



Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

## LARIA Newsletter September 2023

### LARIA Updates

#### **Get Ready for the LARIA Research Impact Awards and the LARIA One Day Event**

It's LARIA Research Impact Awards time again. For more than 10 years LARIA has been celebrating, championing and highlighting research and data analysis that helps public sector bodies make better evidence-based decisions.

The closing date for submission is **4pm Monday 2 October 2023**. Details of this year's categories and how to submit can be found on the [LARIA website](#). The categories this year are:

- Best use of local area research
- Best use of data
- Best use of data or research in a district council
- Most engaging communication of local area research or analysis
- New researcher/analyst of the year

I have always found the research and analysis featured by the LARIA Research Impact Awards to be inspiring, practical and the epitome of what LARIA is. The past winners, from all over the UK are highlighted [here](#). Past winners demonstrate collaboration, excellent data analysis, use of analytical tools and ways to engage with the public to improve evidence-based decisions. The subject areas of past winners feature:

- Improved data sharing and analysis using tools like Power BI.
- Working with specific groups like Troubled Families, Homelessness, Young People and local communities.
- Using animation for engagement and reporting.

The winners of the 2023 awards will be announced at the [LARIA One Day Event](#) on Thursday 16 November 2023 to be held the Local Government Association (LGA) in London. The theme for this one day event is: **Making research + intelligence = inclusion + equality**. The presentations include:

**Unlocking data insights to achieving inclusion** (Gina Bryden & James Debenham, Principal Consultant, CACI Ltd)

**The Evaluation Task Force and the What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth – what they do and how they can help improve evaluations in your area** (Miriam Styrnol, Senior Evaluation Advisor, Evaluation Task Force, Cabinet Office / HM Treasury & Megan Streb, Head of Outreach, What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth)

**Lived Experience: Maximising value from free-text in surveys** (Stephen Simpkin, Data Science Fellow, Essex County Council)

**Using Discrete choice experiments to help services and commissioners to improve the experience of people who need care, understand different groups and secure better sustainability: a case example with application to homelessness.** (Dr Michela Tinelli, Assistant Professorial Research Fellow, London School of Economics and Political Science (care Policy Evaluation Centre) & Peter Moore, Oxfordshire Health and Housing Project Manager, Oxford City Council)

**Developing a Supportive Culture for Research at Place in Doncaster** (Alex-Jade Delahunty, HDRC Policy and Insight Manager and Katie Marvin-Dowle, Public Health Improvement Coordinator (Research), City of Doncaster Council)

**The Minimum Income Standard in Luton** (Katy Bodycombe, Public Health Principal – Intelligence & John Stokes, Senior Intelligence Analyst, Luton Council)

**“My life became revolved around watching the meter”:** **Understanding poverty through the lived experiences of residents** (Owen Richardson, Data and Insight Enablement Lead for Public Health and Tamsin Macdonald, Local Area Coordination Manager, Kirklees Council)

**How the Office for National Statistics produces inclusive statistics to better inform local decision making** (Fiona Dawe, Deputy Director Strategic Engagement and Development Division & Annemari De Silva, ONS Local Regional Lead Analyst – South East, ONS Local, Office for National Statistics)

I'm sure the one day event and the LARIA Research Impact Awards are going to showcase and continue the great standard of research and analysis done by LARIA members.

Erin R. Murray  
Co-Chair LARIA in Scotland

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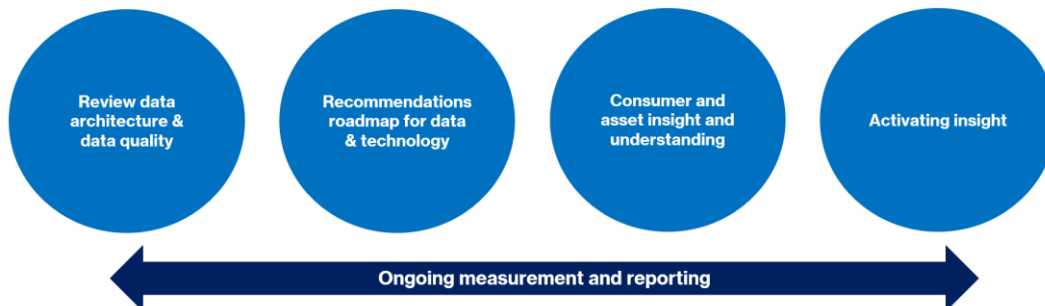
## News

