



Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

LARIA Newsletter January 2024

LARIA Updates

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2024 and another year of being part of LARIA.

No doubt many of you started the year the same way I did, full of good intentions, and now, three weeks in are starting to feel your resolve waiver. By some estimates, as many as 80% of people fail to keep their New Year's resolutions by February.

Part of the problem is setting realistic goals for the year ahead and so I have been selective in picking some that really matter. One of my resolutions is to make sure that we as a network build on the positive feedback from our first, post-covid Annual Conference.

It has been energising and inspiring to read through your presentations and the messages from those of you who attended and it is clear that people got a lot from being able to meet up in person and get back to sharing stories and offering support. It reminded us of the strength we can take from being part of a network of like-minded individuals, all committed to promoting best practice in evidence-based decision making, as demonstrated by our excellent Award winners.

At the end of our Conference, we resolved to do more to grow our network and to provide more opportunities for us to connect outside of the annual gathering. This is a resolution we need to stick so here are some suggestions for maintaining our good intentions:

1. Replace resolutions with action - Can you get some regular dates in the diary for checking in with fellow LARIA members, even if it is just for a virtual coffee?

2. Repeat - LARIA Council will be reviewing your feedback on the Conference and hope to be in touch soon with plans for our 2024 Events but in the meantime why not follow up with the speakers, recreate the conversations with your wider team or other people in your local area you think would be interested?
3. Be brave – We can all over think reaching out to people to ask for support, especially when we know everyone is busy but hopefully our Conference has reminded us we are a friendly bunch so send that email, connect on social media, or go old school and pick up the phone. It's good to talk.

One of the main reasons why so many New Year's resolutions fail is self-doubt which then becomes self-fulfilling so let's hold ourselves to account and be part of the 20% who stick with our commitments. This year sees LARIA reach 50 years old so let's make it a good one and where we all play our part in growing the LARIA network so that we can be part of making sure we are there to support each other for the next 50 years!

News

We are seeking four new members to join our Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement Advisory Group



Are you interested in contributing to research that explores policy-related questions about the health and social care workforce?

You may be someone who has considerable experience of using health and/or social care services or caring for someone in that position or may be active in an organisation that represents people who use services and are willing to draw on this role. The role would suit individuals who have experience in public roles such as *Healthwatch* or *CQC Experts by Experience*. We are seeking people who bring a range of perspectives, experiences and skills.

We are not seeking currently employed health and social care professionals, researchers, or paid members of campaigning or advocacy groups. They are all involved in other parts of the Unit's work. The Unit's work covers England, and we welcome applications from across the country.

The appointment to the HSCWRU PPIE Advisory Group is for a term of five years:

2024-2028; fees & expenses paid.

[See our website](#) and [Further details about the role](#).

Application deadline: **5pm, Thursday, 15th February 2024**.

Courses, Training Events and Webinars

Home Care Research Forum

Wednesday 14th Feb 2024 2pm-4pm (online)

NIHR | Policy Research Unit
in Health and Social
Care Workforce

We are pleased to share with you the details of the first Home Care Research Forum of the year, on **Weds 14th Feb** from 2-4pm.

Attendance is online, free and open to all with an interest in homecare research. Please register via Eventbrite to secure your place: [Home Care Research Forum - 14th Feb 2024, 2-4pm Tickets, Wed 14 Feb 2024 at 14:00 | Eventbrite](#).

We will be kicking off the year with two fantastic speakers and presentations:

Talk 1:

Speaker: Dr Deborah Chinn (Senior Lecturer in Intellectual Disabilities, King's College London)

Title: 'What helps you feel at home where you live'? Exploring the concept of 'homeliness' with housemates with learning disabilities living in staffed group homes, their families and support staff

Summary: The Feeling at Home project (www.feelingathome.org.uk) has been funded by the NIHR School for Social Care Research with the aim of improving the everyday home environment for people with learning disabilities living together in group homes with significant staff support. We have been focusing on an important, though rather neglected aspect of residential support – how far it can help people 'feel at home' where they live. We used a participatory arts-based research method called photovoice to invite housemates to share experiences of their home environments through taking and discussing photographs of their homes, and we also conducted interviews with family members and staff. Our different groups of participants had different perspectives on the challenges to making sure housemates felt 'at home'. We used our findings to create some resources that staff can use to promote homeliness in staffed group homes.

In this talk we will share our findings through the photographs and words of our participants and also reflect on how the resources we created have been tested in real world settings.

Talk 2:

Speaker: Helen Moores-Poole (Speech and Language Therapist and Clinical Doctoral Candidate, University of Stirling)

Title: What are the experiences of Home Care staff when supporting older adults with speech or swallowing difficulties, how can we help and what can we learn from these?

