



Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

## LARIA Newsletter October 2023

### LARIA Updates

#### **LARIA One Day Event & Awards 2023**

Thursday 16 November

Local Government Association, London

Book your place today to attend the LARIA One Day Event and Awards. It's the perfect opportunity to learn from others in the sector, share experiences and network.

Speakers include:

- Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson DBE, President, Local Government Association
- Gina Bryden & James Debenham, Principal Consultants, CACI Ltd
- Miriam Styrnol, Senior Evaluation Advisor, Evaluation Task Force, Cabinet Office / HM Treasury & Megan Streb, Head of Outreach, What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth
- 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

For the full programme and to register your place, please visit the [LARIA website](#).

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## News

### **Guide to procurement**

GeoPlace has produced a set of tools to help local authorities when procuring new Address or Street Gazetteer Systems. The tools are designed to provide support for what could be included when developing tender questions associated with the selection of a new Address or Street GMS. [Find out more.](#)



### **Harness the possibilities of connecting with UPRNs and USRNs**

Are you thinking of improving your procurement of software? Or enhancing those data integrations? Or perhaps you want to realise the power the data in the same way that other authorities and data-users have done. If you're considering improving your systems along these lines, read our tips. [Find out more.](#)

### **Data is at the heart of your organisation**

Data is the heart of your organisation. Without data and the intelligence it can bring, how do you effectively provide services? How do we tap into that information to help us tackle issues facing local authorities, answer questions that are posed of providing current services, and plan for the future? [Find out more.](#)

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[CAPE](#) Fellows Dr Max French and Dr Melissa Hawkins from Northumbria University are partnering with North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) to publicise a co-developed [Area of Research Interest \(ARI\)](#) in citizen engagement and connected communities. The ARI, [recently published on NTCA's website](#), lists the NTCA's research needs in this area and invites researchers (within and beyond academia) to contribute evidence and insight in response.

ARIs are an increasingly prominent tool for academic-policy knowledge exchange. The approach has been used by the [UK government](#) and [the Senedd](#) in Wales, but the NTCA is the amongst the first subnational governments to use this approach.

The ARI will inform the NTCA's developing strategy for citizen engagement and connected communities, which the NTCA sees as central to its mission of developing an inclusive economy. It provides a rare opportunity of academics and other researchers to impact directly on the policy development process.

The NTCA sees the citizen engagement and connected communities as central to its mission of developing an inclusive economy. NTCA intends the ARI to be the start rather than the end of the conversation. As the North East prepares for further devolution NTCA hopes to engage respondents in further opportunities for shaping the approach the region takes.

**If you are a researcher or have an awareness of useful evidence relating to this topic, we want to hear from you.** The [call for evidence](#) for this ARI is open now until 17<sup>th</sup> November. We are interested in hearing from academics and policy organisations, but also other groups who have important evidence and experience to contribute. We expect the survey will take 30 minutes on average to complete, but submissions can be as short or detailed as you like.



Would you be interested in helping us to understand what skills and knowledge homecare workers need to have to best support people in this situation approaching the last months of life?

Are you a homecare worker, community practitioner, carer or client with experience of homecare for people in this situation (current or previously)?

You are invited to take part in an NIHR-funded study called **'SUPPORTED: a study of the role of homecare workers in supporting people living with advanced illness at home'**.

We would like to speak with homecare workers who work with those living with advanced illness who may be approaching the last months of life. With the findings of the study, we will develop a free-to-use training package.

Interviews can be in-person, online, or by phone and will take no longer than an hour. Any information you provide will be anonymous and confidential. We offer CPD certificates and high-street vouchers as a thank you for your time.

Please get in touch for more information: [Catherine.forward@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:Catherine.forward@kcl.ac.uk)

This study is funded by the NIHR Health and Social Care Delivery Research  
NIHR135128/HSDR.

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**M·E·L Research Ltd Welcomes Holly Taylor-Dunn as Senior Evaluation Lead**



Birmingham, UK: October-23 - M·E·L Research

Ltd Welcomes Holly Taylor-Dunn as Senior Evaluation Lead



M·E·L Research Ltd is delighted to announce the appointment of Dr. Holly Taylor-Dunn as Senior Evaluation Lead, a significant addition to our seasoned Evaluation team. Holly joined the organisation in the final quarter of 2023, bringing a wealth of expertise from her notable career in academia and practice within the fields of domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Skye Curtis, Head of Evaluation at M·E·L Research Ltd, said, “We are thrilled to have Holly on board. Her extensive experience in realist evaluation and her nationally recognised expertise in the domestic abuse and crime and justice spaces bring a unique perspective to our evaluation team. Holly’s proven track record in leading meaningful evaluations will be instrumental in continuing our commitment to delivering insightful and impactful evaluation projects moving forward, and to supporting clients who require a trauma-informed, specialist approach – although everyone we work with will benefit from this wider set of considerations.”

