



Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

LARIA Newsletter August 2024

LARIA Updates

LARIA AGM 2024

The LARIA AGM 2024 will take place on Microsoft Teams at 4-5pm, Tuesday 24 September. 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 in Scotland

LARIA in Scotland are currently exploring options for holding an event together with ONS Local that will bring together a range of networks to discuss how evidence is used to inform decision making in Scotland and the barriers and limitations faced. The event will allow an opportunity for research and analysis colleagues, as well as those working in different policy areas to come together and make new connections. The event will also produce some insights into the shared barriers and enablers, as well as needs that will help to inform future LARIA in Scotland activities.

News

Opportunity to help define 'research' for Local Authorities.

- Do you work in a Local Authority and want to take part in an exercise to define what research is in Local Authority settings?
- We want to hear from people in a variety of job roles and directorates and from different types of Local Authorities across the UK.
- You don't need to be involved in research to take part.

About the project

What is 'research' in Local Authorities in the context of the wider determinants of health? The lack of a common definition is hindering activity to establish a robust and consistent research infrastructure, ethics and governance processes, and a research active culture.

Researchers from the NIHR Research Support Service Specialist Centre for Public Health delivered by Newcastle University and Partners are undertaking a consensus project to agree a definition of research in a Local Authority setting.

For this project, we are seeking input from people based in Local Authorities. We want their views on what 'research' in a Local Authority context means.

Taking part will involve completing an initial questionnaire, and then, if selected, completing two further questionnaires over several months. Each questionnaire should take no longer than 30-minutes to complete.

We need to include a range of people working within Local Authorities in this project and are seeking representation from across directorates, job types and geographical areas. Current or previous involvement in research activities is not a requirement.

You can access further information and sign-up for the project via [this link](#) by Wednesday 4 September at 5pm.

DataBasic Education - a FREE, bilingual training resource for schools and pupils in Wales



Following the successful implementation of DataBasicCymru, a training programme designed to help organisations develop their data culture, we have recently launched DataBasic Education.

DataBasic Education is a free, bilingual training resource to help schools and pupils across Wales develop data and information literacy skills. We have created the resource in partnership with the Central South Education Consortium and it is currently being reviewed for publication on Hwb (the national digital learning platform for Wales).

The resource aims to help schools and pupils develop and ensure progression in key data skills across all subject areas. This is not just a maths resource!

There are 11 fun and creative activities, each lasting between 20 and 45 minutes. The activities are designed to be teacher-led and you are encouraged to identify the activity that best suits the data you are working with, and the learning outcome pupils are focusing on. There are also step-by-step instructions for you on how to run the activities.

Sarah Summers, Area Lead Digital Learning, Central South Consortium, says “The Databasics webtool is an outstanding resource for educators. The resource is beneficial to both teaching and learning...The exciting aspect of the webtool as a teaching and learning resource is that it provides purposeful opportunities for data to be applied and transferred across multiple disciplines within the Curriculum for Wales...making it a great accessible and equitable tool for schools in Wales.”

Note: DataBasicCymru and the DataBasic Education training resource is based on the ‘Data Culture Project’ and DataBasic which were developed by researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to help organisations build their data culture.

If you’ve any queries or you would like further information about DataBasic Education, [please contact Róisín Roberts, Data Insight and Engagement Officer.](#)

GeoPlace secures coveted slot at LGA Innovation Zone



GeoPlace has been invited to present at the Innovation Zone at the prestigious LGA' annual conference.

Alongside [Nottingham City Council](#) and ConsultingWhere, we'll be demonstrating the £multi-million value of better use of a simple resource that's already available, and easily accessible, within every council. We will show how local authorities can receive tangible, calculable benefits by better integrating their addressing and street data datasets. Individually, these datasets held within individual departmental systems are of value only to the service or team that collects them. However, once shared and linked across departments, their true potential is unlocked. The process of data linking is straightforward and adaptable to manual, machine learning, and AI methods, and the data is already yours.

