



Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

LARIA Newsletter May 2024

LARIA Updates

Hello, and welcome to the May 2024 edition of LARIA News.

So, finally after what feels like months of speculation, the PM, on a very, very wet Wednesday afternoon, announced the date for the general election, to take place on July 4th.

For the 'Election Night Special' addicts amongst us, this means an instant Annual Leave request went in for Friday 5th July to ensure we get to see the results coming in as they are announced throughout the Thursday night/Friday morning.

For those who aren't as bothered in staying up all night, at least it will all be available on catch-up! And in the meantime, there's six weeks of polls, swings, marginals, tactical voting assessments, candidates and personalities to meet, and shouty interviews and debates to look forward to.

Regardless of the outcome of the general election, there will be implications for local area researchers and analysts - our priorities, focus, capacity, opportunities, the organisations that we work for, and the networks, partnerships, and the ecosystem that we work in.

- Firstly, the next six weeks will bring the chance for more laser-focussed policy debate around the future for local, regional, and national public services, with manifestos published and priorities and commitments not just shared and exposed, but also put under public scrutiny - which is a good thing.
- Secondly, a re-elected or newly-elected Government provides a chance for fresh ideas and innovations as new perspectives and policies are enacted.

These could result in new and different solutions to tackle issues in our local areas and give us a role in being part of this future-shaping agenda – through the very practical ways in which we work.

- Finally, it is an opportunity for more strategic and bigger picture change, with the possibility of new approaches to policy-making that might better address our more longer-term economic, social, and environmental challenges.

Let's see what the next six weeks brings on the political front. But also importantly, will be the pointers to the future strategic and practical focus of local area research and intelligence for the months and years to follow.

Andy Davis
LARIA Treasurer

News

New Continuing Healthcare (CHC) and NHS-funded Nursing Care (FNC) data tool

The Partners in Care and Health (PCH) Research and Data Team have developed a new excel tool for comparing regional data on CHC and FNC. The tool can be used to explore trends in the numbers eligible, look at the breakdown by ICB and monitor local resolution cases.

[Download the tool here](#). For more information, to ask questions or to provide feedback, please contact marie.horton@local.gov.uk

New Hospital Discharges Online Dashboard

This new interactive [Hospital Discharges Dashboard](#) allows you to explore data on patient discharge from acute hospitals. Compare trends and explore discharge pathways and reasons for delay. This tool will help you to sort through the details of the [NHS England dataset](#) to ask useful questions about discharge practice in your area.

For more information, please contact PCH@local.gov.uk

**Day Centre Resources Hub – a
new practical tool for day centres and
their professional stakeholders**

The [Day Centre Resources Hub](#), which was co-produced with expert stakeholders, aims to improve knowledge about older people's day centres and encourage joint working.



The Hub includes background materials to support decision-makers, commissioners, investors or collaborators understand day centres better; tools and resources to support day centre self-audit and to support service development; 35 case study examples; and templates and signposts to external materials.

Specific resource needs were identified in interviews, and a Stakeholder Reference Group developed resources through prioritisation activities. Day centre staff and people working in social care and health 'road tested' the resources to finalise the published version.

A commissioner who road-tested the initial version said: "My overall reflection is that this is the type of resource I wish I had when I first started commissioning day services 7 years ago. I can see this being like a 'one stop shop' resource that collates examples of what good looks like and valuable hints and tips that can be considered by professionals from different sectors, whether it's policy makers, commissioners, or providers."

An Assistant Locality Team Manager (adult social care social work team) who road-tested the initial version said: "I found it very useful and I am sure that it will be used to I found the resources really helpful and have already shared some with my team."

[Visit the Hub](#). [Read more about its development](#) in our blog.

Please view the [online flyer](#) which highlights some quotes from feedback received from people road-testing the initial version.

New LG Inform Report - Levelling Up White Paper - Levelling up missions



The [Levelling Up White Paper](#), published in February 2022, detailed the 12 missions that underpin the government's strategy to work towards ending geographical disparity within the United Kingdom over the medium-term. Each mission's progress will be measured against a set of metrics designated by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) in their statement of levelling up missions.

