Time	Event	
09:00-09.30	**Registration and networking**	
09:30-09:40	**Introduction** **Gerallt Evans-Hughes, MD Global 1-Digital Insight and Chair of LARIA CPD Events Group, LARIA Council Member and LARIA Trustee.** *Westminster Room*	
09:40-10:10	**Welcome Address – Dr Martin Reeves, Chief Executive, Oxfordshire County Council, Honorary President of LARIA** *Westminster Room*	
10:10-10:40	**CACI – TBC** *Westminster Room*	
10.40-11.10	**From evidence to action: Mobilising participatory research for an inclusive London economy** Local authorities are investing in research to inform policy, but evidence must also be actively mobilised to shape decisions. This session explores how researchers and public bodies can work together to understand local needs and use participatory methods to address labour market inequality. It draws on a Greater London Authority study by the National Institute for Economic and Social Research on Bangladeshi and Pakistani women's experiences of good work in London. The session reflects on collaborative research, co-produced recommendations and how these insights are informing targeted GLA interventions, showing the value of using community-driven evidence to develop inclusive economic policy. **Natalie Ntim, Greater London Authority and Dr. Domiziana Turcatti, Centre on Migration, Policy, and Society (COMPAS) University of Oxford / Gloucestershire County Council** *Westminster Room*	
11.10-11.30	**Refreshments and Networking**	
11.30-12.00	**ONS Local: Local Voices, Shared Solutions** This session highlights how ONS Local is bridging central and local government to put user needs at the heart of data and decision-making. It showcases collaborative working groups that amplify local voices, reduce fragmentation, and ensure national evidence reflects local priorities The session will also show how ONS Local builds connections and gathers local insight that strengthens analysis and brings local perspectives into national discussions. Delegates will learn how to engage with ONS Local,	**Closing the Gaps: Improving Equalities Data Collection in Public Health Commissioned Services** This session outlines a structured approach to auditing equalities data across public health commissioned services. It will show how assessing the consistency and quality of demographic and protected characteristic data provides a reliable baseline for understanding who services are reaching—and who may be missing out. The session covers the audit framework applied across multiple

	strengthen networks, and collaborate to improve outcomes for communities. **Arianne Clark and Katie Cooper** *Westminster Room*	service areas, what the review uncovered about variation in reporting, and how these findings inform improvements such as clearer data standards, updated contract requirements, and service specific development plans. Attendees will gain practical insights into how a systematic audit can strengthen governance, improve the usefulness of equalities data, and support more informed, locally responsive decisions aimed at reducing health inequalities. **Jake Garvin, Manchester City Council** *Beecham room*
12:00-12:30	**Nothing about us without us: Learning about our young people's needs through relational tools use and Voice of the Child within the SAFE Taskforce project** The session will highlight tools used in the SAFE Taskforce in Manchester City Council to gather qualitative and quantitative data about the needs and wishes of children involved in this school based mentoring project. The session will also look at how the information is then used to remain agile and relevant in service delivery. **Lucy Perrone, Manchester City Council** *Westminster Room*	**Uncovering What Averages Hide: A Deprivation-Focused Approach to a Local Health Survey** The presentation will demonstrate how deprivation-based sampling reveals health inequalities hidden by district averages. West Sussex moved from administrative boundaries to deprivation quintiles, deliberately oversampling disadvantaged postcodes in the "Your Health Matters" survey to generate evidence for proportionate universalism and advocate for targeted interventions. The approach exposed stark social gradients in physical inactivity, smoking, mental wellbeing, and the alcohol harm paradox, patterns invisible in conventional district-level reporting. We wanted to challenge the "tyranny of the average" and design deprivation-focused sampling that translates inequality data into compelling evidence for decision-makers. **Jacqueline Clay, West Sussex County Council** *Beecham room*
12:30-13:30	**Lunch, Networking & Awards** **Chaired by Juliet Whitworth, Head of Research and Information, Local Government Association and LARIA Council Member**	

| 13:30-14:00 | **Good Levels of Development – Great Leverage of Data!**

Sheffield City Council has, like all local authorities, been set ambitious targets to improve the development of children as they start school - as measured by GLD - Good Level of Development. This session is a deep dive into the data around | **The journey to a smokefree generation begins with a needs assessment**

