



Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

LARIA Newsletter September 2025

News

**Achieving Meaningful Change with Accessible Data
and Robust Foundations**



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An Exclusive Day of Insight, Innovation & Collaboration

Join CACI & Snowflake on Tuesday, 4th November for a Local Government Immersion Day. This is a unique opportunity to explore how data is transforming local government.

- Location: Snowflake Computing UK Ltd, 3 Crown PI, London EC2A 4EB
- Time: 09:30am – 4:30pm
- Complimentary lunch included

This in-person event brings together thought leaders, data experts, and local government innovators for a day of:

- In-depth insights from CACI & Snowflake
- Dynamic sessions featuring:
 - Georgina Maratheftis, Associate Director, Local Public Services at techUK, discussing market trends and emerging insights, witnessed by techUK.
 - Paul Holme, Head of Performance, Research & Intelligence at Manchester City Council, will discuss the importance of accessible data within local councils. Paul will also be speaking about the work LARIA are doing to support local authorities with data accessibility.
 - Tim Healey, Senior Analyst at Coventry City Council, will discuss a blended approach to data using a combination of open, council-owned and CACI data.

- Networking opportunities with peers and experts
- Interactive sessions exploring key themes:
 - Data democratisation & sharing
 - Building strong data foundations for AI
 - Current trends in local government

If you are interested in joining us, [register today!](#)

Building trust through better data

The UK Statistics Authority has identified inclusivity as being one of the four core principles underpinning the UK statistical system. For us in Manchester, this means making sure that the way we collect, store, analyse, report and communicate data (and the people responsible for doing it), reflect the experiences of all of our local residents so that everyone counts, and is counted, and no one is forgotten.

In August 2024, the Public Health Knowledge and Intelligence Team started to work on a project to think about how we could become more inclusive in our data and evidence in Manchester. This is part of a broader drive to tackle health inequalities by strengthening community power and social connections through the [Making Manchester Fairer action plan](#).

The national [Inclusive Data Taskforce](#) provided us with a set of eight Inclusive Data Principles that gave the City Council and its partners some clear guidelines to achieve this.

These eight Inclusive Data Principles are to:

- Create an environment of trust and trustworthiness;
- Take a collaborative whole system approach to improve the data infrastructure;
- Ensure that groups are robustly captured;
- Ensure that sufficient data are available for robust and reliable disaggregation and intersectional analysis;
- Ensure that concepts are appropriate and clear;
- Broaden the range of methods used and create new approaches to understand everyone's experiences;
- Review harmonised standards regularly adapting to evolving social norms and needs;
- Ensure that data and evidence are equally accessible to all.

We began addressing these recommendations by working to foster an environment of trust between residents and the Council. We intend for people to understand and feel comfortable with how and why we collect and use their personal data.

Nationally, [research from the Race Equality Foundation](#) shows that failing to explain why personal data is being collected can lead to caution and suspicion on the part of local communities and that people's confidence in sharing their personal data would increase if they were provided with adequate, easy to understand information on this subject.

To address this, we have produced a [simple guide to how we look after your information](#) that will help local residents and Council staff to understand, in simple terms, where and when the Council collects people's personal information, how it is used and what people's rights are in terms of stopping, deleting or changing the information that the Council holds about them. A pdf version of this guide for public use can be downloaded from the website of one of our key partners, [Breakthrough UK](#). A set of Council-wide standards for collecting equality data have also been developed.

Going forward, we have ambitions to undertake a more comprehensive assessment of how the Council, and its partners, are performing across all eight Inclusive Data Principles as the basis for producing a local Inclusive Data Strategy. These principles will also be embedded into the Council's corporate Data Strategy.

By being able to ensure our data accounts for all our diverse communities, we can help to shape a future Manchester that we can all feel part of and proud of.

Unlocking safer homes and tenant wellbeing under Awaab's Law

The new MHCLG-Digital and HACT data standard marks a significant step forward in addressing damp, mould, and housing hazards under Awaab's Law. At its core is the UPRN — an identifier that can link every property to a coherent, reliable data trail. This article explores how embedding UPRNs in workflows can transform how social landlords and local authorities manage risks, target vulnerable tenants, and deliver safer, healthier homes.



[Read more here.](#)

Courses, Training Events and Webinars

Using integrated non-survey data for evaluating and correcting for non-response bias in surveys

14 October 2025, 13:00 - 14:30

Online



Over the past decade, the landscape of survey data has substantially changed as response rates in probability-based surveys have seen a steady decline. Survey non-response can have a substantial impact on data quality, including the precision and reliability of survey estimates. The integration of non-survey data sources (i.e. administrative records, geospatial characteristics and digital trace data) can help to facilitate a more effective evaluation and correction of non-response bias in survey data.

This free workshop, delivered collaboratively by the Survey Futures Team (Strand 7) and the UK Data Service, explores the role of data integration in addressing non-response bias in social surveys. Presenters include Dr Thomas O'Toole, Professor Joe Sakshaug, and Dr Pierre Walthery.

The workshop will provide:

- An understanding of the mechanisms which drive non-response bias.
- An overview of integrated data sources and methods for evaluating the implications of non-response bias on data quality and correcting for non-response biases.
- An assessment of the benefits and challenges of working with integrated survey-to-non-survey data to address non-response bias.
- How to find and access sources of integrated data.

[More information and booking](#)

[View all UK Data Service events](#)

UK Data Service introductory training series: Autumn 2025

We provide access to a wide range of social science data for reuse. To help you get the most from these resources, we run a free introductory training series every spring and autumn to introduce different aspects of the UK Data Service.

