

# Analysis and research bulletin

February 2011

Welcome to the Local Government Association analysis and research bulletin (LGAARB), the regular one stop publication that keeps you informed about key issues and developments in research impacting on local government. The bulletin brings together the work of the Local Government Group (Local Government Association, Local Government Improvement and Development, Local Government Regulation, Local Government Employers, Local Government Leadership and Local Partnerships), and features relevant publications from the wider research community. The information in LGAARB is grouped under themed areas and our aim is to provide, on behalf of the LG Group, high quality:

- horizon scanning
- analysis, and
- research.

Information about each of the members of the LG Group can be found along with website details overleaf. This publication is produced by LGA analysis and research which has been established to deliver a high quality and single research service to support the policy, lobbying and service delivery needs of the LG Group.

## How to register

You can register to receive this bulletin by visiting: [www.lga.gov.uk/research](http://www.lga.gov.uk/research)

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# Information about the LG Group

## The LG Group is made up of six organisations:

**The Local Government Association** is the single voice for local government. As a voluntary membership body, funded almost entirely by the subscriptions of our 422 member authorities in England and Wales, we lobby and campaign for changes in policy and legislation on behalf of our member councils and the people and communities they serve. We work with and on behalf of our membership to deliver our shared vision of an independent and confident local government sector, where local priorities drive public service improvement in every city, town and village and every councillor acts as a champion for their ward and for the people they represent.

[www.local.gov.uk/association](http://www.local.gov.uk/association)

**Local Government Improvement and Development** supports improvement and innovation in local government, focusing on the issues that are important to councils and using tried and tested ways of working. We work with councils in developing good practice through our networks and on-line communities of practice and web resources, and through the support and challenge provided by councillor and officer peers. We also help develop councillors in key positions through our leadership programmes. Regional Associates work closely with councils in their areas, ensuring that we understand and respond to their priorities and challenges, and supporting the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships (RIEPs). [www.local.gov.uk/improvement](http://www.local.gov.uk/improvement)

**Local Government Employers** works in partnership with local authorities, regional employers and other bodies to lead on and create solutions for pay, pensions and the employment contract. Local Government Employers offers advice on all employment issues, and represents local government employer interests to central government, government agencies, trades unions and European institutions. [www.local.gov.uk/employers](http://www.local.gov.uk/employers)

**Local Government Regulation** promotes quality regulation in the areas of trading standards, environmental protection, licensing and gambling, food safety, hygiene and standards, civil registration, animal health and welfare and private sector housing. Local Government Regulation offers comprehensive advice and guidance to councils and their partners, disseminating good practice and providing up-to-date information on policies and initiatives that affect local people and local services. [www.local.gov.uk/regulation](http://www.local.gov.uk/regulation)

**Local Government Leadership** believes that it takes great leadership to create a thriving and prosperous community. Local Government Leadership works with leaders in councils and in local strategic partnerships to help develop their thinking on leadership, and develop their skills and qualities to be effective leaders and fundamentally transform their communities for the better. [www.local.gov.uk/leadership](http://www.local.gov.uk/leadership)

**Local Partnerships** works to enhance the quality of people's lives by giving trusted, professional support to local public bodies to improve their ability to source and deliver high quality, cost-effective public services and infrastructure. [www.localpartnerships.org.uk](http://www.localpartnerships.org.uk)

# New research and statistics

## Employment, pay and workforce trends

### **Customers' experiences of contact with the Pension, Disability and Carers Service**

This Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) research was conducted with customers of the Pension, Disability and Carers Service (PDCS) in a context of government initiatives to increase levels of support to low income pensioners.

The study aimed to provide insights into what kinds of 'trigger' events encourage pensioners to make contact with PDCS; whether and how they are facilitated in doing so by others with whom they are in touch; what channels of communication they use; how they experience their contact with the service; and what PDCS might do to enhance the effectiveness of their service delivery. For more information visit:

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2011-2012/rrep722.pdf>

### **Customer experiences and satisfaction with the Pensions Advisory Service**

This DWP research was undertaken to measure customer experience and satisfaction of the Pensions Advisory Service (TPAS) to gain a better understanding of the current customer profile and assess the extent to which the service met their needs. For more information visit:

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2011-2012/rrep724.pdf>

## Transport

### **Inter-urban congestion statistics: year ending December 2010**

These Department for Transport (DfT) statistics present information on journey time reliability on inter-urban roads in England during the year ending December 2010. For more information visit: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/roads/congestion/latestinterurban/interurban2010a.pdf>

### **Quarterly road traffic estimates: quarter 4 2010**

These DfT statistics present provisional estimates for road traffic in Great Britain for the fourth quarter of 2010 and provisional annual estimates for 2010. For more information visit:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/roads/traffic/latest/road2010q4.pdf>

