



Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

## LARIA Newsletter July 2022

**LARIA Council - Alastair Lee, East Sussex County Council**

### **Sharing tools in Children's Services**

In early 2019 I had what was, in hindsight, a “blinding flash of the patently obvious”: if my own colleagues in East Sussex children's services needed to build ad hoc data tools to help with statutory duties, then people in other Local Authorities would be managing the same problems independently.

A quick survey of children's services data teams in my region (via [www.seslip.co.uk](http://www.seslip.co.uk), the South East Sector Led Improvement Programme) revealed 10 shareable Excel tools had been produced across 19 LAs. Only one of these was being widely used outside its home LA, and that one was entirely reliant on maintenance by the individual who had produced it. Logic suggested that the 152 LAs nationwide would have similar experiences.

At the same time the ChAT, an Excel based data tool developed by Waltham Forest, Hackney, Tower Hamlets and Ofsted, which provides common reports for inspection and has become integral to children's services data work, was no longer funded and was reliant on one person to maintain it alongside their day job.

Roll forward to 2022; we now have a funded project called Data to Insight (D2I: [www.datatoinsight.org](http://www.datatoinsight.org)) hosting 15 tools with a full-time manager plus fixed-term

project staff. D2I has the core purpose of maintaining and making these tools freely available to LAs, identifying and developing new tools, and supporting a Level 4 Apprenticeship to improve skills in the existing workforce.

This did not happen overnight, and we received a lot of support to make it happen. The takeaway, I hope, is that the same thing will be possible in other areas of Local Government. By working together we can reduce duplication of effort, improve data quality, improve skills, and gather additional insights.

For more information, feel free to contact me ([Alastair.lee@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Alastair.lee@eastsussex.gov.uk)) or Alistair Herbert, the D2I manager ([Alistair.herbert@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Alistair.herbert@eastsussex.gov.uk))

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## News

### Qa Research

#### Using archives in social research

This article by Qa Research reports on a webinar hosted by the Social Research Association. It focuses on how social researchers could achieve better outcomes by using archived research material.



R E S E A R C H

Read the full article: [Learning about social research archives made me realise: We need to look back to look forward](#)

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## GeoPlace

### Local authorities can get a 6:1 ROI on integrating their address and street data



The report, commissioned by GeoPlace and conducted by location strategy consultants ConsultingWhere, shows that savings are most likely through benefits that could be derived in:

- adult social care
- education
- planning
- environmental health
- data integration.

All told, these offer an enhanced return on investment of around 6:1 – an essential uplift in efficiency, at a time when all local authorities are feeling economic pressure.

Local authorities have the wherewithal to kickstart their progress towards this return, as every organisation already has access to the underlying data needed. This 6:1 ROI is achievable by making better use of the data held within each authority's Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) and Local Street Gazetteer (LSG), which authorities are able to do by themselves without paying expensive consultants. [We've put together some free tools and resources here.](#)

See the [press release](#).

### Best practice in local government location data management

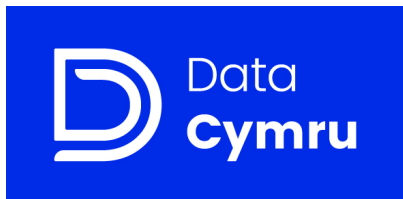
GeoPlace has published case studies on some of the [winners and entries to the Exemplar Awards](#). Congratulations to all of the authorities involved:

- [Mitigating risks to life in Conwy from Ash Die Back disease](#)
- [Improving council services in Oxfordshire by integrating the Street Gazetteer including FixMyStreet](#)
- [Improvements in data quality deliver efficiency in Durham](#)
- [Collaborative approach to improving data accuracy and quality in Durham](#)
- [Overcoming multiple integration challenges in forming Buckinghamshire Council](#)
- [Increasing access to residential lettings' data in Thanet](#)

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## Data Cymru

### Census 2021 – new approach, new data, and new outputs



The first round of data from the 2021 census was published on 28 June by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Data is available at a local authority level and includes:

- Usual resident population by sex and 5 year age band;
- Usual resident population density; and
- Number of households.