Holly Taylor-Dunn said, “I am excited to join the exceptional team at M·E·L Research Ltd. Their ethos resonates profoundly with my professional journey and areas of focus to date and I look forward to leading evaluations that will contribute to meaningful change, with a team who really care about making a positive difference to organisations,

communities, and the broader society. I'm looking forward to bringing my own experience to M·E·L, but also to working across a number of aligned spaces where relevant."

Holly began her careers as a Domestic Abuse Officer with the police, dedicated to aiding victims seeking help. Holly's journey then led her to a prominent Women's Aid organisation, managing community-based services for affected women and children. She went on to pursue a PhD at the University of Birmingham, employing Realist Evaluation to scrutinise the effects of criminal justice policies on successful domestic abuse prosecutions.

In 2014 when she joined the University of Worcester, and delivered the Master's Degree programme in Understanding Domestic and Sexual Violence between 2017 and 2021. Concurrently, she led various research projects, including evaluations for charities and police initiatives aimed at violence reduction. A significant milestone was her commission by the Home Office in 2017 to conduct a study on stalking and harassment victims, influencing policy and practice shifts across England and Wales in subsequent years.

In 2021, Holly moved to the Open University, leading a module assisting student police officers in conducting research as part of their degree.

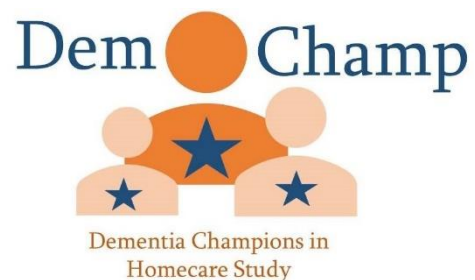
In addition to her role at M·E·L Research, Holly will continue advisory roles with the Open University Human Research Ethics Committee and His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary Fire and Rescue Services Ethics panel, reflecting her national role in research ethics.

At M·E·L Research Ltd, Holly will lead evaluation projects, embodying our ethos of collaborative, innovative, and insightful evaluation. Her arrival further fortifies our evaluation team, ensuring our ability to continuously deliver value-driven evaluations that aid organisations in understanding and enhancing their impact on communities and broader societal spheres.

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**Can you help us develop the role of  
Dementia Champions in homecare?**

Researchers from King's College London would like to talk to people who work in homecare services that do not have Dementia Champions in their workforce.



**What has been done so far?**

We started by learning about Dementia Champions across health and social care. Then

we held a workshop with people living with dementia, family carers, and homecare professionals to apply this learning to homecare.

Based on this, we developed an idea of what a Dementia Champion in homecare could be. Now we would like your help to find out if this idea could work in practice.

### **What will happen if I take part?**

- You will have the opportunity to discuss the study and ask questions.
- You will take part in an interview lasting around 45 minutes where a researcher will ask for your thoughts about our idea of a Dementia Champion in homecare and how this could work in practice.
- This can be done via video or telephone call, or in person at your office.
- You will receive a £20 shopping voucher for your time and help and a CPD certificate.
- We will also ask for your help to identify other people for us to speak to from your homecare organisation.

### **Who should I contact to discuss the study?**

If you are interested in taking part in the study and would like some more information, you can contact [Tiffeny James by email](#) or by phone on 0207 848 1782.

**NIHR** | Policy Research Unit  
in Health and Social  
Care Workforce

**KING'S**  
College  
LONDON

**PhD Scholarship in Social Statistics**  
**University of Manchester**  
**2024-2027**

**MANCHESTER**  
1824

The University of Manchester

We are pleased to invite applications for a 3.5 year University of Manchester PhD studentship in Social Statistics. The PhD will be focused in one of the following areas:

**Ageing**

**Civic Engagement**

**Ethnicity and Religion**

**Lifelong Health**

**Migration and Population Change**

**Social Network Analysis**

**Social Mobility and Inequalities**

**Survey Research Methods**

**Work and Employment**

This is an excellent opportunity for a highly motivated and qualified applicant to conduct social research. The successful applicant will be working in a vibrant community of PhD students in Social Statistics, Data Analytics, Biosocial Research and Sociology. They will be able to join in research activities of the Department, such as seminars and research away-days, and will have an opportunity to teach. Professional development training will be part of the PhD.