## **Road user safety and disadvantage**

It has been shown that there is a relationship between socio-economic disadvantage and the risk of being killed or injured on the road. Children and young people from disadvantaged areas are at greater risk, particularly when walking, compared with those from relatively affluent areas. This DfT research involved a detailed exploration of the populations, environment, behaviour and attitudes in disadvantaged communities, looking for key areas of commonality. It also explored road safety provision for disadvantaged communities, whether inequality is recognised and addressed and the extent to which agencies work in partnership. The investigation provided lessons for road safety delivery, focusing on environmental and engineering solutions. For more information visit: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/research/rsrr/theme1/roadusersafetyreport/pdf/mainreport.pdf>

## **Housing**

### **House building: December quarter 2010 – England**

These Communities and Local Government (CLG) statistics present figures on new build housing starts and completions in England. For more information visit: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1845606.jpg>

## **Education**

### **Removing barriers to literacy**

This Ofsted survey illustrates effective approaches to help individuals improve their practice in literacy. Inspectors visited providers of childcare, education and post-16 learning specifically selected because previous inspection evidence showed that they were particularly successful in enabling children and learners from disadvantaged backgrounds to make better than average progress and to achieve good standards of literacy. For more information visit: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Removing-barriers-to-literacy>

### **Having corporate parents: a report of children's views by the Children's Rights Director for England**

The report sets out what children and young people in care say about some of the things that they experience because the council is acting as their parent. For more information visit: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Care/Childrens-rights/Having-corporate-parents>

### **Children on family justice**

This report by the Children's Rights Director for England shows concerns that children in care have about the court system. It gives first-hand accounts of views and experiences of children and young people in care, or living away from home, on some of the main questions on which the Family Justice Review Panel will be making recommendations. For more information visit: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Children-on-family-justice>

### **Models of multi-agency services for transition to adult services for disabled young people and those with complex health needs: impact and costs**

New research from the University of York provides evidence of what works well in developing and implementing multi-agency coordinated transition services for disabled young people and those with complex health needs and their families. It also assesses the costs of these services. For more information visit:

Main report: <http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/research/pdf/transitions.pdf>

Summary: <http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/pubs/rworks/2011-02Jan.pdf>

### **Teenage drinking cultures**

This Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) report investigates the influence of friendship groups on teenagers' drinking. Participants (aged 18 or 19 when interviewed) were asked about their drinking between the ages of 12 and 18. In this way, the researchers constructed a picture of the groups' drinking culture and how it developed as the friends grew older.

For more information visit:

Summary report: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/teenage-drinking-culture-summary.pdf>

Main report: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/teenage-drinking-culture-full.pdf>

### **Do neighbours affect teenage outcomes? Evidence from neighbourhood changes in England**

This research from the London School of Economics (LSE) examines the effect of the characteristics and prior achievements of peers in the neighbourhood on the educational achievements and behavioural outcomes of secondary school pupils. It looks specifically at: the extent to which school test scores at ages 14 and 16 are influenced by the academic quality and other characteristics of children of similar age who live in the same neighbourhood; and the extent to which the behavioural outcomes of children (such as attitudes towards school truancy, substance abuse and anti-social behaviour) are affected by academic achievement and other characteristics of children in the neighbourhood. For more information visit:

<http://cee.lse.ac.uk/cee%20dps/ceedp122.pdf>

## **Are there neighbourhood effects on teenage parenthood in the UK, and does it matter for policy? A review of theory and evidence**

This research from the LSE examines whether there are apparent neighbourhood effects on teenage parenthood in UK, and the extent to which such knowledge does, or should, inform government policy on the issue. It outlines some key policy initiatives designed to help reduce the number of teenage pregnancies in the UK.

The authors review quantitative studies that have sought to identify geographical influences on teenage parenthood, controlling for the influence of household or individual factors and consider the effect of labour market areas and areas of deprivation. The paper looks at explanatory frameworks that have focused on teenage parenthood, discussing economic theories (including opportunity costs), differential values (either cultural or local) and the characteristics of social networks. Considers the implications of these findings for policy, and suggests that based on the evidence, there is good reason to believe that neighbourhood and wider area influences might be associated with teenage parenthood.

For more information visit: <http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/dps/case/cp/CASEpaper141.pdf>

## **Pupil absence in schools in England: autumn term 2009 and spring term 2010**

These Department for Education (DfE) statistics report on pupil absence in maintained primary and secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies across autumn term 2009 and spring term 2010. The release provides information on the levels of absence (authorised, unauthorised and overall) by type of school, absence by reason and summary statistics on persistent absentees. For more information visit:

[http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000962/sfr29\\_2010.pdf](http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000962/sfr29_2010.pdf)

## **A new strategic quality assurance framework to safeguard children**

Local Government Improvement and Development and the London Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) have published a new strategic quality assurance framework to safeguard children and are working together to pilot the model.

The framework supports strategic partnerships and individual organisations in assessing whether they are effective in keeping children safe. It enables them to develop a quality assurance framework for defined safeguarding priorities, and ensures that a comprehensive range of local information is used to evaluate the quality of local activity and outcomes.