In response to demand from the sector [this report](#) on LG Inform, the area benchmarking tool from the Local Government Association, explores each of the 12 missions through the metrics against which progress will be measured, for which data is available at local authority level. Data is typically shown both in a comparative set, as well as the change over time, to assess your progress towards the goals of the missions.

The data is from a number of sources published by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), Office for National Statistics (ONS), Department for Education (DfE), and Nomis, and explores a range of topics from living standards, to education and skills, health and well-being, and local leadership.

Courses, Training Events and Webinars

Seminar: Tackling the challenges for local and national governments

We invite LARIA members in the West Midlands to join Dr. Elke Loeffler, for the launch of her new co-edited book, *Public Management and Governance*, a textbook that has become a leading international best seller in its field, at noon on 20th June at the University of Birmingham. An Associate of INLOGOV at the University of Birmingham, Dr. Loeffler will outline how this fourth edition tackles the current challenges which confront governments and public services organisations, at both national and local levels, across the world. She highlights the changes that have taken place over the 20 years that separate this edition from the first edition in 2003, and the key controversies and academic disputes highlighted in the book.

[Register here](#)

Exploring census microdata

17 June 2024, 10:00 - 11:30



Census microdata provides multivariate samples of individuals and households from the England and Wales Census 2021. Similar samples will be released for the Northern Ireland and Scottish censuses in due course. With 5% samples of individuals and 1% samples of households available to registered users of the UK Data Service they offer the potential to carry out more complex multivariate analysis of census data than the aggregate tables provided by the Office for National Statistics, UK Data Service and Nomis.

This free online workshop, organised by the UK Data Service, is intended to introduce the [census microdata](#) as a valuable tool for researchers to explore substantive questions about the characteristics of the population of the UK. In the workshop we will explain what is available, discuss how to prepare it for analysis, and then aggregate it to enable easier analysis. A practical element will allow you to explore an aggregated dataset in Excel or a statistical package you are comfortable with.

[More information and booking](#)

[View all UK Data Service events](#)

Health Studies User Conference 2024

1 July 2024, 09:30 - 16:30

UCL, London



Do you want to know the latest developments in health data from social surveys? Are you interested in research using health data?

This free conference is organised by the UK Data Service in collaboration with UCL and the National Centre for Social Research and will be held in London at UCL on 1 July 2024.

Attendees will hear updates from the data producers of key UK social surveys (cross-sectional and longitudinal studies) with health-related content. There will also be presentations by researchers who have conducted analyses using health data.

We are very pleased to announce that the keynote speaker for this year's conference is Professor Laia Becares, Professor of Social Science and Health at the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine, King's College London, who will present on 'Understanding and documenting the fundamental role of racism on ethnic inequities in health: analysis of 30 years of Health Survey data'.

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

[View all UK Data Service events](#)

ASSESS: SPSS (SPSS IBM STATISTICS) USERS GROUP
FRIDAY 18TH OCTOBER 2024
ONE-DAY SPSS USERS DAY OF WORKSHOPS AND TALKS
MRC COGNITION AND BRAIN SCIENCES UNIT
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

ASSESS is an independent user led group for IBM SPSS Statistics, a computer package for analysing and presenting data.

The 34th annual IBM SPSS Statistics users group meeting is provisionally planned to be held in the lecture theatre at the MRC Cognition & Brain Sciences Unit, University of Cambridge, on Friday 18th October 2024. [Workshop topics are available here.](#)

A SPSS users day consisting of two workshops together with three presentations are provisionally planned to be held at the MRC Cognition & Brain Sciences Unit, University of Cambridge, on Friday 18th October 2024. The workshops will be taught in an interactive hands-on workshop-style format, with frequent examples. All example files and notes will be given to all workshop attenders (on USB sticks). There will also be printed handouts at the user talks but not for the workshops. The talks will take place between the morning and afternoon course sessions. The booking fee includes coffee breaks but not overnight accommodation. Delegates should bring their own laptops for use on the day with SPSS and AMOS loaded on to participate in the courses.

