

March 2010

LGA analysis and research bulletin

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 our work as well as that of the other members of the LGA group (IDeA, LACORS, LGE, Leadership Centre for Local Government 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 LGA group, high quality:

- horizon scanning;
- analysis; and
- research.

Information about each of the members of the LGA 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 LGA group.

How to register

You can register to receive this bulletin by visiting:
<http://www.lga.gov.uk/research>

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information about the LGA group

The **LGA** is the single voice for local government. As a voluntary membership body, funded almost entirely by the subscriptions of our 424 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.lga.gov.uk

The **IDEA** 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, supporting them in their partnerships. We do this through networks, online 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 and support the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships (RIEPs).

www.idea.gov.uk

LGE works in partnership with local authorities, regional employers and other bodies to lead on and create solutions for pay, pensions and the employment contract. LGE offers advice on all employment issues, and represents local government employer interests to central government, government agencies, trades unions and European institutions.

www.lge.gov.uk

LACORS promotes quality regulation to councils in the areas of trading standards, environmental protection, licensing and gambling, food safety, hygiene and standards, animal health and welfare and private sector housing. LACORS offer 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. We lobby on behalf of councils and ensure that legislation and government policy can be practically implemented, and with our colleagues in the LGA group, ensure we contribute to sector-led improvement.

www.lacors.gov.uk

Leadership Centre for Local Government

We believe great places require ambitious leadership that paints a picture of the future, inspiring and carrying with it the local residents' hopes and happiness. We support local government leaders to create the future through building effective and efficient partnerships, improving the lives of local people and fundamentally transforming communities for the better. Place is contested space for local government leaders, so we focus on the unique realities of the relationships involved helping members and officers develop their skills and thinking on leadership, through national and regional initiatives.

www.localleadership.gov.uk

Local Partnerships

Local Partnerships is a joint venture between the LGA and Partnerships UK, incorporating 4ps and all its current services. Local Partnerships mission is 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. Local Partnerships will work at the market interface and work 'shoulder-to-shoulder' with public bodies to develop and deliver innovative solutions to new and emerging problems. This will be done by working alongside local public bodies to improve their sourcing and commissioning skills, programme and project management capabilities, procurement, negotiating and contract management capacity, and their delivery, funding and partnering abilities.

www.localpartnerships.org.uk

Employment pay and workforce trends

Workforce data standards

On Friday 12 March the LGA, in partnership with the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) and others, published the final version of the Workforce Data Standards after an extensive consultation and revision exercise. This is an initiative which has arisen directly in response to local authorities' feedback over the past few years. The current fragmented approach of different data standards for different data collections (especially in areas with cross sector interest, e.g. children's services) is burdensome both in terms of time and money for local authorities, providers and national bodies and hampers the exchange and sharing of data. It also reduces the quality and usefulness of the data collected.

Adopting and using harmonised data standards and definitions will reduce the burden of data collection, storage and extraction as different data would not be needed to meet demands from different bodies. This new approach will help to ensure local authorities and other service providers have access to the data they need for management, planning and policy development with regard to their workforce, while keeping the effort of complying with statutory collections to a minimum. It will also facilitate the sharing of data between bodies and enable accurate benchmarking across the sector. For further information and access to the standards documentation please visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageld=1095037> or contact ben.hickman@lga.gov.uk

LGA analysis and research employment digest

This monthly publication keeps you informed on the labour market, pay issues and trends and the economy in general. Core data include: inflation, unemployment, pay settlements and average earnings. For the latest edition visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageld=1094987>

Ethnic minority customers' experiences of claiming disability benefit

This Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) research was conducted after the 2008 Disability and Carers Service (DCS) customer survey revealed lower satisfaction levels among ethnic minority customers than among the general population. This new report explored in detail customer experiences of the DCS 'customer journey' from how they first heard about DCS and on through the whole claim submission and decision-making process. For more information visit: <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/rrep609.pdf>

Understanding employer satisfaction with DWP

This DWP report was part of a programme of research aimed at assessing DWP's progress towards Departmental Strategic Objective 7 (to be an 'exemplar of effective service delivery'). It focused on the needs of employers, and sought to obtain an understanding about the factors driving their perceptions of satisfaction with DWP services, and to develop and test an approach for measuring employer customer satisfaction. For more information visit: <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/WP76.pdf>

