



Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

LARIA Newsletter February 2023

LARIA Updates

Intelligence in a crisis

Mike Walker - LARIA Vice-chair; Secretary

The cost-of-living crisis is at the front of most people's minds, and we see the impacts it is having on many of people's lives. As local researchers, we are again looked on to deliver insight, as we were during the pandemic. We are doing some fantastic work to understand our areas and those that live or work there, and who needs support, where they are and what they need.

As researchers and analysts, we always want to provide the most up-to-date and robust evidence that we can, to inform decisions, policies and interventions. But in a rapidly changing and dynamic situation that isn't always possible. We know that most data have a lag, and sometimes that lag can challenge us in providing current intelligence. Or the data aren't granular enough to allow us to target specifically. Or sometimes the data don't exist or are held by other organisations.

But, we are innovative. We make the best use of the publicly data that we can, cutting it by areas and demography, and modelling it to fit our local boundaries. We value the importance of talking to our residents and service users, and know the questions to ask to elicit rich insight. We are well connected within our organisations, so we can bring in other datasets to our analyses to add value. Partners are sometimes an under-utilised resource

and a source of data that can add a whole new dimension to our understanding of our areas, as we can for them, so we make the best use of each other. Our data models allow us to predict what is going to happen, where and to what degree. And we engage decision-makers with visuals and presentations that get to the heart of the matter.

However, we are realistic, and we know that not all these things happen perfectly all of the time, despite our best efforts. And we are pragmatists, and we do not let the pursuit of perfection get in the way of good enough, and we continue to deliver the best we can.

Finally, we are resilient and make use of our colleagues in LARIA to learn from them and apply that learning back in our organisations and areas.

The challenges of delivering intelligence to tackle the cost-of-living impacts, and how LARIA members have risen to, and overcome them, will be showcased in the forthcoming LARIA events. We'll let you know further details soon.

LARIA Webinar Series 2023

**Rising Costs, Falling Revenues: Exploring
Research, Intelligence, and Insight from Local
Areas**

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

Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

Registration is open for the upcoming webinar series. The full programme can be viewed on our [website](#).

Webinars are available to Full Individual Members, Corporate Members, Full Corporate Members and Additional Corporate members only.

We start the series on Tuesday 7th March with 'Understanding the Cost-of-Living crisis with data' presented by James Debenham, Principal Consultant (Location Intelligence) & Jamie Clark, Account Manager, CACI

Webinar 1

Tuesday 7th March 2023: 14.00-15.00 GMT

Understanding the Cost-of-Living crisis with data

As living costs continue to soar and increasing numbers of people face hardship, having data that allows us to understand both the current and ongoing impacts of the Cost-of-Living crisis on our communities is essential. Income and segmentation data, in particular have been widely adopted by public sector organisations to provide a robust and up-to-date picture of the population to evidence decision-making.

In this webinar, we will be joined by our partners CACI who will walk you through the data they produce and how it can be used to inform our response to the current crisis. Key datasets used by CACI to support their analysis include (i) income datasets, Paycheck, which provides postcode level estimates of gross household income, (ii) Paycheck Disposable Income, which can help users understand the extent to which communities will be affected as disposable income decreases in the face of rising living costs and (iii) their segmentation tools (Acorn, Household Acorn and Wellbeing Acorn) that help paint a picture of the demographic, lifestyle, behavioural and health characteristics of the UK population.

[Click here](#) to register.

SAVE THE DATE

LARIA's One Day Conference & Awards

We're pleased to announce that we will be holding our first face-to-face conference since 2019 on Thursday 16th November 2023 at the LGA Offices:

Local Government Association
18 Smith Square
Westminster
London
SW1P 3HZ

More information coming soon.....

News

Data Cymru



Children in Poverty dashboard

Data Cymru have recently published a 'Child Poverty' dashboard which brings together data to help local authorities understand how many children are living in poverty across Wales and how this has changed over time. The dashboard allows users to view the data at a Welsh local authority and UK level. The dataset is published annually by the End Child Poverty Coalition.