[Minimum entry requirements](#)

It is expected that the PhD student will prepare a thesis as a collection of research articles according to the postgraduate research policies of the University of Manchester. During the period in Manchester, the studentship will cover tuition fees, an annual maintenance stipend (£18,622 for 2024) and will be able to claim certain expenses from the Research Training Support Grant.

Candidates with an excellent Master's degree (First of Upper Second Class in the UK) are invited to [send applications here](#) (choose Research Programmes: PhD Social Statistics, full time) by the **1<sup>st</sup> December**.

With your application, please upload: (1) a 1,000-word proposal outlining your research idea; (2) a 500-word statement outlining your motivation and qualifications; (3) an academic CV, (4) your academic transcripts, (5) nomination of two referees, and (6) English language evidence if you are from a non-English speaking country.

For informal enquires please contact [Dr. K. Purdam](#). For enquiries about the application process, please contact the [School of Social Sciences PGR Admissions](#).

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## Courses, Training Events and Webinars

The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) has funded a new collaborative project called Survey Futures. This project is a response to the changing social survey landscape, which is seeing increasingly more complex survey designs. This growing complexity has prompted concerns that the skills needed to design, analyse and commission social surveys are changing and that the training and on-going professional development of survey researchers may not be keeping pace with this change. Survey Futures has been tasked, among other things, with engaging with the social survey stakeholder community, to understand their training and capacity needs and help shape the outputs that will be produced by the research work packages that are being undertaken.



**Economic  
and Social  
Research Council**

To this end a Training and Capacity Building Needs workshop is being organised by the National Centre for Research Methods and the National Centre for Social Research. The 2-hour workshop will take place online on **15<sup>th</sup> November** and is aimed at those who have a vested interest in the recruitment, training and development of survey researchers, statisticians and analysts. Please could you circulate this email to your members. If you would like to know more about the workshop, then please contact [Penny White](#). Those who express interest will be sent further information about what taking part entails and a calendar invitation.

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**Introduction to the new Transformed Labour  
Force Survey (TLFS)**



**UK Data Service**

28 November 2023, 13.00 – 14.30

Join this free online session, organised by the UK Data Service, to learn how the Office for National Statistics (ONS) are transforming the Labour Force Survey.

The ONS Labour Force Survey is one of the UK's biggest regular household surveys and a key source of economic data. It surveys thousands of households every quarter to collect important information about employment and related topics. Data from the [Labour Force Survey](#) (LFS) and [Annual Population Survey](#) (APS) are widely available to

researchers via the UK Data Service.

To maintain this resource, the ONS are introducing a new Transformed Labour Force Survey, see [the latest update on progress and plans: May 2023](#). Current and potential users of the LFS and APS are invited to this online session to learn more about the new survey.

Speakers from ONS will discuss the current LFS and APS and how they have been transforming the surveys since 2016 to create the new Transformed Labour Force Survey (TLFS) for 2024.

[More information and booking](#)

[View all UK Data Service events](#)

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### **Supporting unpaid carers in the NHS and social care – free half day conference on 1<sup>st</sup> December**

On Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> December, researchers at King's College London will be hosting a free half day conference that explores support for unpaid carers in health and social care. This is a hybrid event with options to join via Zoom or in person.



We will open the conference with some initial findings from our study about the [right to a care supporter](#). We will then share some resources that have been co-produced with two PPIE groups to help people understand their rights when staying in hospital or a care home. Following this, we are delighted to welcome colleagues working in the NHS and social care to present case studies of how they support unpaid carers in their respective settings.

If you would like to attend, [please register via EventBrite](#).

For more information, please [email Jo Brown](#).

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## EPSRC RESEARCH SHOWCASE 2023: IMPACT AND OPPORTUNITY ACROSS THE UK

1.00-3.30pm, Monday 6 November 2023

Museum of Science and Industry, Manchester city centre

Register at [events@epsrc.ukri.org](mailto:events@epsrc.ukri.org)

Registration and lunch from 12.30. Event starts 1.00pm.



## Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

### The purpose

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, [EPSRC](https://www.ukri.org/epsrc/), invites LARIA members to join them for a showcase of engineering and physical sciences research we've funded across the UK.

This event is aimed at policy makers at local, regional and national levels, business, sector and cluster organisations from across the UK, local authorities, parliamentarians and researchers who are interested in EPSRC's strategy for maximising the reach and impact of the research we fund across the UK.

