



Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

LARIA Newsletter June 2023

LARIA Updates

Data, data everywhere...

Over the last week or so, there has been some very interesting viewing in the form of the COVID-19 Inquiry. Even in the early stages of Module 1, on preparedness for the pandemic, the subject of data has come up numerous times. Sir Chris Whitty and Sir Patrick Vallance between them accounted for more than 50 references. And this is before the Inquiry gets into looking at the COVID-19 response. We know that many of our LARIA members played a crucial role in transforming data from central government, about vulnerable people or about cases of infection, into good quality data that could be acted on locally; and, even before that, they were combining council-held data to identify people most at risk. The current COVID-19 Inquiry will no doubt remind us of how important those data skills are, and how essential it is to maintain and develop them.

On top of that, it's likely that there will be a new focus on 'old' data very shortly as well. At the time of writing, we are expecting the new Office for Local Government to launch its dashboard of data for councils, looking at four areas: waste, adult social care, skills and financial reserves. Though the purpose of the dashboard isn't completely clear yet, it certainly feels like a return to the performance indicators of the noughties. A number of the draft indicators which were shared with small workshops of councils contained metrics that would be familiar to those LARIA members who worked on the National Indicator Set or, even, the Best Value Performance Indicator Set! Whatever the purpose, it's highly likely to increase councillor and senior officer interest in such data in the short- to medium-term. So again, a reminder of how important good quality data and data skills are.

Though many councils have seen a decline in the number of analysts and

researchers they employ over the last ten or fifteen years, the value of these roles has never gone away. But with the current focus on different sorts of data, and the skills needed to manage, maintain, organise and analyse it, this is a good opportunity to flag to your manager the importance of investing in your skills:

- The [LARIA Event](#) in November is a great opportunity to learn from other councils (or to share with others your own work)
- And there's a wide variety of [ONS data science training](#), which may also be useful.

Continuous professional development is always important in our profession, so let's use the current focus on data to our advantage!

Juliet Whitworth

Head of Research and Information, Local Government Association

LARIA Trustee and LARIA Council member

LARIA AGM 2023

The LARIA AGM 2023 will take place on Microsoft Teams at 3-4pm, Monday 24 July. All LARIA members are invited to join us for the AGM. Full LARIA members may take part in the voting and stand for election to LARIA Council. To attend, please email Katie Worman at admin@laria.org.uk for the meeting details.

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](#)

**LARIA Event & Awards: Call for
Presentations
Thursday 16 November 2023
Deadline: Friday 7 July**

Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

Venue

Local Government Association
18 Smith Square
Westminster
London
SW1P 3HZ

Making research + intelligence = inclusion + equality

How do we make our work as inclusive as possible, so that we can understand our diverse populations and their needs, and how do we best represent our findings to decision-makers?

Our societies are complex, and as local area researchers we need to produce intelligence that reflects that complexity and act as agents of change. We can be faced with barriers. Sometimes data don't exist, or not at the granular level required. There are ethical issues to consider. It can be capacity-intensive to be inclusive.

The pandemic has brought into focus more than ever the need to understand problems better and deeper, and to be more inclusive in our questioning. We have lessons to share on what works in conducting research and analysis, so we can best support our diverse and vulnerable groups and those at risk of disadvantage. This spans health and care, education and skills, housing and homelessness, crime and community safety, employment and economic activity, transport and environment, wellbeing and social capital, workforce and representativeness, communication and technology.

Our events aim to provide delegates with the ideas, tools, and techniques for delivering improved outcomes for the public based on robust data, evidence, and research. We are calling for presentations on our theme:

Making research + intelligence = inclusion + equality.

For full details and to submit a presentation please download the [submission form](#) and return to admin@laria.org.uk

News

NIHR | School for Social
Care Research



hoarding
uk Promoting Choice and Control



Call for participants – research into hoarding and professional decluttering

Do you know a person with hoarding behaviours (PwHB), who is known to their local authority and is currently receiving/has previously received support from a professional declutterer/organiser?

We are looking to recruit participants in England for the following parts of our research:

1. Go-alongs to observe decluttering sessions taking place.
2. Interviews with PwHB about their experiences of receiving such support.

Please contact Dr Jen Owen for more details: jennifer.owen@kcl.ac.uk.

Find out more about the project [here](#).

Transforming population statistics



For the past 200 years the once-a-decade census has been the benchmark for measuring the number of people in the country, but do improvements in technology and greater availability of data now mean that change is on the horizon?

The ONS has been working to transform the way it counts the population, using new datasets to give more accurate, timely, and detailed measurements. This is discussed in a new episode of the ONS [Statistically Speaking](#) podcast.

To find out more about ONS proposals for delivering population and migration statistics in the future, you can also [watch this transformation journey video](#). Also available with [British Sign Language \(BSL\)](#), and in [Welsh](#), with [BSL](#).