For more information visit: <http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelId=25384499>

## **The impact of the early years foundation stage**

This Ofsted survey evaluated the impact that the introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage has had on provision and developmental outcomes for young children, with a particular focus on their personal, social and emotional development and communication, language and literacy skills. For more information visit:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/The-impact-of-the-Early-Years-Foundation-Stage>

## **Environment**

### **Vulnerability to heatwaves and drought: adaptation to climate change**

This JRF report considers what it means to be vulnerable to climate change. It looks at how early examples of climate change adaptation may impact or protect vulnerable groups in society. For more information visit:

Summary: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/climate-change-adaptation-summary.pdf>

Main report: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/climate-change-adaptation-full.pdf>

## **Health and social care**

### **Supporting people – quarterly client records and outcomes: April–December 2010**

Client records data provides information about characteristics of clients entering Supporting People services. This Communities and Local Government (CLG) data is collected each time a client enters a housing related support service funded by supporting people.

For more information visit:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/supportingpeopleq132010>

### **Deep value – the role of effective relationships in public services**

Deep Value is a term that captures the value created when the human relationships between people delivering and people using public services are effective. This literature review from Community Links and the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, seeks to develop a better understanding of this by looking at evidence of the role of effective relationship in employment services, education, health and legal advice. For more information visit:

<http://www.community-links.org/uploads/editor/Deep%20Value%20-%20final%20web.pdf>

## **Carer quality of life tool**

A new manual to provide health and social care practitioners with a tool to measure the quality of life of adult, unpaid carers has been launched.

The Adult Carer Quality of Life Questionnaire (AC-QoL), published by The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, in association with The University of Nottingham, UK, is a simple 40-item instrument which measures a carer's quality of life in eight domains: support for caring; caring choice; caring stress; money matters; personal growth; sense of value; ability to care; and carer satisfaction. The questionnaire can be used on a one-off basis for the purpose of an assessment, or as a pre or post intervention tool to measure change and the impact of support.

For more information visit:

<http://professionals.carers.org/health/articles/carers-quality-of-life-tool-launches,7010,PR.html>

## **European and international**

### **Social climate**

This report from the European Commission focuses on the effects of the current economic crisis on Europeans' satisfaction with life, on equality and social cohesion, as well as on citizens' personal living conditions. For more information visit:

[http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs\\_315\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_315_en.pdf)

## **Population and migration**

### **Office for National Statistics (ONS) 2011 output consultation**

The second consultation on the main set of ONS 2011 statistical outputs is now available online. The documents include:

- a user guide the consultation
- an indicative set of tabular outputs, which ONS intends to produce following the 2011 Census
- a spreadsheet defining the geographical levels at which outputs will be produced in England and Wales.

For more information visit: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011-census/consultations/open-consultations/2011-output-consultation---main-statistical-outputs---second-round/index.html>

For the latest news on the 2011 Census: <http://2011.census.gov.uk/>

For further information regarding the background of the 2011 Census: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/2011-census/index.html>

## **Crime and disorder**

### **Police service strength England and Wales, 30 September 2010**

These Home Office statistics provide information on police service strength including numbers of officers and staff. For more information visit:

<http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs11/hosb0311.pdf>

### **Anti-social behaviour order Statistics – England and Wales 2009**

These Home Office statistics provide information on Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) administered in the period 1 April 1999 to 31 December 2009 in England and Wales. For more information visit: <http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs11/asbo2009.xls>

Monthly asylum statistics – November 2010

<http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs11/asylum-nov2010.xls>

## **Communities and Local Government**

### **Mixed communities: evidence review**

This CLG evidence review considers whether encouraging more mixed communities is an appropriate strategy for the regeneration of disadvantaged neighbourhoods relative to other methods of renewal. The paper reviews the intended objectives of mixed communities and related policy. Considers why mixed communities are desirable, and the extent to which they offer cost-benefit advantages relative to other forms of renewal, such as the New Deal for Communities (NDC) and the Single Regeneration Budget (SRB).

For more information visit: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/1775206.pdf>

## Regular publications and events

### **Daycare Trust monthly ebulletin**

This monthly ebulletin from the Daycare Trust provides regular updates on events, campaigns, research and training, as well as news about the latest developments in the early childhood education and care sector. For more information visit:

<http://www.daycaretrust.org.uk/pages/daycare-trust-monthly-ebulletin.html>

### **Living With Environmental Change (LWEC) newsletter – January 2011**

LWEC is a partnership of 22 major UK public sector funders and users of environmental research, including the research councils and central government departments. The 10-year programme aims to optimise the coherence and effectiveness of UK environmental research funding and ensure government, business and society have the foresight, knowledge and tools to mitigate, adapt to and capitalise on environmental change. The latest newsletter from LWEC is now available. For more information visit: <http://www.lwec.org.uk/newsletters/2011/01>

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**Local  
Government  
Group**

The Local Government Group is made up of six organisations which support, promote and improve local government.

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