During the showcase, there will be a chance to:

- Through talks, gain a greater understanding how EPSRC funded research is delivering benefits for places across the UK,
- Find about freshly announced research and infrastructure investments that have been co-created with local and regional partners,
- See how civic bodies including local authorities have taken part in shaping what EPSRC funds,
- Through exhibits, see the breadth and variety of research funded by EPSRC across the UK,
- Build connections and explore potential collaboration opportunities with EPSRC, UKRI and researchers we fund.

This invitation is transferable, and organisations may nominate more than one person to attend. Places are limited so please email [events@epsrc.ukri.org](mailto:events@epsrc.ukri.org) if you'd like to come along.

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### Update on Health Statistics User Group Activities

#### 1. Introduction

Health Statistics Users' Group (HSUG) has continued its programme of webinars in collaboration with the Royal Statistical Society (RSS) Official Statistics Section. It has also been exploring other options for collaboration, to allow HSUG to run health and care statistics webinars that do not fall within the remit of RSS Official Statistics Section.

Notices about forthcoming webinars, and other activities, can be found in the Health and Care Statistics category of StatsUserNet, in the Health Statistics User Group section. Go to [StatsUserNet](#) to login, or to register as a user. Registering for StatsUserNet provides access to information on activities in many other areas, not just Health and Care, including Welfare Well Being and Housing, Education, Finance, Trade, Population and Census, Prices, Crime and Justice, Transport, and Labour Market.

A summary of HSUG webinars that will be held over the next few months is given below. Other webinars are under discussion, and information about these will be posted on StatsUserNet as soon as it becomes available. Presentations, reports and other material from past webinars can be found in the Health and Care Statistics category of StatsUserNet, in the section "Webinar Materials".

## 2. **Planned Webinars**

### a) Developing coherent and accessible health statistics: a UK perspective

*Organised by:* RSS Official Statistics Section in collaboration with HSUG

*Hosting Arrangements:* Hosted by RSS Events

*Date and Time:* Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023, 13:00 to 17:30

Join a panel of experts from across the UK as they answer questions on coherence in health statistics, and discuss the challenges producing numbers and messages that are accessible and meaningful to the public and other users. The panel will include contributors from OSR (Office for Statistics Regulation), ONS, DHSC, Lancashire City Council, Welsh Government, RSS, and Sense about Science.

Registration for this event is now open on the [RSS Events website](#). This is a hybrid event – in person at RSS, Errol St, London and also online. There are two separate registration listings – so please select the correct one.

For further information, please see information posted on StatsUserNet and on the RSS Events website.

### b) Webinar on Mobility / Disability

*Organised by:* HSUG in collaboration with TSUG (Transport Statistics User Group)

*Hosting Arrangements:* Hosted on Teams by HSUG

*Date and Time:* Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023, 12:00 to 13:30

This is a shared webinar between HSUG and TSUG on a topic where Health and Social Care interacts with Transport. Topics and speakers will include:

Department for Transport: Transport related disability statistics

OSR: Report on Disabled People's experiences with activities, goods and services

User perception of data on health and disability, including work in Manchester with their Disabled People's Sounding Board.

Some perspectives from Transport Associates Network (The Network of Independent Transport Consultants)

Way forward for the Health and Social Care Disability Group and liaison with the DfT disability group.

Please see the Health Statistics User Group section on StatsUserNet for further information. For this webinar, there will not be pre-event registration. The webinar is open to all those interested and joining information will be posted on the website a couple of days ahead of the event.

c) Adult Social Care Statistics

*Organised by:* HSUG

*Hosting Arrangements:* This webinar will be hosted by ONS User Engagement Team

*Date and Time:* Because of problems with the availability of some of the speakers due to change of staff at DHSC and at ONS, this webinar has been delayed and will be in two parts – the first webinar in late 2023 / early 2024, and the second a month or two after that.

This is a follow up to the webinar held in May 2022. The programme is still being finalised but it is expected that speakers and organisations will include ONS, DHSC, NHS England, Public Health Scotland and Scottish Government. The work of the Adult Social Care Statistics Theme Group will be introduced. There will also be input from a speaker responsible for producing adult social care statistics at local authority level, and from a speaker who can comment on how statistics and reports are used in practice at local level.