Summary: Helen Moores-Poole, Speech and Language Therapist and Clinical Doctoral Candidate at the University of Stirling, will be joining us to talk about her research study with homecare staff in Dumfries & Galloway. Helen will share early findings from her work interviewing care at home staff working as employees within council, private and third sector organisations as well as those working as self-employed personal assistants to discover how they support older adults day to day, week to week with complex swallowing or communication needs following a diagnosis of Dementia, Parkinsons, MND, Huntington's, Multiple Sclerosis or Stroke. Her presentation will explore what staff believe helps and hinders them in their daily work and pose questions for us all about how we can better support staff to work with this highly complex client group. With thoughts around retention and recruitment, we hope this will be an interesting and thought-provoking session.

Please do share this information and link with anyone you think might be interested in this event.

We look forward to seeing you then.

How local authorities can achieve millions in efficiency savings from location data

It's a big statement, but from [GeoPlace's work with Nottingham City Council](#), we have

evidenced that for every £1 invested in the use of accurate and integrated addressing, there lies the potential to make efficiency savings and increase revenue organisation-wide by up to £6.

Find out more at this techUK webinar on 27th February to hear from Nottingham City Council, GeoPlace and ConsultingWhere on where the efficiency savings were made and Nottingham's plans to build on this for the future.



The webinar will give particular insight to the following functions: planning, property tax (council tax and NDR), highways, social care and education, housing and waste management. It is also an opportunity for suppliers and techUK members to be better informed of location data and what it means for their council partners. This event is free to attend for public sector and techUK members.

This event is part of techUK's Local Public Services Programme new efficiency series looking at how digital and data can help councils achieve savings and improve productivity. Find out more and register at [How local authorities can achieve millions in efficiency savings from location data](#).

[Using data in the early years](#)

In person, Tuesday 5 March 2024, 10:30 - 16:00.

Main Hall, Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount St, Manchester M2 5NS.

Nesta and Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) are co-hosting an all-day event for professionals working with data in the early years. This event creates a welcoming and open space to come together and share ideas on how data can improve services for children and families.

Event attendees will get to take part in two interactive workshops. They will hear from Nesta and GMCA on the work they're doing, hear different proposals for data uses for the early-years sector and hear from our keynote speaker: Leon Feinstein, Professor of Education and Children's Social Care at Oxford University and former Director of Evidence at the Children's Commissioner's Office.

**Free UK Data Service events, January -
March 2024**



Teaching with the EVENS dataset

31 January 2024, 10:00 - 11:30

The [Evidence for Equality National Survey](#) (EVENS) provides unique insights into the experiences of ethnic minorities in Great Britain. We have prepared a teaching dataset which will allow students to explore these insights. The teaching dataset will be able to be used in conjunction with the [free e-book](#), allowing students to reproduce the analysis

in the book or to carry out their own research.

The key topics covered in the teaching dataset, which will be released in 2024, include:

- Experiences of racism in different settings by ethnic and religious background.
- Sense of belonging and importance of ethnic and religious identity.
- Experiences of the Covid-19 pandemic relating to health, employment and financial security.
- Political attitudes and extent of support for Black Lives Matter.

This free online workshop, organised by the UK Data Service, is designed to enable those teaching undergraduate students to use the dataset to explore substantive questions related to their discipline.

The workshop will outline the new dataset and supporting information to inform attendees of the potential to use this innovative resource in their teaching.

[More information and booking](#)

Crime Surveys User Conference 2024

6 February 2024, 09.30 - 16.30

LIFT, 45 White Lion Street, London, N1 9PW

Please note that booking for the conference closes at noon on Tuesday 30 January.

Are you interested in research on crime? Do you want to know the latest developments in crime data from UK social surveys?

This free conference, organised by the [UK Data Service](#) in collaboration with the [Office for National Statistics](#), [Scottish Government](#) and [Home Office](#), will be held in London at [Lift, Islington](#) on 6 February 2024. This is an in person conference and there is no option to join online.

The user conference brings data producers and data users together to share updates on the development of the surveys and to showcase research that is being carried out using the data.

We are very pleased to announce that the keynote speaker for this year's conference is Stephen Farrall, Professor of Criminology in the School of Sociology and Social Policy

at the University of Nottingham, who will present his paper Exploring the individual-level effects of Thatcherism on crime over the life-course: Evidence from strategically-paired cohort studies.

Attendees will hear a mixture of presentations from the data producers and researchers who have used data from the [Crime Survey for England and Wales](#), [Scottish Crime and Justice Survey](#), and the [Commercial Victimisation Survey](#).