Economic and labour market review

This Office for National Statistics (ONS) publication provides a resource for all users of UK economic and labour market statistics. It draws together research and analysis to build an up-to-date, comprehensive and unique statistical picture of the UK economy and labour market. For more information visit: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/elmr/03_10/downloads/ELMR_Mar10.pdf

DWP national statistics on benefit claimants, employment programmes, labour market decisions and vacancies

These DWP statistics provide information on benefit claimants, employment programmes, labour market decisions and vacancies and update the statistics previously released on 11 November 2009. For more information visit: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/stats_summary/Stats_Summary_Feb2010.pdf

Transport

Engaging local authorities research

This Department for Transport (DfT) research considers how different audiences within local authorities access transport policy and good practice information. For more information visit:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/policy/localauthresearch/pdf/localauthresearch.pdf>

Pedestrian road casualties 2008 - Wales

These statistics from the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) provide information on both adult and child (aged 0-15) pedestrian casualties. The purpose is to show trends in the number and severity of these casualties; and the circumstances associated with the accidents that resulted in these. For more information visit:

<http://wales.gov.uk/docs/statistics/2010/100302sb122010en.pdf>

Housing

Homelessness: July-September 2009

These statistics from The Welsh Local Government Data Unit report on the number of households accepted as homeless, the reasons for homelessness and the number of households in temporary accommodation in Wales.

The data comes from the homelessness quarterly return from local authorities in Wales. For more information visit:

<http://www.dataunitwales.gov.uk/EBulletin.asp?Catid=400&id=SXE05E-A77FE8A5>

New house building and sales of social housing: July-September 2009

These figures from the Welsh Local Government Data Unit show that July-September 2009 had the lowest number of new build completions in a quarter in Wales over the period January 1974 to September 2009. For more information visit:

<http://www.dataunitwales.gov.uk/EBulletin.asp?Catid=400&id=SXE0D7-A77FE8B6>

Net supply of housing: 2008-09, England

These Communities and Local Government (CLG) statistics provide information on the net supply of housing in England up to the 2008-09 financial year. For more information visit:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1484364.pdf>

How can we make the housing market more stable for vulnerable households?

This Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) publication gives two different perspectives on the kinds of reforms needed to provide long-term, secure housing for the people least able to afford it. For more information visit:

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/housing-market-stability-summary.pdf>

Housing benefit and council tax benefit statistics

These DWP statistics provide a quarterly summary of the total number of people claiming Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit in the UK. For more information visit:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/stats_summary/Stats_Summary_Feb2010.pdf?x=1

Education and children's services

Chain reactions: a thinkpiece on the development of chains of schools in the English school system

The National College for Leadership of Schools and Children's Services has published an independent report on the development of chains of schools. The growth of chains of schools, sponsored or run by the same foundation or charitable trust, is something that has emerged in the state school system in England over the last decade. For more information visit: <http://www.nationalcollege.org.uk/docinfo?id=63281&filename=chain-reactions.pdf>

An evaluation of the provision of mental health services for looked after young people over the age of 16 accommodated in residential settings

This Ofsted report looks at mental health provision in 27 children's homes in eight local authorities across England. The report highlights the barriers for young people in accessing mental health provision as well as highlighting good practice. For more information visit: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/An-evaluation-of-the-provision-of-mental-health-services-for-looked-after-young-people-over-the-age-of-16-accommodated-in-residential-settings>

School report cards

This National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) report suggests that teachers are divided about whether introducing School Report Cards (SRC) is a good idea. For more information visit: <http://www.nfer.ac.uk/what-we-offer/teacher-voice/PDFs/TeacherViewsofthenewSchoolReportCards.pdf>

Case management and outcomes for neglected children returned to their parents: a five-year follow-up study

This DCSF report was undertaken in order to give practitioners information about which kinds of case management or combinations of services keep neglected children safe and contribute to improved outcomes. The study aimed to help fill knowledge gaps about how children are assessed and managed over time when there are concerns about harm to them and to identify predictors of child outcomes when cases were followed up over a five-year period. For more information visit: <http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-RB214.pdf>

Staying safe survey 2009: young people and parents' attitudes around accidents, bullying and safety