To help you use and understand the data, Data Cymru have developed a suite of resources, including:

- a [dashboard](#) comparing 2001, 2011, and 2021 data;
- data (including Welsh metadata) in [InfoBaseCymru](#); and

- a [guide](#) to Census 2021.

For more information on census data please contact [Sam Sullivan](#).

### **What does it cost to run local authority services?**

Data Cymru have developed an 'Revenue Outturn Expenditure' interactive (PowerBI) dashboard. The dashboard is designed to help users understand the expenditure associated with running local authority services.

To see the website please visit Data Cymru's [website](#).

### **Environmental Health, Trading Standards and Licensing activity relating to COVID-19 – dashboard coming soon...**

Data Cymru are proud to have supported Welsh local authority Environmental Health and Trading Standards officers, the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and Welsh Government in collecting data to understand the impact of COVID on enforcement activity. Data Cymru will be publishing a dashboard shortly, which will present the data from 26 March 2020 to 19 April 2022.

Further details will be available on Data Cymru's [website](#) and [Twitter](#) account – so watch this space...

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### **Good Things Foundation**

#### **Digital inclusion: Business case and benchmarks**

'[The economic impact of digital inclusion in the UK](#)' is out. Commissioned by leading digital inclusion charity, [Good Things Foundation](#), supported by Capita - this is essential reading for any local authority building a business case for tackling

digital exclusion. For every £1 invested in interventions to build basic digital skills, a return of £9.48 is gained throughout the economy. Cebr's report details the methods across nine benefits streams; the summary by Good Things Foundation also provides a list of useful resources for local authorities.

Good Things Foundation is also involved in new research led by [University of Liverpool](#) and [Loughborough University](#) - involving members of the public in setting a national benchmark for digital inclusion. What should be included in the minimum 'basket' of goods, services and capabilities a household needs to be 'digitally included'? Find out more about the [Minimum Digital Living Standards project from this briefing](#) and [event recording](#).

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## Courses, Training Events and Webinars

### UK Data Service

#### Introduction to the Family Resources Survey

4 October 2022, 9:30 am - 12:45 pm



Do you want to know more about using data from the Family Resources Survey for research?

The [Family Resources Survey \(FRS\)](#) provides some of the most detailed information about the incomes and living circumstances of households and families in the UK. Researchers can access data from the survey via the UK Data Service. This free half-day online workshop will guide you through all the background information needed to work confidently with data from the FRS. Led by experts from the Department for Work and Pensions and the UK Data Service, the workshop will include a mix of presentations, demonstrations, and practical tips.

[More information and booking](#)

### **All you need to know about UK Data Service SecureLab import requests**

13 October 2022, 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Do you wish to import data into your existing UK Data Service (UKDS) SecureLab project? Do you want to import syntax files or part of your paper into your existing UKDS SecureLab project? Do you want to understand the Import Request process just a little bit better?

Come to our free webinar to learn how the import process works and what you should, and should not, do to ensure the import process is completed as smoothly and quickly as possible.

The webinar will include:

- Details on how the import process works
- Information on how to complete an import request form correctly
- Learn what is and is not accepted when importing data, syntax, or documents into the UKDS SecureLab
- How to access information and further help
- Q&As for you to ask us anything about import requests

[More information and booking](#)

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## **Jobs**

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 [Thursday 25th August](#).

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## Wigan Council

The Joint Intelligence Unit at Wigan Council is currently recruiting to 3 Senior Analyst positions.

Each post has a specific area of responsibility

covering either our Supporting Families agenda, our Place & Community Safety Partnership, or our developing approach to understanding neighbourhood level demand and assets.



We are looking for Analysts that are passionate about data and the power that intelligence can play in driving improved outcomes for residents. The Joint Intelligence Unit plays a key role in driving and shaping Wigan Council's ambitious transformation agenda. We are an enthusiastic and driven team who will provide you with the opportunity to learn and to develop further within the organisation.

Closing dates for the posts are 31<sup>st</sup> July and 3<sup>rd</sup> August. Further details are show in the links below:

[Senior Analyst \(Supporting Families\)](#)

[Senior Analyst](#)

[Senior Analyst](#)

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

Your LARIA Corporate Membership entitles you to

The logo for Laria is the word "Laria" in a bold, teal, sans-serif font.

Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

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 **Thursday 25th August**.

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