

June 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

Sickness absence and causes survey 2009

This survey was conducted by the LGA Analysis and Research (LGAAR) team, on behalf of the Local Government Employers (LGE). The latest survey has found that sickness absence has not increased, and more authorities are embracing the Health and Safety Executive management standards for work related stress. For more information visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelid=9851777>

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?pagelid=1094987>

Transport

Road goods vehicles travelling to mainland Europe - Q1 2010

These Department for Transport (DfT) statistics provide information on the number of goods vehicles travelling to mainland Europe from Great Britain by ferry and through the Channel Tunnel for Quarter 1, 2010. For more information visit: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/freight/secroadseur/2010/q12010>

Congestion on inter-urban roads - monthly provisional estimates: April 2010

These DfT statistics provide information on congestion on inter-urban roads in England and include final data for March 2010. The inter-urban network consists of all motorways and trunk 'A' roads managed by the Highways Agency, as well as the M6 Toll (this is also known as the Strategic Road Network (SRN)). For more information visit: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/roadtraffic/speedscongestion/congestiononthestrategicroad5359>

Quarterly bus statistics , Great Britain, Q1 2010

These quarterly DfT statistics show that provisional figures suggest bus passenger journeys in England decreased by 1.8 per cent between 2008-09 and 2009-10. The overall satisfaction score for bus passengers in England was unchanged compared to the previous quarter. For more information visit: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/public/bus/latest/bus2010q01.pdf>

2009 core accessibility indicators

The DfT has published statistics on the Core Accessibility Indicators for 2009 for England. The indicators provide a number of measures of accessibility by public transport, walking, cycling and car to eight service types: primary schools, secondary schools, further education, GPs, hospitals, food stores, town centres and employment centres. With the exception of further education, indicators have also been produced for an 'at-risk' sub-group of the population. The indicators have been produced to help local authorities develop an evidence base for their accessibility strategies. For more information visit: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/adobe/pdf/162469/221412/221692/639263/cai2009statsrelease.pdf>

Housing

Simpler and better - housing design in everyone's interest

This report from The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) argues for the use of a minimum housing design standard, giving consumers a guarantee of homes and neighbourhoods that are consistently well designed. It calls for a simpler set of housing standards and the reformulation of planning gain as a community equity share. For more information visit: <http://www.cabe.org.uk/files/simpler-and-better.pdf>

Housing taxation and subsidies

This Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) paper provides an analysis of evidence on the housing taxation and subsidy systems in Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and the USA. It makes some comparisons with the UK and explores connections between these systems and housing market volatility, distribution and choice of tenure and investment. For more information visit: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/housing-taxation-systems-full.pdf>

Tenure trends in the UK housing system: will the private rented sector continue to grow?

This report from The Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF) provides an analysis of recent tenure trends in the UK, with projections for potential future changes over the medium term. The research also examines the implications of these changes and draws particular attention to the importance of paying close attention to the needs of those living in an expanded private rented sector. For more information visit: <http://www.bshf.org/published-information/publication.cfm?lang=00&thePubID=46C4A5EA-15C5-F4C0-99C662FE48B048B9>

Education and children's services

An analysis of youth offending teams' inspection reports

Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) were launched across every local authority area in England and Wales in April 2000 to bring together a range of services dealing with young people and crime prevention. This includes the police, probation services, social services, health and education. All 157 YOTs in England and Wales had been inspected over a five- to six-year cycle that was led by HMI Probation and completed in 2009. Commissioned by LGA and produced by the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER), this study examined evidence from 60 inspection reports, alongside Annual Performance Assessments of Services for Children and Young People, and National Performance Indicator data focusing on youth offending issues. For more information visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelid=12032016>

Local authorities' experiences of improving parental confidence in the special educational needs process

The Lamb Inquiry brought together a group of expert advisers and a broader reference group of professionals and parents to investigate how parental confidence in the Special Educational Needs (SEN) assessment process might be improved. The LGA commissioned this research from the NFER to examine the ways in which local authorities work with parents in order to feed the findings into the Lamb Inquiry. The overarching aim of the research is to provide insights into the approach and practice of local authorities' work with parents of children with SEN. The main focus is on the period prior to formal assessment. For more information visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelid=11791441>

Children and young people's views on web 2.0 technologies

The LGA commissioned this research from the NFER and the overarching aim of this work was to gather young people's views about web 2.0 technologies. The project was interested in young people's personal use of social media, but also in how they might use these tools in a community or local authority context, for example, to communicate with other young people, organise meetings and events, express their views, or take part in a youth cabinet or similar representative group. The report provides useful information for local authority personnel considering using web 2.0 tools and policy personnel considering future forms of communication within children's services fields. For more information visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/aio/11796871>

Provision for children under five years of age in England - January 2010

This Department for Education (DfE) publication includes data on the provision of early years education for children under five years of age, including funded places and numbers of three and four year old children benefiting from some free early years education. The latest statistics are for January 2010 and update those previously released on 16 June 2009. For more information visit: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000935/SFR16-2010.pdf>

Intergenerational practice: outcomes and effectiveness

The NfER, with the National Youth Agency (NYA) and National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE), was commissioned by the LGA to examine what works in intergenerational practice. Intergenerational practice refers to activities that bring together older adults and young people or children. Five intergenerational projects were selected to cover a range of foci and target groups, focusing on football, arts, knife crime, living history, and personal and social education. For more information visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelid=11939077>

Participation in education, training and employment by 16-18 year olds in England