[View the programme and book a place](#)

Follow the event on X (formerly Twitter): [#UKDSCrime24](#)

Using multivariate census 2021 data to develop area profiles

7 February 2024, 10.00 – 11.30

Census 2021 for England and Wales enables the production of local area profiles using multivariate data. In this workshop we will explore how to access and prepare this data to develop custom datasets to allow the development of small area information.

We will cover the following areas:

- Sources of data: the advantages and disadvantages of Nomis, the ONS 'Create a custom dataset' tool and the new UK Data Service tool for accessing aggregate data.
- Census geographies: the geographies available from the UK Data Service and the ONS open geography portal that work with aggregate census data.
- Accessing data: how to select and download the data you require for an area profile.
- Preparing data: how to build an area profile that can be used with mapping software such as ARC-GIS and Q-GIS.
- Potential limitations: issues that you may face when working with aggregate data caused by factors such as statistical disclosure control.

This free online workshop is aimed at those who are interested in developing better understanding of multivariate neighbourhood data within local authorities, counties and regions in England and Wales.

[More information and booking](#)

Data in the spotlight: Large scale social surveys

14 February 2024, 10.00 – 11.30

Did you know that data from major social surveys such as the British Social Attitudes survey, the Labour Force Survey and the Health Survey for England can be accessed for research and teaching?

These UK surveys provide a rich source of data from representative samples on important social and economic topics including work, family life, health, and social and political attitudes. Our collection includes surveys from the National Centre for Social Research, Office for National Statistics and other producers. In most cases, you can simply download the data once registered with the UK Data Service.

This free online workshop is intended for anyone who wants to learn about survey data available from the UK Data Service. The session will cover:

- the UK datasets available from the UK Data Service
- key features of survey data with examples from commonly used surveys
- how to access the data and getting further help

[More information and booking](#)

Coding in public: Barriers to reproducibility

19 March 2024, 09:30 - 16:30

University of Manchester

Reproducibility is an increasingly popular and important concept for building trust into science and research. However, reproducibility entails barriers that may be especially difficult for researchers from traditionally excluded or underrepresented populations.

This workshop dives into what reproducibility is in the context of social science and data research, as well as exploring what greater reproducibility might achieve in these research areas. Further, this workshop will identify barriers to reproducibility with special attention to why those barriers do not affect all researchers equitably. The workshop concludes with ideas for how researchers can identify how those barriers can be ameliorated for themselves or their colleagues and how collaboration to reduce research barriers improves research outcomes for everyone.

This is a free, full-day, in-person workshop. Participants will engage with discussions, polls, and activities which will require a laptop computer. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

[More information and booking](#)

Regular events

Safe Researcher Training

[31 January](#), [21 February](#), [14 March](#) 2024, 10:00 - 13:30

This Safe Researcher Training (SRT) course is intended for researchers who will be, or are in the process of, applying for access to controlled data in the UK Data Service Secure Lab. It is also suitable for researchers who will be accessing controlled data in other secure environments, such as the ONS Secure Research Service or HMRC Datalab, where the requirements of access mandate attendance on a Safe Researcher Training course. It is not suitable for inexperienced researchers whose project applications are unlikely to be approved, such as undergraduates applying for dissertation projects.

Researchers who are applying for Accredited Researcher (AR) status to access data through legal gateways, such as the Digital Economy Act (DEA), must attend and pass this course before they can be awarded AR status.

Computational social science drop-ins

[13 February](#), [12 March](#) 2024, 13:00 - 14:00

Join our free UK Data Service data drop-in to get or give some help on computational social science projects. This events will take place on Zoom. There will be a data expert from the UK Data Service present to chair the session. Feel free to join for general advice on getting data, learning to code and much more.

The sessions take place on the second Tuesday of the month. You only need to book once to attend the sessions from February to June.

[UK Data Service training and events page](#)

Members are invited to join a roundtable discussion at the LSE about the use of integrated dashboards as a management tool in practice and policy. Please find details and link to register below:



Roundtable discussion at the LSE about the use of integrated dashboards as management tool in practice and policy (hybrid event)

- **When:** Wednesday 7 February 2024, 12:30 - 14:30 GMT (Including Networking Lunch)
- **Where:** The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)
- **Register to join** at this [link](#) by 31 January 2024.
- **Background information:**
- Presentation about our approach to data driven decision making (see [this webinar](#) and [NIHR SSCR blog](#))
- Project [website](#) and [flyer](#)

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 22nd February](#).

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 22nd February](#).

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