The LARIA North East Newsletter

Laria North East
Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

March 2022

This is the 53rd LARIA North East newsletter. This newsletter is put together by Louise Reeve, the North East regional organiser, and sent to all LARIA North East members and associate members. It is also sent to LARIA members in Yorkshire and Humber. If there's something you'd like to see in the newsletter, contact me here: louise.reeve@newcastle.gov.uk. (If you would like to unsubscribe from this newsletter in future, please email me at: louise.reeve@newcastle.gov.uk)

Updates from LARIA

LARIA Council Meeting 4 March 2022 – update

Laria
Local Area Research + Intelligence Association

The national LARIA Council met on 4 March 2022, and discussed the following: LARIA's fees model, LARIA commercial opportunities, our potential strategic partners action plan, SLA with Mosaic Events, LARIA regional roles – Duncan, Juliet and Louise, raising LARIA's profile, and updating the LARIA rules (constitution).

LARIA Annual Conference – Call for Presentations

From LARIA, ahead of the annual conference: "We are looking to bring together a multitude of perspective and techniques to help others to move forwards in their professional lives. You may be at the start of your career or the most experienced member of your team. Do you have tips to share for improving our research strategies or incorporating new ways of working? Perhaps there are some time-honoured techniques others would find useful? We would welcome presentations on, among others:

- **Getting the most from the tools** – your tips for using analytical tools, from getting started to honing skills
- **Presenting for impact** – getting outcomes from your analyses using visualisations
- **Continuous professional development** and the sources you use

What we're really looking for is how you get things done and your experiences – good and not so good – so that we can all learn from each other as a LARIA community. For full details and to submit a presentation please download the submission form and return to admin@laria.org.uk."

Remembering Martin Stevens

Some of you may have known Martin Stevens, a Senior Research Fellow at the Health and Social Care Workforce Research Unit at King's College London, and also the Chair of Social Services Research Group (SSRG) in LARIA. Unfortunately, he recently passed away. Here is his obituary, from King's College London (KCL):

"He led research funded by NIHR SSCR on risk and personal budgets and models of safeguarding, and was part of the research team working on a study on hoarding and self-neglect. NIHR SSCR colleagues knew Martin for over 25 years, from when he was working in local authority (LA) social care, with his energy and enthusiasm to develop links between local authorities and university-based researchers, and then following his move to KCL. Martin chaired the UK Social Services Research Group and led on social care for the Local Area Research and Intelligence Association. He had been advising researchers at the NIHR Research Design Service since 2019.

Martin's frontline experience was a key strength in his research, and he was clearly very dedicated to social care research as a means to improve individual lives. He excelled in his role as chair of the Social Care Research Ethics Committee, and many a researcher has spoken highly of his guidance and support throughout the years. He was instrumental in its development and did so much generally to develop ethics and research governance thinking and processes in social care.

His contributions to social care research and capacity have been innumerable. Martin was a key friend to NIHR SSCR. He was an amazing colleague and friend who will always be remembered and missed. Our condolences are with his family, his HSCWRU and SCREC families and with all of his colleagues and friends."

Spotlight – LG Inform – Office for National Statistics (ONS) launches new 'subnational indicators explorer'

As all of the data selected by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) for its new subnational indicators explorer are in the public domain and already available in LG Inform, the LG Inform team has produced an 'ONS Subnational Indicators Explorer' report so that you can view the data in the familiar LG Inform format alongside your other favourite metrics and reports. Find it here: Subnational Indicators Explorer

Research News

Resident satisfaction polling – February to March 2022

From LGA: “The LGA’s most recent polling into resident perceptions of local government has seen a notable rise in satisfaction levels. Compared to the last survey in October 2021, which saw some of the lowest satisfaction levels recorded in this polling. There has been a significant increase in satisfaction with the way councils operate. 64 per cent of respondents were satisfied with how their local authority runs things, compared to 56 per cent in the last round. Trust in councils has also increased and, similarly, trust in local councillors remains high; 74 per cent selected councillors rather than MPs or ministers when asked who they most trust to make decisions about local services.

Carried out every four months, this national survey allows councils to benchmark their own polls against the results. LGA know that many councils are keen to also compare the results of individual council polling with councils locally, so we have also published analysis of the last five years of national satisfaction surveys that provides a regional breakdown of the figures.” Find this here: Resident satisfaction polling – February to March 2022

LG Inform report on Ukrainian and Russian populations now available

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has made an early release of the Census 2021 data on Eastern European populations to help local and national emergency response planning to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. This data has been added to LG Inform and a report on Ukrainian, Russian and other Eastern European populations in your individual council area has been created. An additional approximate calculation of the proportion of the population that is from those countries by local authority has also been added. To access this information, select your authority at the top of the report. For more information contact: lginform@local.gov.uk, and find the report here: LG Inform report on Ukrainian and Russian populations

Events and Training

Call for MethodsCon now open

Researchers are being invited to submit proposals for NCRM’s MethodsCon, which takes place in Manchester on 13-14 September 2022. MethodsCon is a wholly in-person event that has been designed to re-connect researchers working in areas such as public health, mental health, social epidemiology, health inequalities, health informatics, data ethics and privacy. The theme of

MethodsCon is "rethinking the boundaries of methods in health and social science research". The deadline to submit session proposals is Wednesday, 4 May. View the MethodsCon call for contributions here: MethodsCon call for contributions.

Useful Links and Resources

Oxfordshire County Council – the Healthy Weight Story Map: Part 2

From Oxfordshire County Council, an interesting look at better understanding the local food environment: “Part 2 of our Healthy Weight Story Map for Oxfordshire focuses on our food environment: the factors that influence people’s behaviour when it comes to choices over what we eat, and the availability and accessibility of affordable, healthy, and good quality food.” View it here: OCC Healthy Weight Story Map Part 2: The Food Environment. Thanks to John Courouble, Head of Data, Analytics, and Visualisation at OCC for sharing the link on Knowledge Hub.

A matter of life and death: explaining the wider determinants of health in the UK

This Health Foundation report examines how people think about their health, and the health of others: A matter of life and death