



Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

LARIA Newsletter December 2022

LARIA Updates

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

- DEADLINE: FRIDAY 13 JANUARY



In Partnership with



Rising Costs, Falling Revenues:

Exploring Research, Intelligence, and Insight from Local Areas

We currently face a wide range of significant challenges including the cost-of-living crisis, rising demands and costs associated with an ageing population, pressures on the NHS in a (hopefully) post-Covid-19 world, alongside the climate emergency. From 2010, local government across the UK saw their funding reduced by around 30% (although this figure varied significantly between regions and nations). The sector has a good record of stepping up to the plate in responding to public sector cuts and other challenges, but there is always room to learn from each other in making the best use of research and data. Now more than ever before, we need to share lessons on 'what works' in conducting research post-Covid and reacting to the cost-of-living crisis for councils, households, and vulnerable groups.

We are calling for presentations on our theme: Rising Costs, Falling Revenues: Exploring Research, Intelligence, and Insight from Local Areas.

For full details please see the [LARIA website](#) and to submit a presentation please download the [Submission Form](#) and return to admin@laria.org.uk.

LARIA in Scotland – Co-Chair: Nick Cassidy, Research Manager Improvement Service

December offers a chance to reflect on the past 12 months and I think it's fair to say that 2022 has been the latest in a series of tumultuous and unprecedented years. This year we've seen the end of Covid restrictions (I have to admit I was surprised to be reminded this happened this year, as it feels like a lifetime ago); war in Ukraine; rates of inflation not seen for 30 years and an accompanying Cost of Living Crisis; strikes across many sectors, including local government workers here in Scotland; three Prime Ministers; and in November an autumn statement that the OBR predicts will lead to the greatest fall in living standards since records began. We certainly live in interesting times!

In May we also had Council elections in all thirty-two Councils in Scotland and across the UK. Many Councillors will have been elected for the first time and, certainly in Scotland, face a uniquely challenging picture for local authorities and their communities.

This year, alongside the excellent work LARIA does UK wide, such as the Spring Webinar Series, we have also begun further work to develop the LARIA in Scotland network. In October we held an event looking at our response to the Cost of Living Crisis. We hope that this will be the first of many events continuing to explore how we can support each other in Scotland, and across the UK, to provide evidence that has a real and positive impact. As is always the case with LARIA events, both the LARIA in Scotland event and Spring Webinar Series struck me with the enormous range and quality of work undertaken by research, intelligence, and analytical colleagues working in local areas. The impact this has in ensuring that those most in need receive support can't be underestimated.

The reality is that many people are now facing an incredibly difficult winter. Our close link to communities and to individuals means local government, working with our partners, is the best vehicle for providing the assistance needed to support people through this period. Projects like those we have showcased through LARIA are absolutely essential in ensuring Councils and our partners can provide support where and when it is needed. As a community of practice, we should be proud of the work we do and the impact it has on people's lives.

These issues aren't going away. The Cost of Living Crisis will likely continue to be one of the main focuses of our work in 2023. This is, of course, on top of continuing to support the move to a net zero economy, tackling child poverty, continuing our recovery from the Covid Pandemic, and a range of other issues. All of which while Councils continue to manage increasingly limited budgets.

Despite the challenge, there are also opportunities and the research and analysis community working in local areas will be more important than ever in ensuring that decision making is informed by evidence. LARIA will also continue to play a central role in sharing best practice and developing our capabilities. If there is a lesson from 2022 it's that by working together and celebrating the impact we are having, we can help ensure the best possible outcomes for our local areas.

Finally, I hope everyone has a fantastic festive break and a very happy new year. Sláinte!

LARIA Membership Fees

Thank you for your continued support over the last 12 months. We've held successful webinar series in 2022, and look forward to seeing you at our events in 2023. All LARIA webinars remain 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 1 January 2023. 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.

As a reminder, in the members' area of the LARIA website, 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 LARIA benefits. The members' area also hosts past editions of the LARIA Newsletter, previous webinar recordings and conference presentations, which you can access at any time.

