



Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

## LARIA Newsletter December 2024

### LARIA Updates

#### **Message from the Chair:**

As we reach the end of 2024 myself and the rest of LARIA Council would like to say a big thank you to all our members for their support this year. We have seen a growth in our subscriptions and also excellent attendance at our webinars and Conference.

In recognition of the financial pressures that our members are faced with we have taken the decision to hold subscription rates at their current levels while we review the Business Plan for LARIA and how we can offer more value to our members.

We look forward to sharing more updates with you in 2025 and wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Kind regards, Kate Waterhouse, LARIA Chair

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#### **Introducing LARIA Regional Representatives**

##### [LARIA in London Co-Chair:](#)

Gayle Gander, GeoPlace.

Email: [Gayle.Gander@geoplace.co.uk](mailto:Gayle.Gander@geoplace.co.uk)



I am head of marketing at GeoPlace, a partnership owned by the LGA and Ordnance Survey. A core aspect of my role is uncovering innovative and impactful uses of geographic data by local governments and championing these as examples of best practice. Over my 15 years at GeoPlace, I've helped develop a vast library of case studies, documents, and presentations – but I'm always on the lookout for more!

With a career spanning the geographic information industry, I've held roles such as Deputy Director of the Association for Geographic Information and various sales positions within industry. Additionally, I serve as a ward councillor in the London Borough of Croydon, giving me firsthand insight into the challenges faced by local government and the profound impact of good (and bad) decision-making.

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## News

You are invited to join the cross-government [AI Community](#), which is open to all those working in central and local government, including the NHS. To join the community, use the [dedicated form](#) or email [ai@digital.cabinet-office.gov.uk](mailto:ai@digital.cabinet-office.gov.uk).

The AI Community is led by the Central Digital and Data Office (CDDO). It meets monthly (online) and offers a venue for people interested in AI to learn from speakers both inside and outside government on topics including AI ethics, security and emerging uses of AI technologies. The community also organises some in person events every year to help teams share best practices and information about what departments and local government bodies are doing in the field of AI.

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## NIHR RSS Specialist Centre for Public Health announce first Public Health Engagement Leads (PHELs) funding confirmed

We are delighted to announce that we have agreed [funding for our first nine Public Health Engagement Leads \(PHELs\)](#), who will cover 63 local authorities in their roles.



One of SCPHs key objectives is to provide support and resources for local authorities to identify opportunities for public health research and develop the ability to initiate research. PHELs work across a number of local authorities (for example, by combined authority areas, ICS or OHID footprint) and will advocate for a research active culture and link local government with public health research support infrastructure.

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## Health and Care Intelligence Specialist Apprenticeship

Updates on developing an Apprenticeship for Health and Care intelligence Specialists have been reported in the LARIA Newsletter over the last few years. It was originally hoped that it would be launched by mid-2020 with the taught elements of the Apprenticeship ready by the start of the 2020 / 2021 academic year. Unfortunately, the pandemic intervened! However, many years after the journey commenced, we are delighted to report that the first cohort has started on the new masters degree level Health & Care Intelligence Specialist apprenticeship, with the training element being delivered by [JGA](#).

The apprenticeship fills the training gap between junior analysts and principal analysts for both NHS bodies and public health intelligence teams within local authorities.

Over 22 months, modules give a thorough grounding in: the Health and Social Care System; Personality, Stakeholders and Working Relationships; Leadership and Management; Project Leadership; Information, Evidence and Recommendations; Study Design and Methodologies; Data analysis and Evidence Informing Decision Making; Interpretation, Transfer and Dissemination of Information; Finance, Economics and Planning. These are supplemented by work-based projects covering: Empowering Others through Training; Leading A Change Project; Project Identification and Proposal; Writing a Report.

The course brings in elements of systems thinking and business disciplines as well as core statistical content.

And all this is tied directly to apprentices' work activity and led by 'doers' with practical experience and knowledge.

To find out whether the apprenticeship, which is appropriate for any age, might benefit you or your team, [check out further details here](#).

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**LGA webinar: Best kept secret:  
unlocking the hidden value of your data**



GeoPlace has a programme of work with the LGA to support Address and Street Custodians, highlighting the value of this data to senior colleagues in local government. On 28th November, as part of this work, the LGA ran a webinar aimed at decision makers to demonstrate how integration of address and street data brings efficiency savings and a return on investment. Over 260 people registered to attend, with around 200 people attending on the day.

See the recording of the webinar, and follow-up resources at: [Council Data: Unlocking Insights & Efficiency | LGA Webinar](#)