This DCSF research was conducted to measure and track parents' and children's awareness, attitudes and reported behaviour across the various safety issues covered within the Staying Safe Action Plan and the Byron Review. For more information visit: <http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-RR192.pdf>

Change in well-being from childhood to adolescence: risk and resilience

This DCSF report examines changes in wellbeing within the framework of risk and resilience. It focuses on children's psychosocial wellbeing and looks at four different aspects: emotional, behavioural, social and subjective school wellbeing. For more information visit: <http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-WBL-10-01.pdf>

The national strategies; a review of impact

This Ofsted report, has been published, in advance of new arrangements due to replace the National Strategies in 2011. It identifies lessons from programmes ranging from literacy and numeracy, to pupil behaviour and the development of a more highly skilled workforce. For more information visit: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/The-National-Strategies-a-review-of-impact>

Deprivation and risk: the case for early intervention

This report from Action for Children argues that cycles of deprivation and neglect that trap many vulnerable families for generations, can be broken if families, and particularly children, are supported early enough by the right services. For more information visit: <http://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/uploads/media/36/9432.pdf>

Survey of teacher resignations and recruitment 2008

The annual survey of teacher resignations and recruitment is the definitive source of data on teacher turnover and recruitment, providing unique and detailed information on the numbers of teachers leaving and starting, and their characteristics, such as sex, age, salary, subject, and destination/origin. It was conducted by the NFER on behalf of the National Employers' Organisation for School Teachers (NEOST), together with the teacher unions and LGA, and with the support of the DCSF. For more information visit:

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelid=1911597> or contact: stephen.richards@lga.gov.uk 020 7664 3256

Breaking the link between special educational needs (SEN) and low attainment: everyone's business

This DCSF report considers what works well for local authorities and schools in improving outcomes for children with SEN. Key principles and guidance are suggested in areas of collaboration, leadership, teaching strategies, engaging parents, and wider wellbeing. For more information visit:

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/00213-2010DOM-EN.pdf>

Children in need in childcare

This small-scale Ofsted survey identified some of the factors that contributed to good outcomes for children in need in a range of different types of early years and childcare settings. For more information visit:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Children-in-need-in-childcare>

Children on rights and responsibilities

This Ofsted report provides the results of a survey which was conducted amongst 1888 children and young people who were living away from home, including in children's homes, boarding schools, foster care, residential special schools and further education colleges. Protection from abuse, a right to an education and support in staying alive and well, are just some of the most important rights that children want all young people to have, according to the report. For more information visit: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Care/Children-s-rights/Children-on-rights-and-responsibilities>

Percentage of pupils making expected progress in English and in mathematics between key stage 2 and key stage 4 in England: 2005/06 - 2008/09

This DCSF statistical release provides a time series of the proportion of pupils making expected progress in English and in mathematics between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4. For more information visit:

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000919/SFR05-2010.pdf>

Soulbury conditions of service surveys 2009

The Soulbury Conditions of Service Surveys were conducted by LGA Analysis and Research for the Officers' and Employers' sides of the Soulbury Committee in November - December 2009. Two surveys were conducted, one to seek the views of local authorities, and the other to seek the views of a random sample of Soulbury officers, on four key areas which were identified by the Officers' Side trade unions during the 2008 negotiations on pay and conditions of service as the cause of growing pressure on their members: workload and responsibilities; working hours; staffing levels; and annual leave.

The results from both surveys will facilitate a joint exchange of views and information at both national and local level in an attempt to identify those areas where it is agreed that there are problems which need to be addressed, either on a national, local or regional basis. For more information visit:

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageld=8472715>

Environment

Rural insights resident survey 2009

This Commission for Rural Communities (CRC) report involved interviews with 2,536 residents aged 16+ living in rural and urban areas across England, excluding London. It provides information on; rurality and rural England, area, quality of life and economy, rural priorities and rural disadvantage. For more information visit:

<http://www.ruralcommunities.gov.uk/files/CRC%20Rural%20Insights%20FINAL%20Report%2008.03.10.pdf>

Less is more: business opportunities in waste and resource management

This Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) report highlights opportunities for business in the growing waste and recycling sector across the product supply chain, from design through to waste management.

