



Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

## LARIA Newsletter July 2025

### News

#### **Inclusive experiences for all**

At CACI, we blend deep accessibility knowledge with user experience expertise to deliver inclusive services that transform digital experiences for better outcomes.



Our inclusive design methodology, supported by our Inclusion Labs, ensures full alignment with accessibility standards and governance requirements – helping public sector websites and apps meet compliance while delivering better experiences for all users.

Accessible by design – what we offer:

- Inclusive Design - Leveraging Universal and User Centred Design principles, we ensure services are accessible from the outset
- Audits & Compliance - We blend automated tools with expert manual audits against WCAG 2.2 criteria to identify and prioritise accessibility fixes, supporting public sector organisations when writing legally compliant accessibility statements
- Inclusive user testing - Qualitative testing with our pool of disabled and neurodiverse users on assistive technology such as JAWS, NVDA, Dragon, and VoiceOver
- Inclusion lab + training - Fostering a culture of understanding and empathy across teams through training and programmes of inclusion labs
- Automated ongoing testing - Throughout the process we adopt automated background tooling to identify non-conformance at scale

The UK Civil Service, Sport England and the College of Policing trust CACI to ensure compliance and deliver inclusive, accessible experiences.

If you'd like to learn more, please reach out to [info@caci.co.uk](mailto:info@caci.co.uk).

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### **The indispensable value of street and address custodians in local government**



Street and address custodians are among the unsung heroes of local government. They do some fantastic work in maintaining the local gazetteers that underpin a wide range of services and providing the insights to drive transformation in the sector.

The core features of the gazetteers include unique property reference numbers (UPRNs) and unique street reference numbers (USRNs), providing individual identifiers for each addressable location in Great Britain. These are crucial in enabling data sharing and joining up of services, and helping councils to build stronger understandings of the needs of their communities.

GeoPlace is always eager to highlight the achievements of the custodians and council service teams using the assets. This year's [GeoPlace Annual Awards](#) – the winners of which were announced at its conference in June – provided outstanding examples of ambitious projects to meet the complex demands on local government.

[Read more here.](#)

### **AI and geospatial intelligence transform public reporting in Westminster City Council**

Westminster City Council's innovative Report It platform won the 2025 Exemplar Award for blending geospatial intelligence with AI to transform how residents report street and waste issues.

By integrating USRNs, Google Maps API, geocoding, and automation, the platform has increased report accuracy to 86% and dramatically reduced submission time from five minutes to just 88 seconds, delivering faster, more efficient public services. Already deployed across highways, streetlighting, and anti-social behaviour reporting, it exemplifies how location data and AI can elevate local government responsiveness and usability.

[Find out more here.](#)

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## Counterfactual study shows neighbourhood working works

[Everybody Needs Good Neighbourhoods 2](#) is a new counterfactual study commissioned by [Local Trust](#) and [3ni: the national network for neighbourhood improvement](#), carried out by [OCSI \(Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion\)](#) and [Shared Intelligence](#).

This study explores the extent to which resident-led neighbourhood-based initiatives (NBIs) are leading to improved socio-economic outcomes in deprived areas. The research looked at a sample of areas where NBIs were present and a sample of similarly disadvantaged counterfactual benchmark areas with no NBI present, with 29 of each, allowing for the testing of statistical significance. The approach compares the performance of the two samples on key socio-economic indicators. Using a difference-in-differences (DiD) approach, these two samples were compared across seven socio-economic indicators covering the themes of worklessness, poverty, crime, neighbourhood desirability and economic strength. Indicators were selected where they were available on a consistent basis at a sub-Local Authority neighbourhood level over a 10-year period.

Key findings include:

- Business activity has grown faster - Areas with neighbourhood-based initiatives saw a 41 percent increase in local business units versus 22 percent in benchmark areas - boosting economic growth and job opportunities for local residents.
- Child poverty has risen less - Between 2014 and 2021, the percentage of children in low-income households increased by just 5.5 percentage points in areas with neighbourhood-based initiatives, compared with 8 percentage points in comparable areas indicating that local, place-based action can help mitigate national trends.
- Crime reduction is greater - Overall crime rates fell by 19.1 offences per 1,000 people in areas with neighbourhood-based initiatives compared to just 10.5 in benchmark areas, with the largest reductions in overall crime and criminal damage.

Overall the evidence points, we believe for the first time, to statistically significant differences in socioeconomic outcomes in areas with neighbourhood-based initiatives, compared to counterfactual places that have not received neighbourhood based intervention. These hyper-local initiatives, focused on disadvantaged neighbourhoods and overlooked communities, appear to have supported improvements that contribute directly to the national missions of economic growth, reducing barriers to opportunity, and safer streets — and help us see in practical terms where resident-led neighbourhood level efforts can make the most difference.

This research will be relevant for:

- Councils exploring models of neighbourhood-level governance in the context of reorganisation
- Councils in receipt of Plan for Neighbourhoods and Trailblazer Neighbourhoods funding

- Councils seeking to align with NHS plans for neighbourhood health delivery

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## Courses, Training Events and Webinars

There are new webinars in [this series](#).

Events are open to all:

### **Homelessness & multiple disadvantage: responses to address women's trauma**

Wed 10 September 2025, 10 – 11.30am [Book here](#)

### **The role of Social Work in supporting people experiencing multiple exclusion homelessness**

Tue 14 October 2025, 10 – 11am [Book here](#)



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### **Webinar: SODA - A guide to successful data sharing across public services**

Our next data webinar looks at data sharing across public services. The Suffolk Office of Data and Analytics (SODA) will share how they overcome information governance, processes and systems including how they shared record-level data that is identifiable.

We will also hear how they set up a linked dataset using Splink (an open-source Python package which helps deduplicate and link records without common UIDs) from planning to implementation along with an outline of the process and use cases.

This webinar is free to all English council officers and will be suited to analysts, intelligence specialists, and service leads from all departments who are keen to make better use of their data.

Date: 17 September 2025

Time: 11:00 until 12:00

Link: <https://lgaevents.local.gov.uk/lga/frontend/reg/thome.csp?pageID=921907&eventID=2645>



## 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 21st August](#).

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

The logo for Laria, consisting of the word "Laria" in a bold, teal, sans-serif font.

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).

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