Membership fees from 1 January 2023 will be:

- Associate Membership – free
- Full Individual Membership – £20
- Corporate Membership – £150
- Full Corporate Membership – £170

News

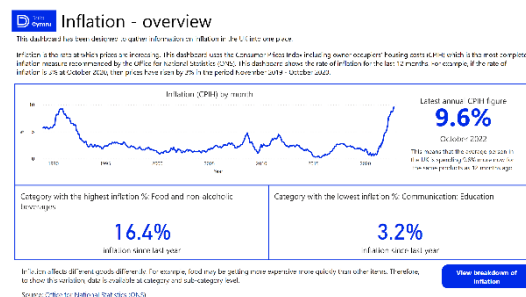
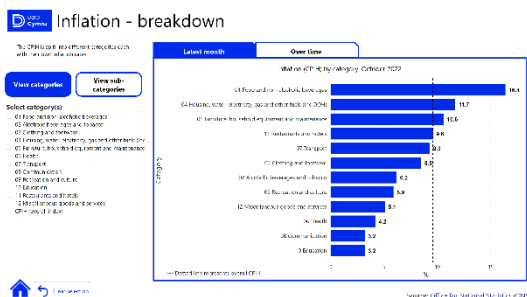
Data Cymru

Understanding inflation data

Data Cymru have published a new dashboard, which brings inflation data into one place to help you understand the key trends. The impact of inflation is something we are all feeling. However, not all prices have been rising at the same rate.

The dashboard allows you to view the data by categories and sub-categories to help you understand which goods and services are driving price increases.

The dashboard is available on their website: [Dashboard](#)



CACI income and affordability dashboard

Data Cymru have developed a cost-of-living crisis dashboard. It provides estimates of the affordability of housing and energy costs across Wales.

The dashboard includes income data from the CACI Paycheck dataset, which is a paid-for service. Some local councils do not have a CACI licence, but Data Cymru have received special permission to share this data at the local council geography, given how important a role it can play in understanding the impacts of the cost-of-living crisis. Data is also available at a postcode level for those councils who have a CACI licence.

The dashboard contains three key measures:

- Estimated energy costs as a % of household income
- House prices as a % of household income
- Household income.

As this data is accessed via a CACI licence only, this dashboard isn't publicly available. If you'd like further information or would like to discuss what Data Cymru have been doing in this area, then please email sam.sullivan@data.cymru.

GeoPlace

The circle of address data: saving lives, probably every day

Steve Taylor is the Head of Systems, Data & Information Governance at Essex County Fire and

Rescue Service, [discusses the importance of addressing](#) to the work of the fire service.

Accurate addressing is absolutely vital to the Fire Service. When we respond to incidents we need to get to that location in very little time, and the great work that local authorities and GeoPlace do in maintaining accurate addressing enables us to do that. There is no doubt in my mind that accurate address data saves lives, probably every day.



Harnessing data to support vulnerable people

The response to Covid-19 provided a fresh imperative for sharing public sector data to support vulnerable people, producing examples of best practice and shifting the mindset towards maximising the appropriate use of data.

But significant barriers remain, some coming from longstanding anxieties around data protection and the dangers of identifying individuals when it is not necessary. Others relate to the absence of agreed standards for real time access to the data, with no widespread agreement on which attributes are good predictors of vulnerability and uncertainty over how to find and get them in place. In response, there is a strong case for a standardised approach to the data, with the use of a key identifier to support the linking of datasets while allaying fears around the privacy of individuals.

The issue provided the focus of a recent UKA Live discussion supported by GeoPlace and involving Paul Davidson, chief digital officer of Sedgemoor Council and director of iStand UK, Jamie Tasker, business intelligence innovation manager at Barnsley Council, and Jo Mann, head of risk and intelligence at Humberside Fire and Rescue Service (FRS).

Read a review of the events and watch it on catch up here: [Read Review and watch](#)

Data, IG and supporting the vulnerable

but it is often seen to be at odds with the demands of information governance (IG), creating a complex and often confusing outlook that stands in the way of progress. The issue came under the spotlight at a recent UKA Live discussion in which GeoPlace took part along with Dawn Monaghan, interim director of IG policy and ethics at NHS England, Dr Susheel Varma, head of AI and data science at the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), and Murat Soncul, head of privacy and data protection at the Central Digital and Data Office.

Watch the webinar on demand here: [Watch on demand](#). A write-up of the event is coming soon.

ONS Census 2021 topic summary updates



In recent weeks the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has continued the publication of Census 2021 topic summaries. To date, summaries have been released on [demography and migration](#), [UK Armed Forces veterans](#), [ethnic group](#), [identity](#), [language and religion](#), [Welsh language](#), and [labour market and travel to work](#).