For more information visit:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/documents/opportunities-waste-manage.pdf>

Health and social care

Protect, support, provide: examining the role played by grandparents in families at risk of poverty

This research from The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) and Grandparents Plus highlights that grandparents in families most at risk of poverty are under increasing pressure to take on a caring role. The report shows that working age, working class grandmothers on low incomes are most likely to be providing childcare and to have given up work or reduced their hours to care for grandchildren. This has an impact on household income and may have an effect on a grandparent's pension rights as well as their health. For more information visit:

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/age/protect_support_provide_full.pdf

The social determinants of health and the role of local government

This collection of articles published by the IDeA, assesses what local government can do to tackle the social conditions that lead to health inequalities. For more information visit:

<http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageld=17415112>

Invisible patients: report of the working group on the health of health professionals

This Department of Health (DoH) report focuses on the health issues facing regulated health professionals and identifies some priorities for addressing them. It looks at how ill health in health professionals may affect their professional practice, the difficulties they face in seeking help and the role of the health profession regulatory bodies. For more information visit:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_113552.pdf

Funding social care: what service users say

This JRF 'Viewpoint' publication presents the views of 18 adult social care service users who were brought together to explore proposals for funding social care in the future. For more information visit:

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/care-service-users-views-summary.pdf>

Inclusion health: improving the way we meet the primary healthcare needs of the socially excluded

This Cabinet Office publication reports on the work of the Inclusion Health study. It recognises the progress that has been made in healthcare provision whilst setting out the need for more sophisticated and flexible responses to improve access and quality of services for socially excluded groups. For more information visit:

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/346571/inclusion-health.pdf>

Inclusion health - evidence pack

This Cabinet Office evidence pack brings together existing and new analysis on the primary health care needs of the socially excluded, highlights the case for change and underpins the resulting Cabinet Office publication: *Inclusion Health: Improving the way we meet the primary care needs of the socially excluded*. For more information visit:

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/346574/inclusion-health-evidencepack.pdf>

Funding care: how can each generation pay its fair share?

This JRF viewpoint article suggests that a new system of social care needs to share the cost of care equitably. The paper argues that this could be done through a two-track levy where each generation pays its own costs. For more information visit: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/fairness-in-funding-care-summary.pdf>

Care and support for older people and carers in Bradford

This JRF report explores the needs, aspirations and expectations of older people and family carers from a range of ethnic communities in Bradford. It covers both formal paid care and help from family, friends and neighbours. For more information visit: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/Bradford-older-people-care-full.pdf>

Securing good care for more people - options for reform

The King's Fund commissioned Sir Derek Wanless to review the funding of social care for older people. That review proposed a 'partnership model' in which costs were shared between the state and the individual.

This latest report updates the original review and concludes that a revised version of the 'partnership model' is the fairest way of funding social care in the future. It presents the financial implications of key funding models but also assesses their outcomes, including unmet need. In addition, options for reforming Attendance Allowance are discussed. For more information visit: http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/securing_good_care.html

The social fund: customer experiences and perspectives - qualitative research with Jobcentre Plus customers

This DWP research explores Jobcentre Plus customers' understanding and experiences of the Social Fund, particularly the discretionary elements, including crisis loans, budgeting loans and community care grants. Customers' views were also sought on alternative ways in which the discretionary Social Fund might be administered. For more information visit: <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/rrep625.pdf>

Population and migration

Worker registration scheme (WRS) data: October – December 2009

The October – December 2009 local authority level WRS data from the UK Border Agency is now available. This information will not only enable you to discover more about your changing local population, but is invaluable in planning services. New migrant employment patterns can be viewed, including seasonal working, which is essential in building up local economic and employment knowledge. Please note that this information is only available to those with a .gov.uk email address. For more information visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/populationresearch>

Control of immigration: quarterly statistical summary United Kingdom October - December 2009

These Home Office Statistics provide information on the number of visas issued, number of applications for asylum and number of persons removed or departed voluntarily from the UK during quarter 4. For more information visit: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/immiq409.pdf>

Local government

Early lessons from changes to legal advice provision and funding: the local authority experience

The LGA, in partnership with the IDeA, commissioned Tribal Consulting to conduct research exploring the implications for local government of recent changes in the way the Legal Services Commission (LSC) funds legal advice, through Community Legal Advice Centres (CLACs) and Community Legal Advice Networks (CLANs). This research explores the options available to local authorities who wish to make changes to the current provision of advice in their area and the impact they have on advice providers; key lessons for local authorities that can be drawn from experiences of developing CLAC/Ns; and wider implications, risks and dilemmas for local authorities moving to commission other services where voluntary sector providers currently play a prominent role. For more information visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelid=8805789>

