 missions. Though many of the headline metrics are at national level, we know councils and combined authorities have a critical role to play in achieving those 12 missions and will want to measure their own progress. In the past, for example with the Best Value Indicators and National Indicator Set, the LGA worked closely with LARIA to co-ordinate feedback and draw on the practical experience of members. We hope to do this again, so keep an eye on the [LARIA Knowledge Hub group](#), where any such discussions will take place.

There's likely to be lots of activity in the coming year around the commitments and plans listed in the Levelling Up White Paper, many of which touch on data. LARIA will be keeping you in touch with these, and we'd really welcome your input where appropriate.

LARIA Updates

LARIA Members' Area

Towards the end of 2021 we completed some improvements to the [LARIA Members' Area](#).

Within the improved Members' Area you can update your profile, contact preferences and check and update your billing information. Corporate and Full Corporate Members can also check which additional contacts (additional corporate members) are listed and add/remove contacts to their membership. There are also a Jobs board and a Training board you can submit job adverts and training events to for other members to view.

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 14th March](#)

LARIA East of England Regional Group

by Richard Potter, Regional Representative for the East of England Group.

Meeting in small groups

One thing working for LARIA members has been to get together in small groups to share experiences and learn from others. These can be around subjects, techniques, or anything.

On 15th February eight LARIA members met with ONS to catch up on Census and find out what each other is doing e.g. on the quality assurance process. We have been meeting now for a couple of years.

Recently Kent asked if people were interested in meeting to talk around qualitative research on domestic abuse. Six LARIA members have now met a couple of times and another is scheduled.

The small groups give enough time and space for people chat and talk, as well listen. They can review how often to meet and when to stop.

A post on Knowledge Hub can be a good way of seeing if people are interested in starting.

LARIA Regional Group's

If you are interested in attending a regional meeting, you can find information about

your local group and point of contact on the [LARIA website](#).

We are currently looking for Regional Representatives for the following areas:

- North West
- Yorkshire and the Humber
- East Midlands
- South East
- South West

Please email admin@laria.org.uk if you would like more information on volunteering for this role.

News



Census 2021 outputs

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We aim to release the first results for Census 2021 data on the population of England and Wales in late May 2022, and to publish all other main Census 2021 data within two years of census. Read our [proposed outputs and analysis release plans](#).

In December, we published part one of our response to the Census 2021 outputs consultation feedback. In it, we shared information about the feedback respondents gave us about our phase one proposals. We also discussed which proposals we are changing or considering further.

In total there were 312 individuals and organisations who took part. 126 were completed on behalf of local government organisations, including 116 from local

authorities. Thank you to everyone who took part.

[Response to the 'Census 2021 outputs: content design and release phase proposals' consultation – Part one](#)

We are now assessing the feedback you provided on our phase two, phase three, and beyond 2023 proposals. We will publish part two of our consultation response, addressing this feedback, in Spring 2022.

Building the richest picture of our population

Population statistics underpin a vast array of analysis, from unemployment rates to health outcomes, and are vital to decisions about all public services. Pete Benton, Deputy National Statistician (Health, Population and Methods), explains how, this year, with new census outputs and more frequent statistics from new data sources, the ONS will deliver richer and more timely insights than ever before.

[Read Pete Benton's Blog](#)

Census 2021 Quality Assurance

We have invited all local authorities, county councils and combined authorities in England and Wales to take part in our quality assurance of Census 2021 data. LAs were initially invited in summer 2021 with further information supplied and follow up letters through autumn 2021.

In line with the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#), only named individuals that have signed a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) will be able to see the data. NDAs have been sent out in addition to a detailed User Guide to explain the process.

If your local authority is yet to sign up to participate, please get in touch with us at census.quality.assurance@ons.gov.uk as soon as possible with details of your nominated representatives. They will need to understand census data and how it's

used in your local authority.

If you have any questions about any of the topics above, please get in touch with the Local Authority Partnership Team at 2021Census.LA.Liaison@ons.gov.uk.

Pre-doctoral Local Authority Fellowship  **NIHR** | National Institute
for Health Research

Last year the NIHR Academy piloted pre-doctoral and doctoral fellowships for aspirant researchers based within local authority settings and, thanks to the engagement we received, both pilots were very successful indeed.

As a result of this successful scheme, DHSC has given its support for a continuation of the programme, and I am delighted to be able to inform you that we launched a further call for Pre-doctoral Local Authority Fellowship applications on the 27th January. Once again, these fellowships will only be available to individuals based within local authorities and LA supporting services.

[NIHR Pre-doctoral Local Authority Fellowship Scheme](#)

[Case study: Supporting pre-doctoral research training in local authority settings](#)

The closing date for applications is 1pm on 31st March 2022. Please contact academy-awards@nihr.ac.uk if you're interested in applying.

GeoPlace LLP



Improving services by data integration at Walsall Council

GeoPlace's latest case study features an in-depth look at Walsall Council, their journey and the benefits they have received internally from integrating their LLPG into business systems, organisation-wide.

[Read the case study.](#)

Gwent Police improves efficiencies by using UPRNs to geocode its workforce

Gwent Police have connected their data to make much better use of officers' time and make more efficient on the ground decisions. This was achieved by geocoding its workforce to their home addresses – putting information into their systems that correlate where officers live, to deploy new technology to support them most efficiently.