[Find out more here.](#)

Government Geography Profession Conference 2024

The next Government Geography Profession will take place on 19 -20 November 2024 at Ordnance Survey's HQ in Southampton. As part of the conference, the Profession is keen to showcase the work that geographers from across the public sector in a poster session, or a presentation or as a technical showcase. Follow the link below and complete the form by Friday 20th September 2024.

[Find out more here.](#)

Courses, Training Events and Webinars

Data Cymru training courses

Data Cymru have the following [training courses](#) coming up:



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- Getting your point across: An introduction to how to present data effectively – **13 & 19 September 2024, 16 October 2024, 13 November 2024, 15 January 2025 and 12 February 2025**
 - Understanding your information: An introduction to summary statistics – **10 & 26 September 2024, 23 October 2024, 20 November 2024, 22 January 2025 and 19 February 2025**
 - Hearing from citizens: An introduction to designing and running surveys – **17 September 2024, 3 & 30 October 2024, 27 November 2024, 29 January and 5 March 2025**
 - Engaging with citizens: An introduction to designing and running focus groups – **24 September 2024, 10 October 2024, 6 November 2024, 4 December 2024, 5 February 2025 and 12 March 2025**

Training courses are aimed at and are free to Welsh local authority colleagues. Courses cost £50 plus VAT for non-Welsh local authority colleagues.

Courses are intentionally **introductory** and are aimed at beginners.

To view the detail and / or to book your place, please visit [TicketSource](#).

Data Cymru “Inform and Inspire” webinars

Data Cymru are running a webinar on **Thursday 19 September, 12:00 – 13:00** - **‘Transforming outcomes for the most vulnerable in our communities: welcome to the world of social care data’**

In today's social care sector, data stands as a cornerstone for innovation, efficiency, and enhanced service delivery. The ability to collect, analyse, and utilise data effectively can significantly transform the outcomes for individuals and communities reliant on social care services. However, the landscape of social care data is incredibly complex, with numerous stakeholders, systems, and initiatives at play.

This webinar offers an overview of the landscape of social care data in Wales, spotlighting the key organisations and individuals driving data initiatives. Discover who is responsible for what, understand their roles, and learn how their work impacts social care services across Wales. By the end of the session, you should have the knowledge to navigate this landscape and leverage data for better outcomes.

Registration closes on **Wednesday 18 September 2024**.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with suzanne.draper@data.cymru.

To view the detail and / or to book your **free** place, [please click here](#).

Jobs

Newcastle City Council - Data Scientist



Job Location: Newcastle Upon Tyne

Salary: £43,421 - £46,464 per annum

Contract Type: Permanent

Hours: 37

Job Description:

We are looking for a data scientist who is interested in collaborating with Council colleagues and stakeholders to identify opportunities where data science can add value.

The successful candidate will work within the Health Determinants Research Collaboration (HDRC) department of Newcastle City Council, applying advanced statistical and machine learning methods to uncover patterns and trends, create tools, and develop predictive models for forecasting and decision-making. We are looking for a data scientist who can communicate complex algorithms, methods and results effectively, help shape the direction of data science within the organisation, and support other staff to build data science capability and culture.

The position will be open for applications from Friday, 23rd August, and will close on Monday 23rd September.

If you would like to chat about the role, please email me at kate.sheffer@newcastle.gov.uk.

For further information about the role, and the person specification and job description, please see here:

[Data Scientist - Newcastle City Council - North East Jobs](#)

Application Deadline: 23 September 2024 23:59

**Vacancy for Public Management
Teaching Fellow (University of
Birmingham)**



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

The Department of Public Administration and Policy (DPAP) at the University of Birmingham, which incorporates the Institute of Local Government Studies (INLOGOV), is recruiting a new Teaching Fellow to teach and support a mix of international postgraduates and UK public sector professionals, helping to develop the next generation of senior public sector managers and leaders. The successful candidate will have a higher degree in a relevant area (or equivalent qualifications), high level analytical capability, and the ability to design and deliver module teaching materials successfully. Starting salary is £35-44.3k, and the post is initially for one year. Application deadline is 30th September. [Further details here.](#)

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 19th September](#).

**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 19th September](#).

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