There are also confirmed or provisional dates for the remaining topic summary releases on [housing](#), [sexual orientation and gender identity](#), [education](#) and [health, disability and unpaid care](#).

Statistical bulletins and datasets for each topic summary are available via the ONS website, along with an interactive [census maps tool](#) and the [Census 2021 dictionary](#) which provides detailed information about variables, definitions and classifications to help when using Census 2021 data.

How has your local authority area changed in 10 years?

To help users understand changes in their areas over the last decade, the ONS have produced an article for each local authority area detailing some of the major changes between Census 2011 and Census 2021. The articles have been written and semi-automated by our data journalists and are a new publishing format for the Office for National Statistics.

Topics are chosen and ordered automatically based on how relevant they are for each area, however all data are checked before publishing. We have not included topics that were new for Census 2021 or where there is no comparability with the 2011 Census. Find out more [here](#)

Transforming the ONS' household financial statistics

The ONS has recently launched a [consultation](#) on plans for the transformation of its household financial statistics. A better understanding of your use of these statistics alongside your views, needs and priorities, with respect to the proposals, is crucial in

shaping the direction and success of this transformation. The consultation is open until Thursday 23 February 2023.

The ONS are also hosting an online event on 17 January 2023. This is an opportunity to further discuss the proposals in the consultation, ask questions and share thoughts about the uses and priorities for these key statistics. Sign up to the online event [here](#).

Find out more about this piece of work [here](#).

Domestic Abuse Research Group

Are you interested in sharing research and analytical approaches related to the Domestic Abuse arena? If so why not join our informal online research group, it is a safe space to share knowledge and ideas as well as problem solve some of the challenges that we face when undertaking research, evaluation and analysis in the area of Domestic Abuse. The group convenes every 8 – 10 weeks for an hour, we often have speakers who give short presentations then the floor is opened up for a wider discussion. This is a great way to share knowledge and approaches between Councils and allows us to support each other to overcome challenges.

If this sounds like something you are interested in please email the chair of the group naomi.clemons@kent.gov.uk

Courses, Training Events and Webinars

**NIHR Health & Social Care Workforce
Research Unit**

NIHR | Policy Research Unit
in Health and Social
Care Workforce

Safeguarding responses to homelessness and self-neglect

Emerging findings from an NIHR SSCR funded national study.

Tue, 31 January 2023, 10:00 – 11:30 GMT

At this webinar three members of the research team will present and discuss the emerging messages from the study Opening the ‘too difficult box’: [strengthening Adult Safeguarding responses to homelessness and self-neglect](#).

Jess Harris, Research Fellow at King’s College London, and Stan Burridge, peer-researcher and Director of Expert Focus, will present the findings from their interviews. Bruno Ornelas, safeguarding consultant and Head of Homelessness at Concrete, will reflect on the findings from an expert practitioner perspective.

Book your place via Eventbrite: [Register](#)

UK Data Service

Teaching with census data

17 Jan 2023 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Census 2021 will provide demographic, employment, housing and other characteristics about local populations at neighbourhood level.

This free online workshop, organised by the UK Data Service, is designed to enable those teaching undergraduate students to use this local material to explore substantive questions related to their discipline. The aims of the workshop are to enable participants to be able to:

- Appreciate the geography of local areas and the data that is provided from the census.
- Be able to access, prepare and present census data.
- Develop appropriate exercises for students to engage in practical exploration, analysis and reporting on substantive topics of interest.

The workshop will use Microsoft Excel software and provide supporting materials to enable students to develop basic skills in data analysis and reporting the results in charts and tables. The workshop will also outline more advanced techniques to combine other



neighbourhood-based information and prepare materials to combine with GIS software to produce maps.

[Book your place](#)

Developing area profiles using Census 2021 data

28 Feb 2023 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Census 2021 will provide demographic, employment, housing and other characteristics about local populations at neighbourhood level. This free online workshop, organised by the UK Data Service, is designed to help you to develop area profiles for your local populations. The presentations will explain the data and geographical scale of what is available and provide a practical session to enable you to develop this into an area profile. The aims of the workshop are to enable participants to be able to:

- Appreciate the geography of local areas and the data that is provided from the census.
- Be able to access, prepare and present census data in tables and charts.
- Appreciate the requirements to prepare data for mapping applications and to combine other area-based information with census data at local area level.