Tobacco epidemic is the one of the biggest threats the world has ever faced. In 2019, a national ambition was set for England to be smoke free by 2030 i.e. a prevalence of 5% or less. Essex has matched that ambition by signing the Local | **Using localised weather data to explore the impact of extreme weather and health**

This session presents a collaborative project with the University of Manchester using high resolution local climate data from the Whitworth Observatory to better |

	GLD: the trends, the framework, the underlying drivers, benchmarking, forecasting, modelling and an exploration of what makes a difference. Expect engaging visuals and a data story that asks searching questions about what's happening around younger children's development, and what local authorities can and can't do to improve this crucial measure. **Giles Robinson and Jenny Douglas, Sheffield City Council** *Westminster Room*	Government Declaration on Tobacco Control on October 2023. To support Essex going smoke free, we need to understand more about smoking behaviours and need across the districts. This session will be about the process of pulling a needs assessment together for Essex and some key findings. It will also be about how we, as a County Council are working in partnership with our district and borough partners to disseminate the findings and isolate hidden inequalities. **Jyotsna Srinath, Essex County Council** *Beecham room*	understand how heat affects communities across the city. The work addresses a key challenge for local authorities: national and regional models don't capture the localised conditions residents are experiencing, particularly around rising nighttime temperatures and humidity. By combining this detailed weather data with local context, the project highlights why more granular climate insight is essential for protecting health and planning future services. The session will explore how this partnership is helping shape a more informed, place based approach to climate resilience and public health planning in Manchester. **Martin Jennings, Manchester City Council** *Eaton and Cockell Room*
14:00–14:30	**Transport Data Action Plan: how we want to help** Data can unlock incredible benefits for transport when used well. The Transport Data Action Plan (DAP) sets out the Department for Transport's (DfT) commitments to improve how transport data is used, shared, and understood across the sector. In our engagement, we heard time and time again about some of the barriers organisations faced. We intend to lessen some of those barriers, and this should help local government in areas far wider than transport. In this session, we'll explain the premise of the Data Action Plan, the actions and commitments we are making, and how this will impact local government. We will ask for feedback on our approach, and	**The pragmatics of undertaking rigorous research within Local Authority settings: Learnings from the Women's Health Needs Assessment** This session will outline the methods used to achieve Nottingham City Council's Women's Health Needs Assessment (WHNA) and the learnings gained from the same. This work was innovative, in that it aimed to achieve the level of rigour needed for academic publication within a Local Authority setting but challenging, due to issues relating to the time sensitive nature of the work, the responsibility Local Authority staff have to residents and the unavoidable impact of the economic/political climate for Local Authority work/priorities. Delegates will learn: 1. The steps taken to achieve the WHNA 2. The key findings from the WHNA	**AI-Assisted Thematic Analysis: Transforming Public Consultation Insight at Wirral Council** Learn how Wirral Council transformed its consultation analysis by replacing manual free-text coding with a secure, AI-assisted workflow that improves accuracy and cuts processing time by at least 90%. Built in-house, the solution leverages Microsoft Fabric's data security and infrastructure to produce robust analysis outputs, verified through a human-in-the-loop QA process. The session will share testing results, lessons learned, and key enhancements, and will explore how this approach could be extended beyond consultation feedback to other qualitative and free-text datasets across the wider public sector.