Our training series workshops in autumn 2025 are listed below and you can also browse [our training and events pages](#) for a full list of what is available.

- [Introduction to effective and practical research data management](#), 2 October, 10 -11.30
- [Dissertation projects: Introduction to secondary analysis for qualitative and quantitative data](#), 8 October, 10 -11.30
- [Ethical and legal guidelines in data sharing](#), 16 October, 10 -11.30
- [How to become a computational social scientist](#), 21 October, 10 -11.30
- [Getting started with secondary analysis](#), 3 November, 10 -11.30
- [Role of Informed Consent in Ethical Data Collection, Sharing and Reuse](#), 4 November, 10 -11.30
- [Introduction to copyright](#), 11 November, 10 -11.50
- [Best practices for documenting social sciences research data](#), 17 November, 10 -11.30
- [Data in the spotlight: Large scale social surveys](#), 18 November, 10 -11.30
- [Data in the spotlight: Longitudinal data](#), 20 November, 10-11.30
- [Introduction to anonymisation techniques for social sciences research data](#), 24 November, 10 -11.30
- [UK Data Service essentials: Introduction, and finding and accessing data](#), 26 November, 10 -11.30
- [Data in the spotlight: International time series databanks](#), 27 November, 10 -11.30
- [Data in the spotlight: Qualitative and mixed methods data](#), 2 December, 10 -11.30
- [Data in the spotlight: Census and population studies](#), 9 December, 10 -11.30

Webinar: **Storytelling for researchers**



Wednesday 15 October



10 to 11:15am

NIHR | Research
Support Service

Specialist Centre for Public Health
delivered by Newcastle University and Partners

In this webinar, we'll explore how imagery, empathy, and curiosity become your tools for creating that crucial "way in" for your audience. All too often, audiences are left on the outside, unable to see the value or potential of your projects. After attending, you'll be able to help them understand, access, and resonate with it instead. Duncan Yellowlees presents this session for those who want their work to land well with the people who need to hear it.

[Webinar: Making research engaging](#)




Thursday 6 November




11am to 12 noon

Dr Michael Johansen offers guidance and examples of how to make the research process interesting and how to tell a great story about it afterwards. Whether you're trying to engage community members to participate, or want to convince others that research has real-life benefits, Michael will talk through his methods of harnessing curiosity.

[Webinar: Creating a public and community involvement and engagement strategy](#)

 Wednesday 26 November

 10 to 11am

In this webinar, we will explore the benefits of creating a public and community involvement and engagement strategy for public health research in a local authority setting. Opened by Donna White, Senior Research Manager at NIHR, we will hear from two local authorities who have taken different approaches to creating their involvement and engagement strategy and what they learned through the process. Our speakers will share their top tips to getting started on creating an involvement and engagement strategy and there will be time to ask questions to the panel.

There's a new webinar in [this series](#). All events are free and open to all:

Harm Reduction and Belonging in the Provision of Homelessness Services

Wed, 12 Nov 2025 10 – 11am [Book here](#)



A reminder of October's event:

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

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

Python in action - Real world data science in local government

Join us to explore how local councils are using Python, a popular programming language, to drive data led improvements in local government. In this webinar you will learn more about what Python is and how it can be used, as well as hearing real world



examples from two presentations in using Python and other data science techniques to deliver better outcomes for communities.

Hear from:

- William Levack-Payne, Data Manager at Data to Insight hosted by East Sussex County Council who will provide a clear introduction to Python, what it is, why it is useful and why a council would want to use it. They will also share how they worked with IT teams to implement it safely and effectively.
- Lisa Poole, Assistant Director of Parking Compliance and Rent Collection Service and Andre Modlitba, Data Scientist from Richmond and Wandsworth Councils who will share their real life example on how they used Python to link address data together and the benefits this has provided across revenues and benefits.

Join this session to develop your professional development by learning more about Python in data science as well as benefiting from tips and lessons from councils who are already making use of Python.

Stay for a live Q&A session with all speakers, where you'll have the opportunity to ask questions and dive deeper into the projects and tools discussed.

Date: 31 October 2025

Time: 14:00 until 15:30

[Book Now](#)

Prevention is better than cure, how data in public health improves lives

Discover how local councils are using data and advanced analytics to improve population health outcomes. In this webinar, we will hear from three presentations on how data driven approaches are being used to enhance public health decision making and service delivery.

Hear from:

- Adam Briggs, Director of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Public Health Research Programme and Deputy Director of Public Health at Oxfordshire County Council about how the NIHR supports data led research within local government, and how councils can maximise the intelligence and opportunities of their own data to inform public health strategies.
- Jasjot Saund, Public Health Registrar at London Borough of Lambeth with a case study on using R, an opensource statistical programming language, to model survival outcomes among individuals who have and have not received NHS Health Checks.

- Rebecca Allen, Head of Public Health Analytics, and Kathryn Loxton, Senior Public Health Data Analyst at Suffolk County Council who will share how they used R (and a bit of SQL) to analyse population health data to drive a targeted suicide prevention initiative in men across Ipswich, Suffolk.

Stay for a live Q&A session with all speakers, where you'll have the opportunity to ask questions and dive deeper into the projects and tools discussed.

Whilst this webinar focuses on public health use cases, the content will be of interest to anyone who is interested in using advanced analytical techniques in their local government work.

Date: 20 November 2025

Time: 14:00 until 15:30

[Book Now](#)

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 23rd October](#).

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 23rd October](#).

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