The dashboard is available on [Data Cymru's website](#).

Welsh language dashboard

Data Cymru have used data from Census 2021 to create a dashboard that shows trends in the number of Welsh speakers by:

- Local authority;
- Age band; and
- Type of skill.

[Take a look.](#)

Self-Assessment Performance data (SAPD) tool for Welsh councils

Data Cymru will soon be launching a new performance dataset and associated data dissemination tool for Welsh councils.

The new Local Government and Elections Act (Wales) 2021 requires each Welsh council to introduce a self-assessment process which allows them to keep under review the extent to which they are meeting their performance requirements. While there is no requirement for councils to compare their performance, understanding how a council's performance compares to other councils is a fundamental part of effective performance management. Data Cymru are, therefore, identifying, sourcing and sharing data that will help councils understand, at a strategic level, how they are performing against the performance

requirements and how this performance compares to other councils.

The dataset and dissemination tool will be a **resource** for Welsh councils to support both the self-assessment process and broader benchmarking activity.

GeoPlace

UPRNs facilitate energy retrofitting in Nottingham



The Nottingham City Council GIS Team has developed a property-based dataset for the Carbon Reduction Projects and Policy service area. Using UPRNs to ensure validity and efficiency, this work supports the authority's ambitious plan for energy retrofitting schemes.

Find out more at [UPRNs facilitate energy retrofitting in Nottingham](#)

Protecting homes at risk of flooding

Our latest case study is from the Greater London Authority (GLA) and describes how, after the floods in 2021, it set up a basement outreach campaign to raise awareness about the risks of flash flooding, and how to be prepared. The GLA used UPRNs to assess which properties were at risk. Read more at [Protecting homes at risk of flooding](#)

M.E.L Research



M·E·L were commissioned by the Association of Independent Museums (AIM) and Art Fund to investigate which emotions drive public support for museums, why certain emotions are more powerful than others, and how museums might use these emotions to channel support amongst their communities as we emerge from the pandemic, but continue to face potentially challenging times. The report has been well received across the museum sector and is of particular relevant to smaller museums, including local authority funded organisations, as well as to teams involved in place-making through arts and culture and to behaviour change practitioners more generally.

The link to our [full article is here](#).

The link to the [report is here](#).

ONS Census 2021 outputs update: flexible table builder release date

Throughout the past several months, the ONS has continued publishing data and products for Census 2021. There is now also a provisional publication date of 28 March 2023 for the [flexible table builder](#) for multivariate data.



With this new function, users will be able to add or remove variables as well as choose and change the area type and coverage for Census 2021 data. There will be millions of possible combinations of variables and classifications which people can build their own datasets from. Variables will cover demography and migration; UK armed forces veterans; high-level ethnic group, national identity, language, and religion; Welsh language skills; housing; labour market and travel to work; education; and health, disability and unpaid care.

To support users when it is launched, the ONS will be hosting a number of online demonstrations on how to make best use of the flexible table builder. Details of these will be shared in the coming weeks. If you'd like to register your interest in attending an online demonstration of the flexible table builder, contact the ONS via 2021Census.LA.Liaison@ons.gov.uk.

Courses, Training Events and Webinars

Geo Place

techUK webinar: UPRNs and USRNs: an open standard for public sector location data



GeoPlace is running a webinar with techUK and the Geospatial Commission on 9th March. The Geospatial Commission was established in 2018 by the government to unlock the significant economic, social and environmental opportunities offered by location data and boost the UK's global geospatial expertise.

One of its earliest policies was to provide access to Unique Property Reference Numbers (UPRNs) and Unique Street Reference Numbers (USRNs) data free of charge under an Open Government Licence, as part of the Public Sector Geospatial Agreement held between the Geospatial Commission and Ordnance Survey.

