



Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

LARIA Newsletter April 2023

LARIA Updates

LARIA Survey 2023

Supporting Research,
Intelligence & Policy

[Complete survey](#)



Tell us about your challenges

To continue to support you and in turn help you support your communities, it's vital that LARIA, partnering with CACI, continue to understand your current and future needs.

We would like to know more about the challenges you face on a day-to-day basis so that

we can be better equipped to continue to provide the necessary level of support. It is for this reason that we would be grateful if you complete our survey to tell us more about what is happening in your local area.

[Please complete this survey](#)

[Complete Survey](#)

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:

Laria

Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

Local Government Association
18 Smith Square
Westminster
London
SW1P 3HZ

More information coming soon.....

News

A new report, 'What happens in English generalist day centres for older people? Findings from case study research', aims to improve the understanding of day

centre services for older people among social care and health professionals and potential collaborators. Please see the [blog](#) or download the report [here](#)

It showcases the complexity of day centre services and their diversity, shedding light on what makes these service multi-faceted 'interventions' that each attender is likely to experience differently.

The Covid-19 pandemic led to a greater appreciation of the need for in-person contact and the difficulties facing some older people when they could no longer meet other people in their day centre when these closed temporarily.

Decision-makers might like to consider the value and broader use of these services, and their buildings and activities, re-focusing their thoughts from day centres being resource-heavy or expensive services, to what they do, and could offer - to individuals, their staff and volunteers, the social care sector, the wider community, local councils, the NHS, and the education sector.

We encourage you to forward this information to your contacts who may be interested in day centres.



GeoPlace

**Sharing data to support vulnerable people;
Requirements for standardisation, attribute
flags, location data and information
governance in the identification and support of
vulnerable people**



Identifying and supporting vulnerable people is a sensitive issue but there are steps that can be taken to facilitate safe and effective data sharing.

Successful sharing of data across NHS and local government to support vulnerable people in the Covid-19 crisis changed the data sharing mindset in many organisations, escaping longstanding anxieties, often based on misconceptions, around breaking data protection law.

This experience has left a lasting legacy, not just in demonstrating the need but in building confidence in the legal use of relevant data sources identify a need for support and provide a rapid response.

A key learning from the crisis was the approach of sharing 'flags' linked to properties, rather than individuals - highlighting the value of minimising the amount of data shared while maximising the value of insight gained. This process highlighted the importance of using common data standards such as the unique property reference number (UPRN) as a key to linking and exploring different datasets.

GeoPlace has been working with UKAuthority to explore how we can distil the key learnings from this experience and identify the steps to facilitating effective, and confident, sharing of data ongoing to help identify, support and protect vulnerable people. This involved a series of UKA Live discussions with public sector experts - including thought leaders from the [Information Commissioner, Central Digital and Data Office and NHS England](#), and [Barnsley Council, Humberside Fire and Rescue Service and iStand/SAVVI](#) – a review of relevant initiatives, technical issues and information governance (IG) frameworks.

The final report from this research documents the journey, but focuses on a summary of these key steps that should be taken to ensure the proportionate and effective sharing of data to support vulnerable people:

- Identify vulnerability risk attributes and the datasets where they reside.
- Identify partners for data sharing
- Consider the information governance aspects

- Use the SAVVI catalogue on data sharing propositions
- Use UPRNs as the key to linking datasets. This minimises the use of personal data while maximising the benefits of sharing.

[Read more and download the report.](#)

Working with third-parties to enrich data quality

For over a decade now, GeoPlace has been the central hub which has allowed the collection of all addressing and street information into one place. With [millions of updates](#) received monthly from more than 500 authorities in England and Wales, it has become inevitable that using additional sources of information, intended only as validation intelligence, has allowed the National Address Gazetteer (NAG) and the National Street Gazetteer (NSG) to thrive even further. The NAG isn't available as a product, rather it's the 'raw data' that is transformed into the AddressBase range of products and made widely available by Ordnance Survey. This blog [outlines the data sources within the NAG to complement the work undertaken by local authorities.](#)

Are you keen to understand more about the cost of living crisis, its drivers and impacts?

Data Cymru's new dashboard brings together data to help you understand how many children are living in poverty across Wales and how this has changed over time.



The information is split into three themes:

Prices – which focuses on the cost of different goods and services and how they are changing over time;

Employment – which focuses on how pay and employment levels are changing; and

Impacts – which focuses on some of the impacts of the cost of living crisis.

From the home page, which provides an introduction to each theme, you can click on 'Explore the data' to view more data relating to each theme.

[The dashboard can be accessed here.](#)

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

Data Cymru has launched 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 is a **resource** for Welsh councils to support both the self-assessment process and broader benchmarking activity.