Oneplace national overview report

The six independent inspectorates involved in Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) have jointly issued a national overview reporting on what the first year of assessment has revealed about how well local public services are meeting people's needs. For more information visit:

<http://oneplace.direct.gov.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/20100224oneplacenationaloverview.pdf>

Public money and management: public management by numbers

This Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) publication is an independent review of policy, management and finance in the public services. Articles are reviewed by academics and practitioners to ensure quality and practical impact. This special issue focuses on public management by numbers. For more information visit: http://www.cipfa.org.uk/pt/pmm/download/PMM_public_management_by_numbers.pdf

Statistical review of the place survey

This CLG publication provides a review of the methodology of the Place Survey commissioned to make recommendations on whether the 2008 Place Survey was of sufficient quality for the national release of results. For more information visit: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/1462854.pdf>

New awards bring together academic researchers and local government to tackle complex community issues

LARCI announces nine new Placement Fellowships for 2010

The Local Authorities and Research Councils' Initiative (LARCI) is jointly funded by Research Councils UK, the LGA, the IDeA, the Audit Commission, and CLG. All these funders also contribute staff time and expertise. It is a partnership and collaborative venture which seeks to bring world-class research to local issues.

UK universities and research institutions deliver much research that is relevant to local authorities, but is often under-used. LARCI is bridging this gap by bringing together academic researchers and local government policy makers and managers to make research more accessible to their councils and other local public services.

Local authorities will get opportunities to shape the direction of UK academic research programmes and access to research expertise, data and knowledge. They will also get the opportunity to develop their own research base and capability.

Each of these new placements is for up to one month and jointly funded by LARCI and the partnering local authority. Some of the projects to receive a placement scheme award are:

- meeting the needs of children and young people – Northumbria University and Newcastle City Council;
- early intervention in parental substance misuse: working with expectant mothers - University of Stirling and Stirling Council;
- designing low carbon initiatives – University of Bath and Swindon Borough Council;
- improving the local economy through small businesses – University of Bedfordshire, Luton Borough Council and Bedfordshire Council.

The Placement Fellowships involve either an academic researcher working in a local council to help address a problem, or a local council worker placed in a higher education institution to help them gain research skills.

Through the scheme academic researchers can gain intelligence about the real research challenges facing local authorities as well as access to local government policy makers who can help to inform research. For more information contact: david.pye@lga.gov.uk - 020 7664 3267

CPA and CAA: comparing the burden

CAA replaced the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) in April 2009. A key ambition of CAA was to reduce the burden of inspection, and the LGA is keen to monitor the extent to which this ambition has been realised in practice. This paper outlines a series of case studies which illustrate, for five individual authorities, the extent to which the burden of inspection and assessment - in terms of staff time and the associated costs - has changed as a result of the introduction of CAA. The case studies provide illustrative examples of authorities both that have experienced an increased burden as a result of CAA and a decreased burden. For more information visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageld=9709415> or contact: kate.hills@lga.gov.uk - 020 7664 3274

LGA press release: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageld=9706396>

Report on the 2009 survey of all English Local Area Agreements: long-term evaluation of local area agreements and local strategic partnerships

As part of a long-term evaluation of local area agreements and local strategic partnerships CLG have published a report which explores how LAAs are helping partnerships achieve positive outcomes for local people. For more information visit: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/15023971.pdf>

Calculating the cost and capacity implications for local authorities implementing the Laming (2009) recommendations

The LGA, which commissioned the study from Loughborough University into Lord Laming's report *The protection of children in England: a progress report*, has proposed a five point plan to ensure social work reforms result in the best possible protection of vulnerable children.