Authoritative address and street data with unique location identifiers provide a framework for linking all kinds of information efficiently, and the potential across government is significant. To embed this value at the heart of society, government through its Open Standards Board has mandated the use of UPRNs and USRNs - as the common identifiers for government systems, services and applications that store or publish data sets containing property and street information. Effectively, the government mandate confirms that best practice involves using these identifiers at every opportunity.

This session features speakers from the Geospatial Commission and GeoPlace, and will focus on the opportunities through wider use of the UPRN and USRN open standards.. What you need to know to best support your customers

[UPRNs and USRNs: an open standard for public sector location data. What you need to know to best support your customers](#)

Data Cymru

Up and coming 'Inform and Inspire' webinars

Data Cymru host regular webinars as part of their



capacity building programme of support. Webinars for March include:

- [Smart towns for smart councils: using data to revitalise Welsh town centres](#) – **Thursday 9 March – 12:00 – 13:00**
- [Senedd in numbers: making parliamentary data accessible](#) – **Thursday 23 March – 12:00 – 13:00**

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

NEW training courses

Data Cymru have launched two new training courses:

Data101: an introduction to understanding and using data

This course offers practical guidance to help build skills and confidence in understanding and using data. By the end of the course, you will understand:

- what data is and how to find it
- the questions you need to ask to make sure you understand data
- some basic techniques for using data.

Understanding and using performance data

This course offers practical guidance to help build skills and confidence in understanding, challenging and using data. By the end of the course you will understand:

- what performance data is and how to find it
- what you need to consider when working with performance data
- how to use performance data.

It is recommended, but not essential, that you attend the 'Data 101: an introduction to understanding and using data' training course before this course.

Both courses have two versions: one aimed at Councillors and the other aimed at all staff. Each takes around an hour and a half and can be delivered online or in-person at a time / date that suits you. Numbers are normally limited to 20.

For more information, please see their [website](#).

Upcoming ONS webinar for local authority communications teams



Local authority communications teams are a key part of explaining what census statistics mean and how they can make a difference to people's lives.

To help these communications colleagues utilise and communicate data from Census 2021 with their local audiences, the ONS is hosting a webinar on 7 March. As part of the session ONS experts will showcase some of the interactive products and show how users can embed ONS charts and products onto local websites.

Please share this event with your communications teams. Attendees can sign up via [this link](#).

UK Data Service introductory training series: spring 2023



We provide access to a wide range of social science data for reuse. To help you get the most from our service, we run free introductory level online workshops every spring and autumn to introduce different aspects of the UK Data Service.

Our training events in spring 2023 are listed below and you can also [browse our events pages](#) for a full list of what is available:

- [Introduction to the UK Data Service](#), 23 March, 11.00 – 12.30
- [Finding and accessing data from the UK Data Service](#), 29 March, 9.30 -11.00
- [How to become a computational social scientist](#), 18 April, 10.00 – 11.30
- [Dissertation projects: Introduction to secondary analysis for qualitative and quantitative data](#), 20 April, 10.00 -11.30

- [Data management basics: Introduction to data management and sharing](#), 27 April, 11.00 – 12.30
- [Data management basics: Ethical and legal issues in data sharing](#), 4 May, 10.00 – 11.30
- [Depositing your data with ReShare](#), 11 May, 11.00 -12.30
- [Introduction to copyright: Copyright and publishing](#), 19 May, 10.00- 11.30
- [Getting started with secondary analysis](#), 22 May, 10.00 -11.30
- [Introduction to copyright: Copyright and secondary data use](#), 25 May, 10.00 -11.30
- [Data documentation](#), 1 June, 11.00 -12.30
- [Consent issues in data sharing](#), 8 June, 10.00 – 11.30
- [How to anonymise qualitative and quantitative data](#), 15 June, 11.00 -12.30.

Recordings of UK Data Service events are made available on [our YouTube channel](#) and, together with the slides, on [our past events pages](#) soon after the event has taken place.

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 23rd March](#).

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 [Thursday 23rd March](#).

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