As the force modernises and rationalises its estate, this will lead to a more agile way of working: staff will be able to use agile spaces closer to home rather than travelling further afield. This project feeds into a larger piece of work in which Gwent Police is analysing how to best equip its stations. Find out more on the [GeoPlace website.](#)

Jobs

Cambridgeshire County Council



Research Analyst (2 positions)

Hours: 37.00

Salary: £27,741 – £29,577

Working Pattern: Permanent

Location: Sunley Centre, Papworth

Reference: 25897

Closing date: 01 March 2022 at midnight

Cambridgeshire County Council's Business Intelligence Service is looking for two Analysts to join our Research Team.

About the role: The Research Team delivers research and data analysis for local public sector partners and the Council. Our Analysts are expected to be technically proficient in analysis and the use of analytical tools. They will have some experience in research or other analytical roles combined with excellent IT, time management and communication skills. The successful applicants can expect to develop their knowledge and expertise further and complete complex analysis using Excel, Power BI, GIS software and other data manipulation tools. These particular roles are currently available on a permanent basis and would suit someone looking to build their research career by gaining experience working at a more senior level.

We encourage our analysts to work across a variety of subject areas. However, the two roles we are currently recruiting for will focus on supporting Cambridgeshire County Council and partners in the Combined Authority and the Greater Cambridge Partnership to make well evidenced decisions around the following subject areas:

- Transportation, including road safety, traffic demands, congestion, active travel and climate change.
- Skills and Economy, including further education, employment, the development of

the local economy and the delivery of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's devolved Adult Education Budget.

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

Improvement Service

Head of Data and Intelligence



Job details

Salary range: £74,125 – £77,801 p.a.

Work location: Livingston – currently all staff are WFH

Hours: Full time

Contract type: Permanent

Closing date: Friday 25th February 2022

Interview date: Late March / Early April

An exciting opportunity has arisen with the Improvement Service for a Head of Data and Intelligence, part of the IS Senior Leadership Team.

We are looking to recruit a dynamic and proactive individual who will develop a compelling vision, cohesive strategy and roadmap for the IS Data and Intelligence service. You will also provide strategic leadership and direction on the company's overall approach to data and intelligence, ensuring that the IS is recognised by Local Government and the wider system as a leader and centre of expertise in data and intelligence.

The post-holder will be responsible for ensuring that the IS is recognised as the 'go-to' organisation for Local Government data and analytical support and services

and as a leader and centre of expertise in data and intelligence. This will include continuing to strengthen and develop IS and councils' data capabilities and skills, and learning from industry best practice and emerging trends in data and analytics.

We are looking for an inspirational leader who is a passionate advocate of improving data quality and the role that data and intelligence can play in informing and supporting service transformation and improved outcomes.

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

Head of Digital Public Services

Job details

Salary range: £74,125 – £77,801 p.a.

Work location: Livingston – currently all staff are WFH

Hours per week: Full time

Contract type: Permanent

Closing date: Friday 25th February 2022

Interview date: Late March / Early April

An exciting opportunity has arisen with the Improvement Service for a Head of Digital Public Services, part of the IS Senior Leadership Team.

We are looking to recruit a dynamic and proactive individual who will provide leadership and direction on the overall vision, strategy and roadmap for IS Digital Public Services. The post-holder will be responsible for ensuring that the IS is recognised by Local Government and the wider system as an influencer and expert in digital services, identity management and user authentication.

The post-holder will lead and direct the IS' Digital Public Services team, which delivers high quality and secure digital public services that produce efficiency savings, provide sustainable front-line local services and contribute to the delivery of Scotland's Digital Strategy and priority outcomes in Scotland's National

Performance Framework. These include myaccount, the Data Hub, parentsportal.scot, getyournec.scot and bisaccount.

We are looking for an inspirational leader who champions the role digital public services can play as an enabler of transformation and is passionate about stakeholder engagement and the customer experience. You will be a role model for the behaviour needed to encourage and embed digital public services.

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

If you have any questions about either position please contact donna.mcveigh@improvementservice.org.uk

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 March](#).

Courses, Training Events and Webinars

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



The 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. See: [Careers and employability](#)

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

Course Content Enquiries: Please email the PGT Programme Recruitment

Director:

Dr. K. Purdam. Email: kingsley.purdam@manchester.ac.uk



Margaret Butterworth Care Home Forum



KING'S
College
LONDON

Visiting in Care Homes During COVID-19 (Margaret Butterworth Care Home Forum)

After a hiatus due to Covid, we are very happy to re-launch the Margaret Butterworth Care Home Forum!

MBCHF is a forum for discussion and learning focused on dementia care in communal settings such as nursing homes, care homes and extra care housing. There will be 3 webinars over the course of 2022. The first webinar on 23 March 2022, from 2.00-4.00 will focus on the theme '**Visiting in care homes during Covid-19**'.

The webinar will include two speakers:

[Josie Dixon](#), Assistant Professorial Research Fellow, Care Policy and Evaluation Centre, London School of Economics and Political Science.

Josie will be presenting findings of a research study: [Visit-id: a study of care home visiting arrangements during Covid-19](#)

[Dr Kathleen Lane](#), PI of UCAIRE study, University of East Anglia.

Kathleen will be presenting on [Experiences of infection-control measures on family and friends of care-home residents during Covid-19](#): "We can't visit and see what's going on for her... it's like having paper-bags over our heads"

We will have plenty of time for questions and discussions. Once you have registered on Eventbrite, you will receive the Zoom-link a few days before the webinar.

Register for Webinar

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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

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