Person-level data combining multiple variables: Census 2021

On Tuesday 18 April, the ONS published the latest multivariate Census 2021 data release, focusing



on [person-level data](#). It contains pre-built flexible datasets (mainly about short-term residents) that could not be included as part of the ['create a custom dataset'](#) tool.

A further release, [data about households and families combining multiple variables](#), is scheduled for publication on Tuesday 25 April.

Other recently published Census 2021 outputs include:

- [Characteristics of people in England and Wales with a second address: Census 2021](#)
- [Dwellings data: Census 2021](#)
- [Religion by housing, health, employment, and education: Census 2021](#)

Courses, Training Events and Webinars

Your invitation to CACIs Data Summit

Taking place on the 23rd May at Convene, 22 Bishopsgate London, CACI will be revealing new ways that data and data innovation can help you better connect with your community.

How visitors and residents in your area interact with the environment in which they live, work and play is of vital importance to understanding the provision needed to maintain and build a vibrant community. Behaviours are changing, and faster than ever before – powerful data and insight will help you make sense of the trends that will shape your neighbourhoods.

Join us for this afternoon conference, where we'll share the latest updates on how CACI's demographic data suite is growing to support you in continuing to understand your community.

When: Tuesday 23rd May 2023

Time: 12:00-17:00, with drinks reception to 19:00

Location: Convene, 22 Bishopsgate, London

[Register to attend](#)



SRA Conference 2023



The SRA annual conference is back! **Join us on 15 June in central London**, for keynotes,

masterclasses, presentations from research peers, a research exhibition, and the opportunity to connect again with friends and colleagues, old and new. [Register here](#)

The conference is the only forum the UK has for bringing together social researchers from all sectors and disciplines to share knowledge and ideas, to debate our most pressing professional issues, and, of course, to meet and talk. Our 2019 conference brought together 300+ researchers and research users from central and local government and other public bodies, research agencies and institutes, academia, and the independent and charity sectors, representing the full range of research methodologies.

GeoPlace annual conference: Linking people and places



Increasingly researchers and data scientists are using geography to develop insights and link datasets to support policy objectives. This year's

GeoPlace conference delivers a programme of 36 speakers outlining how they use address and streets data in initiatives around:

- property & housing, improving outcomes
- climate change, accelerating our progress
- household energy, data insights to inform policy
- improving health , protecting our population, speakers include Ming Tang, Chief Data and Analytics Officer, NHS England

Speakers include policy makers, researchers, data scientists and information analysts

The event is free, and takes place online on 10th and 11th May. [The agenda and registration are available here.](#)

Researching belonging with people with learning disabilities

18 May 2023, 2 – 3pm, online

[Book here](#)

The seminar is being led by John Paul and Lisa Donnelly, self advocates and members of Glasgow Disability Alliance, and Alex Kaley (University of Essex) and Andy Power (University of



Southampton). The research group will talk about findings from a research project which explored how people with learning disabilities and their support networks are “self-building” a sense of belonging through leading more active and meaningful lives in the community.

The research group were interested in the concept of belonging as a way of exploring the experiences of people with learning disabilities engaged in activities that they co-created. This research was conducted before the pandemic, and so in this seminar the group will also be reflecting on what has changed and what we have learned since then.

If you have any questions please contact: emily.4.thomas@kcl.ac.uk

Exploring low-barrier drug and housing interventions for people experiencing homelessness: lessons from overseas and the UK

Tuesday 27 June 2023, 10 – 11am

[Book here](#)

In this webinar, [Ben Scher](#) will present his research on the impact of harm reduction interventions for people experiencing homelessness. With UK rates of overdose in the rough sleeping community on the rise, Ben’s research explores interventions that have a positive impact at the intersection of homelessness and drug policy.

Upcoming ONS webinar: cost-of-living insights tool



The ONS recently launched its first-ever [cost-of-living insights tool](#). To help users understand and make best use of the tool, we are hosting a webinar on 23 May where we will explain more about how the tool works, how it is kept up to date, and to help users understand how to use it. Find out more and sign up to the webinar [here](#).

Up and coming 'Inform and Inspire' webinars

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

Webinars for May include:



Measuring the pig: an introduction to performance management – Thursday 4 May – 12:00 – 13:00

The phrase "Measuring the pig doesn't make it grow" highlights the fact that simply measuring a process or outcome does not guarantee improvement. However, measuring and analysing data can provide valuable insights into areas for improvement and help guide decision-making.

In this webinar, we will provide a high level introduction to performance management and the role data plays in helping to make sure that citizen needs are being met and public money is being spent wisely.

We will also highlight the work that we are doing to help make sure you are able to access, and understand, relevant, comparable performance information, including:

- Local authority benchmarking and network support
- Development and maintenance of the self-assessment performance dataset (SAPD)

- Publishing dashboards to help users better understand the available data
- Capacity building support.