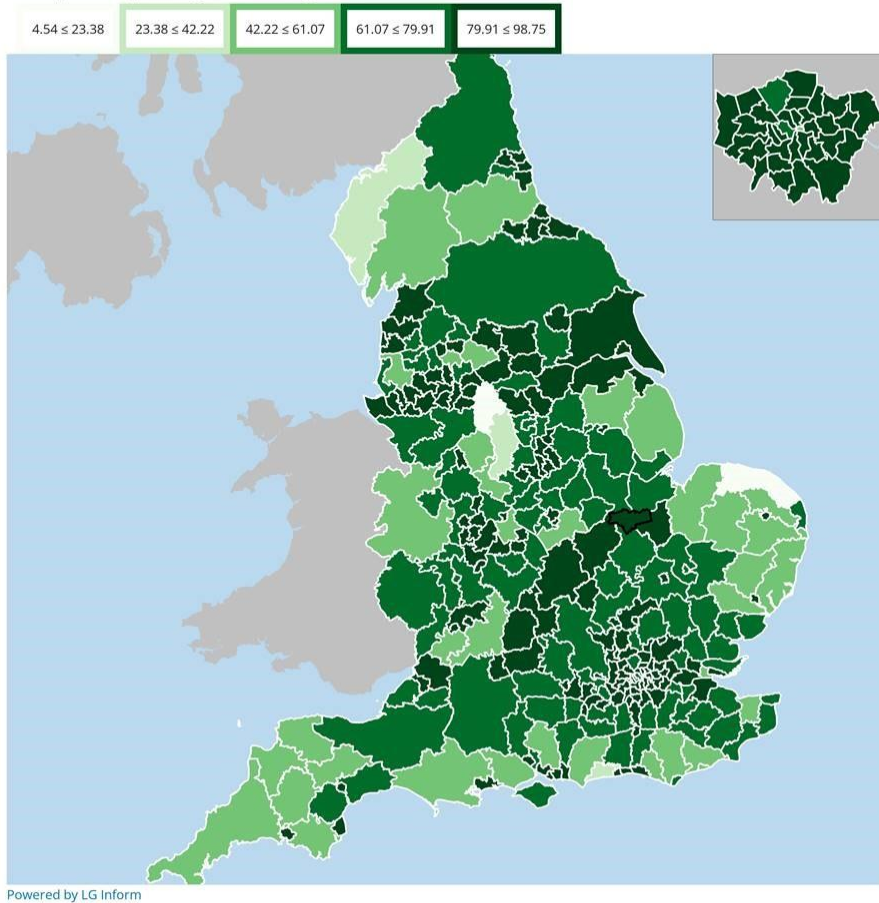
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**New Report – Digital Inclusion**

We are delighted to share our newest LG Inform Report. This report provides an overview of digital inclusion and exclusion in a local authority area. You can select a council at the top of the report [LG Inform Digital Inclusion Report](#).

Percentage of addresses with Gigabit availability (from 2020 to 2024) for Peterborough & All English single tier and district councils

Groups of 5 equal ranges for All English authorities in 2024



Source:  
Ofcom, Connected Nations, Percentage of addresses with Gigabit availability, Data updated: 29 Nov 2024

For information on [LG Inform](https://www.local.gov.uk/what-we-do/our-services/our-services/our-services) contact us at [lginform@local.gov.uk](mailto:lginform@local.gov.uk), or to take advantage of the benefits of subscribing to [LG Inform Plus](https://www.local.gov.uk/what-we-do/our-services/our-services/our-services) contact [lginformplus@local.gov.uk](mailto:lginformplus@local.gov.uk).

## Courses, Training Events and Webinars

**Join NIHR Academy at three regional events to learn more about NIHR fellowships for those working in local authorities, public health and social care**

NIHR Academy, together with the NIHR RSS Specialist Centre for Public Health and the NIHR RSS Specialist Centre for Social Care are hosting three in-person events across England, in Birmingham, Exeter and Leeds to offer information, advice and support for individuals from local



authorities considering applying for a NIHR Academy fellowship.

[Find out more and register to attend](#)


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### **Join our consensus meeting!**


We want to hear from professionals in health and social care, as well as researchers engaged in or interested in assistive technology.

Share your views and help shape the future of assistive technology for people with COPD.

 Topic: COPD & Assistive Technology

 Date: Wednesday, 29th January 2025

 Time: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

 Location: Online (via Microsoft Teams)

Your Role:

Review and discuss study findings.

Help identify improvements and future research priorities.

To find out more or to express an interest contact:

Email: [farhin.ahmed@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:farhin.ahmed@qmul.ac.uk)

(Please respond by Thursday 19th December 2024.)

On behalf of the study team, Dr Ratna Sohanpal (Study Lead), Professor Stephanie JC Taylor (Co-study Lead), and Dr Farhin Ahmed (Study Researcher).

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### **Jobs**

**Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council - Local Authority Research Practitioner**

**Department: Public Health**

**Terms and Conditions: 2 year fixed term post due to funding, 37 hours per week**

**Grade I SCP 34-38 £42,403 - £46,464 per annum**

**Job location: Hybrid – Blackburn / home working**

*Are you interested in applying academic research to help address local issues?*

*Can you help others develop their understanding and use of research?*

*Are you comfortable working with senior managers to promote the use of research?*

This is an exciting new role which will support the development of research skills and capacity across Blackburn with Darwen Council.

The Local Authority Research Practitioner (LARP) will support research delivery and performance across the locality and champion the role of research across Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and local partners.

The aim of the role will be to ensure that local decision-making on policy and interventions are routinely based on robust evidence, which will ultimately improve health outcomes and the wider determinants of health for local residents.

Based in the public health team, the post holder will work with a broad range of local stakeholders across the Council, NHS and VCFS partners, to enable the development and embedding of research infrastructure, to ensure that research activity becomes part of the culture of the Council and broader local system.

The role is part funded by the NIHR RSS Specialist Centre for Public Health, and the postholder will be expected to actively promote, support and contribute to the activity of the NHR RSS Specialist Centre for Public Health, alongside their work within the Council.

Closing date: 13th January 2025

For further information please search for 'research' on the [Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council jobs page](#)

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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 January.

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**Are you a Corporate or Full Corporate Member?**



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 January.

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