As the **housing ombudsman continues to have a priority focus on data quality and data governance** in the housing sector, more and more housing associations and local authorities are reaching to CACI for help to



audit the existing data architecture within their organisation and create a recommendations roadmap and strategy aligned to the core principles set out in the May “[Knowledge and Information: Spotlight report](#)”. As major reforms became law on 20<sup>th</sup> July, there is now the risk of unlimited fines to rogue landlords, so you’ll need to ensure that all risk relating to data siloes is eliminated.

Our priority working with you is clear. We **want to reduce the risk of you experiencing downgrades and fines** by helping you to:



KIM is a transformational project, and **with transformation you need to work with an organization you know that you can trust**. CACI is centered on “Doing Amazing Things with Data” and we have been empowering the public sector to achieve amazing things for decades. **With great data it requires an even better data strategy**.

Schedule a call with CACI so we can discuss your requirements and follow up with a meeting where we’ll address these for you. Contact: [seldridge@caci.co.uk](mailto:seldridge@caci.co.uk).

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## Local Government Data Maturity Assessment Tool



The LGA have launched a new and improved version of the [Local Government Data Maturity Assessment Tool](#), which takes account of

updates in the data landscape and feedback from councils. You can use this light-touch tool to assess your council's data maturity and find resources to support your data maturity journey.

Give your individual assessment of your local authority's data maturity by answering questions across six themes.

Understand your local authority's data maturity based on your and your colleagues' combined assessments.

See how your local authority's data maturity differs across departments.

Find resources and support for your data maturity journey.

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## Public Health Intelligence Challenges During COVID-19

A national survey of people who worked in Public Health Intelligence roles during COVID-19 is being conducted as part of PhD research funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research. The project seeks to identify lessons from COVID-19 to improve responses to similar events in the future.

The survey is an opportunity for people to feed their experiences and views anonymously into the evidence base. The results will provide evidence to inform the development of newer training, preparedness indicators and ways of implementing directives. At the end of the study, findings will be published in a thesis, in academic journals and at health services research conferences. General findings will also be fed back to professional networks.

If you would like to take part in the survey, please complete the same below.

Please feel free to forward the survey link to others who you think may be interested in responding. The closing date for responses is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023.

For more information, contact [Janette Parr](#).

## Courses, Training Events and Webinars

### Office for National Statistics population and migration statistics consultation – one month to go

In June, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) launched a public consultation on the proposals



for a new approach to population statistics. Your input will be essential evidence in making the recommendations to Government on the future of population and migration statistics and the census.

It is really important the ONS understands your needs in terms of topics, frequency and the geographic level you use the statistics (for example: very local, local authority level, England only or Wales only).

There's only one month until the consultation closes on 26 October 2023 so please respond now. The consultation is easy to complete and is available in [English](#) and [Welsh](#).

To help users understand and complete the consultation, the ONS will be running two final public webinars in October. If you have previously attended a consultation webinar, you are welcome to attend but should be aware that the content will be the same. You can book your place on Eventbrite:

[19 October, 2-3.30pm](#)

[23 October, 11-12.30am](#)

If you have any questions about any aspect of the consultation, please contact [outreach.engagement.LA@ons.gov.uk](mailto:outreach.engagement.LA@ons.gov.uk)

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## LGA e-learning and guides on council performance management



For local authorities, performance management is about using data to inform actions that will improve outcomes for residents. If you are undertaking, or looking to develop, performance management in your council, the Local Government Association's [performance management guide for local authority officers](#) will give you a helpful overview of performance management in local government – and many useful tips for success.

Further, if you think that councillors you work with could benefit from an overview of what performance management is and the role of councillors in this, you can direct them to the LGA's [performance management guide for councillors](#).

The key points from the councillor guide are available as a convenient and free to access [performance management e-learning module for councillors](#), which should take around 30 minutes to complete.

You can contact the LGA at [transparency@local.gov.uk](mailto:transparency@local.gov.uk) if you would like to discuss the support they offer on performance management.

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Registration is now open for the next Home Care Research Forum hosted online by King's College London, on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2-4pm**.