The workshop will use Microsoft Excel software and provide supporting materials to enable participants to develop basic skills in data analysis and reporting the results in charts and tables. The workshop will be based on the data that is available at the time. The session will discuss the ways in which future data releases can be used to refine your area profiles.

[Book your place](#)

Data Cymru

Training courses – capacity building programme

Data Cymru offer a range of training opportunities as part of their capacity building programme. Training courses are aimed at Welsh



local government colleagues and are intentionally introductory. Training courses coming up include:

- [Understanding your information: An introduction to summary statistics](#) – 7 February 2023 – 10:00 – 12:30
- [Getting your point across: An introduction to how to present data effectively](#) – 16 February 2023 – 13:00 – 15:30
- [Hearing from citizens: An introduction to designing and running surveys](#) – 22 February 2023 – 10:00 – 12:30
- [Engaging with citizens: An introduction to designing and running focus groups](#) - 1 March 2023 – 13:00 – 15:30

Data Cymru can also provide training courses specifically for your organisation. Numbers are normally limited to 15 but training can be provided at a time and date that suits you for up to 20 for £750 plus VAT. If you'd like further information, please email enquiries@data.cymru or call 029 2090 9500.

Up and coming 'Inform and Inspire' webinars

Data Cymru host regular webinars as part of their capacity building programme of support:

- ['A problem shared...' - real life examples of data sharing, warts and all!](#) – Thursday 19 January 2023 – 12:00 – 13:30
- [Understanding the Cost-of-Living crisis with data](#) – Thursday 9 February – 12:00 – 13:00
- [Smart towns for smart councils: using data to revitalise Welsh town centres](#) – Thursday 9 March – 12:00 – 13:00

If you've missed any of Data Cymru's webinars, then you can look back at past recordings here: [Previous Webinars](#)

Local Government Association

The Local Government Association has secured access for local government analysts to the Office for National Statistics' (ONS's) Data Science Campus learning hub. This contains a wealth of courses covering a wide range of analysis and methodological areas, ranging from introductory to advanced. Until now, these courses have only been available to those working in Government departments.



The courses are all available as online learning to be completed at any time. The LGA has negotiated for them to be available to local government analysts free of charge. To find out more and request access to the learning hub, please visit the [LGA Data Science Campus webpage](#).

Jobs

WDH

Senior Insight Officer

Location: Wakefield district - Hybrid working

Salary: Total Reward Package worth £37,930 - £42,039

Closing date: 24 Jan 2023



WDH is one of the largest social housing providers in the UK, with over 32,000 homes. Our Customer Insight Team is looking for a new Senior Insight Officer to co-ordinate on delivering its annual Customer Insight Programme.

The team aims to further understand issues such as debt, mental health, health care and housing needs so WDH can continue to deliver, improve and evaluate services.

What you'll be doing:

The successful candidate will be 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 amplify WDH's customers' views, making recommendations to ensure our services do what's best for our tenants and residents.

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

Cambridgeshire County Council



Junior Research Analyst

Contract Type: Full Time

Closing Date: 08 January, 2023

Location: Hybrid (office in Papworth and home working), United Kingdom

Cambridgeshire County Council's Business Intelligence Service is looking for a full-time Junior Research Analyst to join our Research Team. The Business Intelligence Service are an innovative service providing Business Intelligence to the County Council covering in-depth reporting for many areas such as our children's and adult's social care services, education and highways.

The Research Team delivers research and data analysis for the Council and local public sector partners. Our Junior 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 applicant can expect to develop their knowledge and expertise further and complete complex analysis using Excel, Power BI, GIS software and other data manipulation tools. This could include the opportunity to complete a level 4 Data Analyst Apprenticeship with our current provider [Estio](#).

We encourage our analysts to work across a variety of subject areas, supporting Cambridgeshire County Council and partners in the wider public sector to make well evidenced decisions. This role will predominantly focus on drawing insights from transport data with a focus on monitoring travel patterns and road safety. It would be beneficial, but not essential, to have experience in the transport subject area. Subject matter training can be provided. Please be aware that due to the sensitive nature of the data we handle, this role will require a DBS check.

For more information about the work conducted by the Research Team, please visit: <https://cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk>

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 [Thursday 26th January](#).

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 [Thursday 26th January](#).

Copyright © 2022 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](#).