On 29 June 2023, the ONS will be launching a public consultation on proposals for a transformed population and migration statistics system. Understanding your user needs will be essential evidence in making our recommendations to Government on

the future of population statistics, so please do engage with the consultation once it is launched.

To discuss the consultation process and help you get involved, the ONS are holding a webinar on 11 July for local authority partners. You can sign up to the webinar [here](#).

Health Index for England: 2015 to 2021

The ONS's 2021 Health Index for England was published on 16 June 2023.

The index provides a systematic, independent view of health in England. It can be used to compare health and outcomes over time and across geographies such as local authorities, integrated care systems and government office regions.

Using [this link](#), you will be able to select your local authority and receive tailored data for the communities you serve.

Exemplar Award winner: Income-generating integration of planning applications with SNN processes

Lewisham's planning team is always considering ways in which internal processes might be improved through automation, and where revenue might be generated from the use of internal, high quality underlying data.



By developing an online application on the council's website, Lewisham's approved planning applications now trigger the Street Naming and Numbering (SNN) Application process automatically. It also shares the information with the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) which is integrated with the council's building control, land charges, environment health, council tax, electoral registration, refuse collection and CRM systems. Find out more at [Income-generating integration of planning applications with SNN processes](#)

Data Linking Award winner: Saving £2m by integrating its Waste and Recycling Service with its LLPG

Lewisham Council's Waste Management Team faced a common challenge for local authorities – the ability to resource waste collection efficiently. With sustainability also a high priority, and a focus on reducing costs wherever possible, the council wanted to be sure that households eligible for food and garden waste collection could access

the appropriate services, but do so without incurring additional costs. Read more at [Saving £2m by integrating its Waste and Recycling Service with its LLPG](#)

Exemplar Awards Highly commended: Making a difference to the local community

Birmingham City Council's Street Naming Policy was 45 years old and needed substantial reworking to reflect the change in design of new developments during this period. The city has a captivating history, born out of the innovation and hard work of the industrial age, a city of immigration that continuously adds to layers of heritage, diversity of character and culture, and a youth population full of promise and creativity. Find out more at [Making a difference to the local community](#)

Development of GIS as a key service for Maldon District Council

Spatial information enables smarter working and collaboration. The recent launch of its new Internal mapping solution 'Phoenix Maps' is transforming the way Maldon District Council works with spatial information. The new system links into well maintained data, providing simple application-based solutions and tools initially for officers and councillors. Find out more at [Development of GIS as a key service for Maldon District Council](#)

New code aims to support consistent addressing

The RICS Land Journal has published an article on GeoPlace's new SNN Code of Practice. Find out more at [New code aims to support consistent addressing](#)

Courses, Training Events and Webinars

The Homelessness Social Worker role - challenges & impact

HSCWRU Webinar: Thursday 20 July 2023, 10 – 11am [BOOK HERE](#)

An event for anyone commissioning, managing or working in adult social care or in multi-disciplinary services for people experiencing homelessness.



This event will share and discuss the findings from an NIHR School for Social Care

Research (SSCR) funded project which has been [Evidencing the social work role within responses to multiple exclusion homelessness](#), including the experiences and impact of the role and the system barriers that need to be overcome. This work builds on findings [presented in 2022](#).

Events are online (via Teams), free to attend and open to all.

**Winter Pressures Advance Planning
Masterclass 1: Data Insight - What is it
telling us?**

Thursday 29th June 2023, 12.30pm-1.45pm



This session with the BCF Support Programme's Senior Data Analyst David

Maguire will discuss and provide insight into what a typical winter wave looks like, how pressure builds on the health and social care bed base in winter, what publicly available data can tell you, how to get hold of data and how to use them to inform decisions. There'll be a look at what the evidence says about what works and doesn't work when trying to reduce delays, with and without short-term funding. There'll be examples of good practice to assist colleagues with effective early-stage planning for winter 2023/24, drawing on the sector-led improvement work of Partners in Care and Health to lay out useful approaches for getting ahead of winter issues in the summer and autumn.

[Book Now for free](#)

**Winter Pressures Advance Planning Masterclass 2: Demand and Capacity –
What is this about?**

Thursday 6th July 2023, 12.00pm-1.30pm

In this session Professor John Bolton, a leading authority on Demand and Capacity modelling, will discuss his views on what 'winter pressure' is really about. He will offer his reflections and learning from working in a number of systems, supporting the understanding of demand and capacity. The focus is on the process of designing D&C Plans as a key method for mitigating winter pressures. Drawing on his recent work through the BCF Support Programme to develop ambitious and realistic D&C Plans in a number of ICSs, as well as his influential past research, Professor Bolton will take colleagues through the process, highlighting common obstacles and pitfalls.

The Masterclass will demonstrate the opportunity demand and capacity planning provides for optimising winter planning.

[Book Now for free](#)

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 20th July](#).

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 20th July](#).

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