We have two fantastic speakers joining us to talk about their current and ongoing homecare research:

### Talk 1

#### **Dr Cat Forward, King's College London**

**Title:** 'SUPPORTED' - Supporting, enabling and sustaining homecare workers to deliver end-of-life care: a multiple-methods community-based case study

**Summary:** The SUPPORTED study is an NIHR-funded study based in Hull, Bradford and Bromley. The team are currently interviewing those involved in home care work and those who work with them. The information from these interviews will be used to

develop training and guidance to support home care workers in providing care for people living in their own homes towards the end of life. Dr Cat Forward will talk about the study so far, the next steps and how you can find out more about the study as it progresses. For those in the study sites, information will be given if you would like to get involved.

## Talk 2

### **Dr Mark Wilberforce, University of York**

**Title:** "Curious about Care?": Promoting values-based recruitment in the homecare of older people through Situational Judgement Tests

**Summary:** How can homecare organisations be satisfied that applicants to care jobs have the right values and attitudes for the role? Traditional interviews help to test a candidate's suitability, but 'values' can be difficult to gauge, and subjective judgements can be biased. 'Situational Judgement Tests' can support recruitment by offering objective data. They work by presenting test-takers with a 'critical incident', in which a value is being tested, and asking what appropriate responses may be. This presentation introduces the 'Curious about Care' platform - an online quiz that helps evaluate candidate's fit to person-centred care - and provides an overview of the evidence that supports its early pilot stages.

[Please register for the event via Eventbrite.](#)

Please contact [monica.leverton@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:monica.leverton@kcl.ac.uk) for any questions about the event.

For more information on the Forum, including past events, please visit our webpage: [Home Care Research Forum \(kcl.ac.uk\)](#)

## **Jobs**

### **Cambridgeshire County Council: Insight Analyst (Intelligence)**

Cambridgeshire County Council's Policy & Insight Team provides data analysis, insight and policy expertise to support the operational management and strategic planning of services.



The demand for our services has never been greater! With budgets of millions of pounds that impact on thousands of vulnerable people every year, services rely upon

the analysis, information and advice provided by our team to make informed decisions – so you'll really have a chance to make a difference.

The Policy & Insight Team are looking to recruit up to 4 new Insight Analysts to assist with providing data, analysis and insight to the wider County Council and partners. All roles are offered on an up-to full-time basis, and part time applicants would be considered.

The successful applicants 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](#).

The Policy & Insights Team work across a variety of subject areas, supporting Cambridgeshire County Council and partners in the wider public sector to make well evidenced decisions. The roles currently being offered will predominantly focus on drawing insights from adult social care, children's social care and the council's human resources data. It would be beneficial to have experience in one of these subject areas but subject matter training can be provided so this is not essential.

### **About you**

This role would suit someone with knowledge and experience of data transformation and analysis. This knowledge could have been gained through employment or study. You should be prepared to provide examples of scenarios when you have worked with a dataset(s) and with analysis software (for example Excel, PowerBI or GIS).

The P&I team come from a variety of study and work-based backgrounds such as geography, politics, philosophy, anthropology, maths and engineering but we all tend to be numerate, problem-solving individuals. Training and development opportunities will be provided and we encourage applications from anyone that meets the essential criteria and is passionate about drawing meaning from data.

Our Insight Analysts are expected to be technically proficient in data 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. Being well organised with good attention to detail and the ability to consistently produce high quality work is also key. You should also be able to demonstrate awareness and understanding of equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI).

### **Job Location**

Sunley House, Papworth, Cambridgeshire - Hybrid Working

**Salary**

£30,151 - £34,723

**Contract type**

Full Time, Permanent

**Hours**

37

**Application Deadline**

1st October 2023

**Job application URL**

<https://jobs.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/jobs/job/Insight-Analyst-Intelligence/2767>

**Contact email for any queries**

[Tim.Giles@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Tim.Giles@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) / [tom.king@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:tom.king@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

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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 October](#).

**Are you a Corporate or Full Corporate Member?**The logo for Laria, consisting of the word "Laria" in a bold, teal, sans-serif font.

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](mailto:admin@laria.org.uk).

The next newsletter submission deadline is [Thursday 26th October](#).

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