Further details will be sent to delegates upon receipt of booking forms.

Anne Laure Humbert, who will lead the Exploratory Factor Analysis course is director of the Centre for Diversity Policy Research and Practice at Oxford Brookes University where she teaches a module on critical data literacy. Her research focuses on measuring gender inequalities in the economy and society.

Charles Dennis, who will lead the SPSS AMOS course is Professor of Consumer Behaviour at The Business School, Middlesex University (UK) and a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the International Journal of Consumer Studies. His main teaching and research area is (e-)retail and consumer behaviour. He has taught courses, given presentations and written papers based on his research using SPSS AMOS.

Jobs

Research and Change Officer

Apply by 04/06/2024

[Apply online](#)



The job requirements are detailed below.

Further information can be found in the link

in the Job Details section below. If you have auto-fill set up on your device we recommend turning this off before completing your application form. We are aware that users of Apple devices may have difficulties submitting application forms using the Safari browser. We recommend using Google Chrome as your browser if using Apple devices.

Job details:

Salary: £32,315 to £38,063 per annum

Contractual hours: 37

Basis: Full time

Date posted: 21/05/2024

Job reference: COLREQ01264**Job description:**

Contract Type: Permanent

Working Hours: 37 hours per week (part time considered, minimum 30 hours per week)

Face to face interviews will take place on Monday 17 June 2024 and Wednesday 19 June 2024

Colchester City Council is committed to delivering high-quality and accessible services to residents, visitors and businesses. We are a local government authority providing a diverse range of public and commercial services across Colchester, the second largest district in Essex.

This is an exciting opportunity to become a Research and Change Officer, working as part of a small team to engage with the diverse population of Colchester. We are currently working to transform our organisation through a three-year programme called Fit for the Future, so an understanding of how user voices can shape and improve services across the Council will be essential to delivering this.

We're looking for someone who has a real passion for research and techniques to engage with individuals and groups of people to deliver results. This will include the delivery of research projects, consultation, evaluation and knowledge exchange to inform programme development.

Duties of the role:

Having recently acquired City status, this is an exciting time to join us. You will work across all Council services to design and lead evaluation and research projects across a dynamic programme of work. You will be supported by a wider team to use mixed method approaches (quantitative and qualitative) to analyse, interpret and present research findings to a range of audiences.

You will work collaboratively with colleagues within the Council and with key partners, wider stakeholders, and funders to make the best of our wider joint research and insight. Using your expertise and project management skills to mentor and train Council teams in research, helping to embed these techniques across the organisation.

Qualifications and skills required:

To be successful in this role, you will need to be educated to degree level or have experience of research methods and their applications with a good understanding of data and information analysis. Experience with data sets and using Excel to understand them is important, with experience of using data to shape decision-making highly advantageous.

You will be highly organised and have the ability to manage your time and busy workload. Knowledge of relevant ICT applications and systems is a must, and confidence to lead on projects and drive them forwards is vital.

What we offer:

The Council encourages all employees to maximise their potential. You will be entitled to join an attractive pension scheme and will receive a generous annual leave entitlement, including two extra company holidays during the Christmas period.

Other benefits include:

- Flexible and hybrid working
- Free gym membership, plus travel and online retail discounts
- Excellent training, development and progression opportunities

For an informal discussion about this vacancy, please contact Laura Hardisty, Strategic Communications and Marketing Manager 07944 119629.

For further information regarding this vacancy, please click [here](#).

Colchester City Council has a wide range of services and facilities that can involve dealing with children or vulnerable adults. We treat our obligations for the safety of children and vulnerable adults seriously and expect our staff to be committed to the principles of our published policies and to adhere to the procedures contained within them.

[Apply online](#)

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 June](#).

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 June](#).

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