For more information visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/aio/9387423>

LGA press release: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelId=9388746>

European and international

Phoenix cities: a detailed look at the decline and recovery of great industrial cities in Europe and the US

This JRF report focuses on European and US cities that were once industrial giants but went into steep decline, with a dramatic impact on low-income communities, city centres and their population. It looks at how these cities recovered and explores their different approaches. For more information visit:

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/phoenix-cities>

Crime and disorder/safer communities

Operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 and subsequent legislation: arrests, outcomes and stops and searches quarterly update to September 2009

These Home Office statistics provide information on terrorism arrests and stops and searches under the Terrorism Act 2000. For more information visit: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb0410.pdf>

What perceptions do the UK public have concerning the impact of counter-terrorism legislation implemented since 2000?

This Home Office report provides information on the perceptions of the UK public concerning the impact of counter-terrorism (CT) legislation implemented since 2000. The research covered areas such as discrimination, civil liberties and human rights and confidence in UK authorities. For more information visit:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/occ88.pdf>

The drivers of perceptions of anti-social behaviour

This Home Office report aims to identify and explain the key drivers of people's perceptions of anti-social behaviour (ASB). The British Crime Survey asks about perceptions of seven strands of ASB and the authors use these as the basis of their definition of ASB. For more information visit: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/horr34c.pdf>

Communities and place shaping

Attitudes, values and perceptions: Muslims and the general population in 2007-08

This CLG report uses data from the 2007-08 Citizenship Survey to explore Muslim communities' views, attitudes and perceptions on a range of issues including community cohesion, values and perceptions of religious prejudice. For more information visit: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1484586.pdf>

Geographic information

Ordnance survey consultation

The LGA Group have called for an end to Ordnance Survey's current monopoly status for the creation of geographic information under public task in the UK, freeing basic geographic information and creating a more competitive market for specific mapping services in response to the CLG consultation into the future policy options of geographic information for Ordnance Survey.

CLG consulted on future options to provide none, part or almost all of OS data and products for free. The consultation was called in response to the Prime Minister's announcement in November to free up mid and small scale OS raster maps, boundary line and postcode sector data as part of the move to make public data public.

Good mapping underpins a huge range of public services, for example in ensuring emergency services reach people in need as quickly as possible, targeting crime hotspots, providing access to services where citizens and businesses most need it, managing assets, protecting and conserving the environment, signposting where something is happening and establishing the most suitable location for infrastructure and housing.

The LGA therefore advocates making basic geographic information such as addresses, streets, and administrative boundaries freely available for the public good and suggests the purchase of more specialist mapping services as needed from the open market. Such a model would be overseen by a public body and would provide efficiencies; by making use of free base data, reducing licensing restriction when sharing data and only purchasing map products that are needed to deliver public services. The full response can be found at: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageld=9658039>

regular publications and events

The Local Authorities Research and Intelligence Association (LARIA) community of practice

LARIA aims to support local researchers in the public sector and to promote the role and practice of research within the field of local government. It provides a supportive network for those conducting or commissioning research. The new community of practice has been established to enable all people working within the public sector, not just those within local government, to discuss issues, share thoughts, share work and also to signpost other communities which may be of interest. To register visit: <http://www.communities.idea.gov.uk/c/3328800/home.do>

IDEA knowledge weekly bulletin

The IDEa Knowledge weekly bulletin provides links to the latest improvement news from across the public sector, case studies from councils in England and Wales, government guidance and research, feature articles on key issues and interviews with key figures. For more information visit:

<http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelId=7564728>

Focus newsletter

Focus is the bi-monthly newsletter of LGE. The newsletter aims to provide the latest information on all aspects of pay, pensions and employment issues in the local government arena. For more information visit:

<http://www.lge.gov.uk/lge/core/page.do?pagelId=120018>

Association of Regional Observatories bulletin

This quarterly bulletin from the Association of Regional Observatories (ARO) provides an insight into the work of the Association, and its members, with details of publications, forthcoming events and future research plans. For more information visit: <http://www.regionalobservatories.org.uk/reading-room/>

ESRC eNews

This online newsletter from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), is issued every two months, highlighting funding opportunities, corporate news and other information of interest to the community. The latest edition is available at: <http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/about/CI/CP/enews/eNews.aspx#0>



Local Government Association

The Local Government Association is the national voice for more than 400 local authorities in England and Wales. The LGA group comprises the LGA and five partner organisations which work together to support, promote and improve local government.



Tell us what you think

We hope to provide information which is useful and accessible. Please contact Michelle Pickford (michelle.pickford@lga.gov.uk) with your comments and feedback on LGAARB.

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