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## Jobs

### Senior Analyst in the Joint Intelligence Unit for Adult Social Care at Wigan Council



**Priority Candidates will be considered in the first instance**

**Wigan Town Hall**

**Library Street**

**Wigan**

**WN1 1YN**

**Salary: Grade 9, £35,411 - £40,478 per annum.**

**37 hours per week**

#### **Your role:**

The aim of Wigan Council's Joint Intelligence Unit (JIU) is to lead the way in developing innovative approaches to data analysis and interrogation that enable the Council to make informed decisions. You will be part of a small team that provides the council's Adult Social Care Directorate with intelligence and insight that supports performance management, quality assurance, commissioning, and a wide range of transformation programmes in adult social care. You will also be leading on the submission of statutory returns to central government. You will lead and develop a team of Research and Information Officers and play an active role in helping the JIU implement the Council's new Data Strategy.

This role requires an experienced and inquisitive analyst who can help us to transform our approach to data and intelligence within the council's Adult Social Care Directorate. The role also requires the ability to work with autonomy, initiative, and deal with issues that are of an ambiguous nature.

#### **About you:**

It is essential you can demonstrate your skills across the following areas:

- A degree or equivalent level of relevant experience.
- The ability to carry out effective research, analysis and interpretation of information from a variety of sources and make meaningful conclusions to support decision making.
- The ability to use analytical software, such as Business Objects, Excel, R, Python, SQL, Alteryx, Power BI, Tableau, and GIS, etc.

- The ability to produce engaging research and information products tailored to the needs of different audiences and present their reports to stakeholders.
- Excellent decision-making skills that break down problems, create innovative solutions and enhance performance management using data and best practice to support sector led improvement.
- The ability to think strategically to support a transformation culture.

**About us:**

Wigan Council has been voted 'Council of the Year' at the iESE Public Sector Transformation Awards and has recently published [The Deal 2030](#), our ambitious plan for our borough. We are signed up to the [Greater Manchester Continuous Service Commitment](#) ensuring that your service will be continuous or 'unbroken' between the supporting organisations.

You will be joining an experienced and friendly team who are passionate about adult social care. The role supports hybrid working, office and home based, and flexible working hours on a full-time basis.

Here at Wigan, we are proud to support flexible working patterns, when the service can accommodate this. We also take a blended approach to where we work, depending on the work we do. This may include working from home (My Place), the office (Our Place) or the community (Your Place). We like to thank our employees for their hard work and commitment by giving them the opportunity to access a range of exclusive rewards and benefits [click here](#) to find out more about working for #TeamWigan.

Wigan Council prides itself on equality, inclusion and promoting diversity within the borough and aims to recruit a workforce that reflects our diverse communities. We invest in training and developing our staff, in a positive learning environment, and aim to be a consciously inclusive employer. We welcome applications from everybody in the community and would particularly encourage applicants from our underrepresented groups to apply. At Wigan, it is really important to us that applicants demonstrate our Team Wigan behaviours, and we do all we can to make sure that everyone feels like they belong. We have guidance in place to ensure that all applicants are treated fairly and consistently at every stage of the recruitment process.

For further information, please contact [Victoria Woodward](#). If you would like more information about the role, please contact [Victoria Woodward](#).

To view the details relating to this position, please click the links below:

[Job Specification](#)

[Privacy Notice](#)

**Priority Candidates Interview date: Thursday 9th November 2023**

**Interview date: Monday 13th November 2023**

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### **Director of the UK Data Service**



We are seeking to appoint a new Director of the UK Data Service. The Director will provide strategic leadership, playing a significant role in shaping and scoping out the future direction of the UK Data Service and enhancing its national and international reputation.

Applicants should bring strategic vision and exceptional leadership and management skills to the role. You will be able to demonstrate that you can build and manage strategic relationships with a wide range of partners, including non-academic partners at a senior level.

### **Further details and job pack**

[Director of the UK Data Service, UK Data Archive](#)

Closing date: 12 November 2023

[View story online](#)

### **Deputy Director of the UK Data Service**

We are seeking to appoint a new Deputy Director of the UK Data Service. The successful candidate will provide operational leadership across the institutions that contribute to the service and will play an important role in shaping the future complexion of state-of-the-art data services.

Applicants should have an excellent track record in organisational and transformational operation management. You will have the skills and ability to lead digital transformation and develop sustainable approaches that will help future-proof our data services.

### **Further details and job pack**

[Deputy Director of the UK Data Service, UK Data Archive](#)

Closing date: 12 November 2023

[View story online](#)

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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 23rd November](#).

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

The next newsletter submission deadline is [Thursday 23rd November](#).

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