



Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

LARIA Mini Newsletter August 2026

LARIA Updates

 **Watch this space, our Autumn Webinar Series is on the way**



Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

As the evenings draw in, we're getting ready to launch a brand new Autumn Webinar Series packed with fresh insight, practical learning, and sector-leading expertise. We'll be sharing full details very soon, including themes, speakers, and how to secure your place.

Keep an eye on the [LARIA website](#), you won't want to miss what's coming!

Proposal: LARIA Special interest group – Participatory Research and Underrepresented Communities



Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

Following the 2026 LARIA Annual Conference, where participatory research in local authorities was discussed and colleagues expressed interest, we are seeking to set up a LARIA Special Interest Group on participatory research and underrepresented communities. The [attached paper](#) outlines the rationale, aims and proposed scope for the group, with a focus on sharing learning, building capacity and strengthening collaboration across local authorities and partners. I would really welcome any feedback you may have on the paper, as well as any indication of potential interest in getting involved.

To express your interest, kindly send the information below by no later than Friday 25th September 2026 via email to: gerallt@g1-di.com

- Name
- Job Title
- Organisation
- Contact details
- Any potential areas of interest, topics or themes you may have?
- Please also indicate if you might be interested to assist in helping with the coordination and planning of this SIG
- Please highlight any direct recent and relevant experience of being involved in any PR projects.

Gerallt Evans-Hughes

Chair of LARIA CPD Group

LARIA Council Member

LARIA Trustee

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Courses, Training Events and Webinars

GMCA are hosting a LARIA NW event on Wednesday 9 September (online) 2pm-4pm. There will be presentations on the following and more:



- "Improving the inclusiveness of data by building trust with local communities" Manchester City Council
- "Analysis of Early Year Metrics" GMCA
- "VisABLE: Developing and validating a prediction tool for likelihood of care home admissions in local authority social care" University of Manchester
- "The role of Local Authority Research Practitioners (LARP) in councils" Wirral Council

If you would like to attend, then get in touch by emailing research@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

Councillor training introduction to performance management:

Following the huge demand for our previous sessions, we are offering additional free introductory training sessions designed to help Councillors understand data and the role it plays in managing council performance. Whether you're a new councillor with responsibility for a service, involved in performance oversight, or simply want to refresh your knowledge, this session will cover key topics like understanding data, interpreting performance reports, and asking the right questions to make informed decisions. By attending, you'll gain practical insights into how data is analysed and presented, how to measure what truly matters, and how to confidently use data to monitor your council's performance. The course will include real-world local government examples, ensuring the content is directly applicable to your role.



[Tuesday 3 November 2026 - 10.00am - 12.30pm](#)

[Tuesday 15 December 2026 - 5.00pm - 7.30pm](#)

Elected leaders of the council data masterclass:

From Artificial Intelligence, performance improvement and efficiency, to local government reorganisation and devolution – to do them well, all rely on data. Join us for a free and exclusive data masterclass designed specifically for council leaders to show how better use of data can transform public services, help you to save money and improve outcomes. In this two-hour virtual masterclass, you'll hear real case studies, gain actionable insights and network in a safe, confidential space, finding out 'what good looks like' and, critically, how to get there. Places are limited and assigned on a first come, first served basis. This event is only open to elected leaders.

[Wednesday 18 November 2026, 10:00 – 12:00](#)

Chief executives data masterclass:

From Artificial Intelligence, performance improvement and efficiency, to local government reorganisation and devolution – to do them well, all rely on data. Join us for a free and exclusive data masterclass designed specifically for chief executives to show how better

use of data can transform public services, help you to save money and improve outcomes. In this two-hour virtual masterclass, you'll hear real case studies, gain actionable insights and network in a safe, confidential space with colleagues as you navigate your own data challenges and find out 'what good looks like' and, critically, how to get there. Places are limited and assigned on a first come, first served basis. This event is only open to chief executives.

[Tuesday 20 October 2026, 10:00 – 12:00](#)

Exploring census microdata



22 September 2026, 10:00 - 11:30

Online

Census microdata provides detailed anonymised information about individuals and households, allowing researchers to explore relationships between population characteristics in ways that are not possible using standard aggregate census tables.

This free workshop, organised by the UK Data Service, will introduce [census microdata available through the UK Data Service](#) and demonstrate how these data can be used to investigate substantive research questions about the UK population.

The session will include:

- An overview of the census microdata available through the UK Data Service and the different levels of access.
- An exploration of the documentation and other resources available to help researchers understand and use census microdata.
- A demonstration of how to prepare and analyse census microdata.
- A discussion of common issues and good practice when working with census microdata.

The workshop will consist of a presentation followed by a practical demonstration of working with census microdata. Participants are welcome to follow the demonstration on their own computer but this is not required. The emphasis will be on understanding the analytical process and the decisions involved at different stages of an analysis. There will also be time for attendees to ask questions.

[More information and booking](#)

[View all UK Data Service events](#)

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 24th September](#).

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.

The next newsletter submission deadline is [Thursday 24th September](#).

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