	any further ideas on how we can support you. **Robyn Brass, Department for Transport** *Westminster Room*	3. The key challenges associated with undertaking rigorous research in Local Authority settings, based on learning from the WHNA 4. Our recommendations to those undertaking similar research in Local Authority settings 5. The action that has occurred in respect of women's health, based on the findings and recommendations of the WHNA 6. Our proposal for a behaviour change intervention designed to address some of the identified barriers **Maddy Leather, Nottingham City Council** *Beecham room*	**Matthew Davies, Wirral Council** *Eaton and Cockell Room*
14:30-14:50	**Refreshments and Networking**	
14:50-15:20	**Driving Change in Homelessness Services** This session explores how locally grounded evidence can strengthen services for people experiencing multiple-exclusion homelessness with practical cases, including a particular focus on Housing First in Southwark. Drawing on evaluation findings, it shows how combining administrative data, lived-experience insight, and continuous stakeholder engagement leads to more effective housing-led solutions. Delegates will gain practical examples of how local evidence can be used to shape decision-making, enhance service coordination, and improve outcomes for those with the most complex needs. The session also highlights opportunities to automate analytics, dashboards, and dynamic evaluation to streamline decisions and support	**"Understanding and Improving Healthcare Access for People Seeking Asylum and Refugees in Wirral: Insights from Qualitative Research"** This session presents locally generated qualitative insight into how people seeking asylum and refugees experience healthcare in Wirral. Drawing on focus groups, professional perspectives, and a co-design workshop, the project provides a nuanced understanding of unmet needs, system barriers, and the contextual factors shaping access to care. The session illustrates how community-centred evidence can inform targeted interventions, strengthen equity, and bridge gaps between national expectations and local realities. Delegates will gain practical learning from our methodology,	**Much ado about data: Evidencing the impact of local libraries** Delegates will learn how the Warwickshire Libraries National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) team and Business Intelligence team collaborated to transform the data collection process for libraries data and used this to produce a powerful, visual advocacy tool in PowerBI. The tool has received high praise from, and recognition in, the industry from library stakeholders and funding bodies, notably Arts Council England. The session will demonstrate how the project streamlined data collection, improved data integrity, and improved the usability of data to gain insights. Attendees will gain insight into how libraries

	continuous evidence-informed improvements. **Michela Tinelli, London School of Economics and Political Science and Jon Thurston, Southwark City Council** *Westminster Room*	findings, and co-developed recommendations, showing how insight-driven research can support more responsive, resilient local systems. **Petronella Munhenzva and Jennifer New, Wirral Council** *Beecham room*	and, therefore, other services can use data not just for reporting, but for storytelling and strategic decision-making. **Anjna Chouhan, Georgina Hudson, Lucy Carlton-Walker and Sue Robinson, Warwickshire County Council** *Eaton and Cockell Room*
15:20-16:20	**Predictive modelling of long-term care need and cost using multiple health and care linked data** English authorities allocate 78% of net revenue expenditure to social care. Thus, it is crucial to understand the drivers. Havering Council applied for a use case to analyse a linked health and care dataset. Then public health team used multivariate Cox regression models to identify risk factors for long-term care packages. Researchers from King's College London provided robust statistical techniques. After producing best-fit predictive models, we calculated risk scores for the primary care cohort. The council will be able to use the findings to prioritise the areas of high need. Moreover, the model can help derive an evidence-based funding formula. **Tha Han and Anthony Wakhisi, London Borough of Havering and Steven Wambua, Research Fellow, KCL** *Westminster Room*	**Mapping Need, Pathways and geographic and social inequalities: A Multimethod Analysis of Children's Social Care Demand and Decision Making in Oxfordshire.** Data Driven Innovation in Children's Social Care • Discover how Oxfordshire County Council and the University of Oxford have pioneered a practice research partnership to transform children's social care using data analytics. This session presents a case study on the strategic positioning of the Family Hubs project. • Attendees will learn how decision tree modelling, spatial mapping, and equity analysis was used to direct resources and tackle inequalities. They will learn how to use these methods to target Family Hub resources in areas of greatest need. Key takeaways include: • A replicable framework for using analytics to inform Children Education Family (CEF) Service delivery • Examples of co-designed research bridging academic expertise and frontline practice	**Building a shared picture of local need: Camden's State of the Borough in practice** This session explores how Camden Council's State of the Borough brings together quantitative and qualitative evidence to build a richer understanding of local need. Using the report as a case study, it shows how mixed-methods analysis can surface inequalities and better reflect lived experience at a local level. The session will reflect on the practical considerations of mixed-methods work in local government, including developing capacity, navigating data gaps and strengthening the role of qualitative insight alongside traditional metrics. It will also consider how combining evidence can support more strengths-based conversations with partners and communities, and how the State of the Borough functions as a strategic tool for evidence-informed decision-making. **Michal Shinwell and Saliha Majeed-Hajaj, London Borough of Camden** *Eaton and Cockell Room*

		• Practical tools for targeting high need areas and monitoring equity in service delivery Join us to see how evidence based, collaborative approaches can drive fairer, more effective children's social care reform. **Dr. Foyeke Tolani, Oxfordshire County Council; Ms Emily Smout and Dr. Saba Arshad, The University of Oxford** *Beecham room*	
16:20-16:30	**Conference Close** **Paul Holme, Chair, LARIA** *Westminster Room*		

LARIA reserves the right to amend the programme at any time.