After all, "measuring the pig doesn't make it grow" - it's what you do with the data that counts.

[Book here.](#)

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

Training courses

Data Cymru offer a range of training opportunities as part of their capacity building programme. Training courses are aimed at Welsh local authority colleagues and are intentionally introductory. Training courses coming up include:

- [Understanding your information: An introduction to summary statistics – 18 May 2023 – 13:00 – 15:30](#)
- [Hearing from citizens: An introduction to designing and running surveys – 23 May 2023 – 13:00 – 15:30](#)
- [Engaging with citizens: An introduction to designing and running focus groups – 8 June 2023 – 10:00 – 12:30](#)

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.

Webinar Series Organised by RSS Official Statistics Section in collaboration with the Health Statistics User Group

NHS Elective Waiting Times

Friday 28 April 2023 12:00 to 13:30



The Health Statistics Users Group and the RSS Official Statistics Section are organising a webinar to discuss NHS Elective Waiting Times, with speakers from the Department for Health and Social Care, Welsh Government, Northern Ireland and Public Health Scotland. The speakers will highlight what are the key performance metrics on elective waiting times for each nation; why these are used, and any relevant policy history. They will also discuss what the numbers show, and the recent high level trends and patterns through the pandemic.

[Registration for this event is available online.](#)

Please note that the webinar is free to RSS Fellows and e-student members but there is a registration fee of £10 for other participants.

If you have any comments, or queries for the speakers, you can pose these using the chat function during the webinar, or in advance of the webinar by emailing webinar@hsug.org.uk

Webinar Programme

- Introduction to the Cross UK Performance Statistics Theme Group (which covers Waiting Times Statistics) – Ted Goshawk-Dumbrell (Department for Health and Social Care)
- Waiting Times in England – Ted Goshawk-Dumbrell (Department for Health and Social Care)
- Waiting Times in N Ireland – Ben Simpson (Department of Health, N Ireland)
- Planned Care Service Access in Scotland – Peter Martin (Public Health Scotland Waiting Times Team)

- Coherence and comparability of waiting list statistics across the UK nations - Ryan Pike (Welsh Government)

Please go to the Webinar Materials section in the Health and Social Care category of [StatsUserNet](#), after the webinar, for the presentations, meeting notes and recording. The presentations will be available immediately after the event, and the notes are usually posted a week or two afterwards. Information from past webinars in the series are also available in the Webinar Materials section.

Statistical disclosure control methods for Census 2021

10 May 2023, 10.00 - 11.30



The UK Data Service and the Office for National Statistics (ONS) are running this free webinar to help users get to grips with statistical disclosure control in the Census 2021 for England and Wales.

For Census 2021, ONS used three key methods:

- Record swapping: targeting unusual records in the data and swapping them with similar ones in nearby areas, and swapping a small percentage of all records.
- Cell Key perturbation: adding 'noise' to the values, with a higher likelihood that smaller values will be changed, to add uncertainty. Where the same records are represented in a cell in any table, the level of perturbation is the same.
- Suppression rules: these are built into the [Create a custom dataset system](#) on the ONS website and prevent datasets being available if they fail to meet certain thresholds.

What this means for researchers: Readily available research data at a mouse click, with variables and classifications decided by you. Where the system suppresses data, you may be able to get less detailed data for the same area, or the same detail for a larger area.

Due to perturbation, totals do not necessarily add up to the same figure all the time, though this should be a very minor difference that doesn't inhibit research. Small area analysis

should bear this in mind when handling small numbers of population – they may be from a different area, again this should not be at a level that inhibits research.

[More information and booking](#)

[View all UK Data Service events](#)

Jobs

Research and Evaluation roles at M·E·L Research



M·E·L Research is a social research agency, with expertise in research, evaluation, and behavioural insights. With a strong social ethos, our vision is to make a positive difference to organisations, employees, customers, and wider society. We work with public and third sector clients across key policy areas like housing, transport, health and wellbeing and arts and culture. Current clients include Tower Hamlets Council, Public Health Wales, Transport for West Midlands, Mind, Macmillan and National Museums Scotland.

As a result of a successful period of growth, we are looking to recruit a number of research and evaluation positions into the team:

- Head of Evaluation
- Evaluation Manager
- Head of Qualitative Research
- Customer Experience Research Manager
- Housing Research Manager
- Senior Research Executives

Successful candidates can look forward to an excellent range of benefits including:

- Remote working (with the occasional need to meet the team in our Birmingham offices)
- Flexible working arrangements
- A generous annual leave allowance of 25 days per annum plus bank holidays, plus birthday off and 2 volunteer days a year!
- We are also actively working towards a 9-day-fortnight working pattern – paid at a full 10 day salary.

More details of the roles currently available and the application process can be [found here](#).

The application window closes on 25th May 2023.

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 May](#).

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 25th May](#).

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