These DfE statistics provide information on the percentages of 16, 17 and 18 year olds in England in education and training and those who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) for end 2008 (revising provisional figures released last year) and end 2009 (provisional). Key breakdowns are by age, gender, mode of study, type of learning, institution type (FE college, schools, etc), labour market status and highest qualification being studied. For more information visit: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000938/SFR18-2010.pdf>

Fairness and unfairness

Two hundred and sixty-eight children and young people in boarding schools, children's homes and other care and residential settings gave their views and experiences about fairness and unfairness in this Ofsted report. They defined fairness as everyone being treated equally unless there was a good reason for different treatment, having your rights, being listened to, having what you ought to have, only being punished for things you had actually done wrong and only as much as you deserved, and getting along together without anyone being left out. For more information visit: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Care/Children-s-rights/Fairness-and-unfairness>

Environment

Sustainable urban environment (SUE) movie poster exhibition

The 'Eco Zone Gallery' at The Building Centre has become the latest high profile venue to host the Sustainable Urban Environment movie poster exhibition.

The SUE movie poster exhibition highlights the research of each of the Sustainable Urban Environment research programme. SUE is a £38m Programme looking at ways of improving sustainability in the urban environment. Spanning 30 different UK Universities, this programme has funded 18 consortia in different areas including waste, water management, transport planning and strategy, spatial planning, regeneration and stakeholder engagement.

The posters, designed by knowledge transfer group Implementation Strategies for Sustainable Urban Environment Systems (ISSUES) (www.urbansustainabilityexchange.org.uk), aim to bring SUE research to the attention of a wider audience and have been exhibited at a host of high-profile venues including the Institution of Civil Engineers in Westminster, CABE's headquarters in central London and the 2010 LARIA (Local Authorities Research and Intelligence Association) annual conference. View the exhibition online now: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N8lsIBCL91M>

Health and social care

Investing for public good: creating social value through Social Impact Bonds

This report from the Tomorrow Project is part of a programme of work funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). It describes a new approach to tackling social problems known as Social Impact Bonds (SIBs). SIBs work by identifying savings government can make from addressing social problems at their roots. Once these savings are identified, capital is raised from private investors to pay for action that will prevent social problems before they arise. Investors receive a portion of the savings in government spending that result, while the government keeps the rest. For more information visit: <http://www.tomorrowproject.net/>

Residential care home workforce development: the rhetoric and reality of meeting older residents' future care needs

This JRF study examines the best way of meeting the future needs of older care home residents. It explores evidence from an in-depth study of three residential homes, and confirms that training care staff in basic clinical skills can enhance health and social care provision for older people in residential homes. For more information visit: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/care-home-staff-development-full.pdf>

The impact of the Baby Peter case on applications for care orders

Following the death of Baby Peter Connelly in August 2007, the government took steps to review the effectiveness of arrangements for safeguarding children in England, which led to the publication of the Laming Review in March 2009. The LGA commissioned the NFER to look at the impact of the case of Baby Peter Connelly on local authorities' applications for care orders and child protection more widely. For more information visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelid=11774798>

Eurobarometer tobacco survey

This Eurobarometer survey measures EU citizens' behaviour and attitudes towards tobacco. The impact of tobacco on public health has been a concern for the European Union for over twenty years, with the first tobacco-control legislation being introduced in the late 1980s. Despite the progress achieved, around a third of Europeans continue to smoke. The survey examined who used tobacco and nicotine products, the frequency used per day, and considered behaviour and attitudes towards giving up smoking. For more information visit: http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_332_en.pdf

Patient choice: how patients choose and how providers respond

This King's Fund report considers how choice of provider is operating in practice and its impact on hospital providers. The study was conducted in four areas of England and included questionnaires sent to patients and interviews with patients, GPs and Providers. The results showed that choice was important to the majority of patients and just under half recalled being offered a choice. There were differences in patient, and GP and provider views on who thought choice was important, who was offered a choice and who chose to travel beyond their local hospital for treatment. For more information visit: http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/patient_choice.html

Drugs research: an overview of evidence and questions for policy

In 2001 the JRF embarked upon a programme of research that explored the problem of illicit drugs in the UK. The research addressed many questions that were often too sensitive for the government to tackle. In many cases, these studies represented the first research on these issues. The study gives an overview of the projects in the programme and topics covered include; the policing of drug possession, the domestic cultivation, purchasing and heavy use of cannabis, the impact of drugs on the family and drug testing in schools and in the workplace. For more information visit: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/drugs-research-overview-full.pdf>

GP patient survey 2009/2010

This survey was developed with Ipsos MORI and academics from the National Primary Care Research and Development Centre and the Peninsula Medical School. Around 4 million registered patients in England were invited to take part during April to June, July to September, October to December 2009 and January to March 2010. Their responses provide timely and valuable information for Primary Care Trusts (PCTs), GP practices and other patients about patients' experiences when they accessed local services. For more information visit: <http://results.gp-patient.co.uk/report/main.aspx>

Population and migration

Making the most of an older population

This cross sector LGA research programme looks at the long term challenges and opportunities arising from an ageing population, for older people themselves, for their communities and for public services. The programme is making good progress in identifying opportunities for research partnerships. The Centre for Population Change is preparing a proposal for an indepth analysis of the circumstances of older people in 2020 and beyond, using national statistics for robust analysis to enlighten debate and dispel some of the myths. They will look at the assumptions behind anticipated trends and undertake analyses of contrasting localities, including data from CIPFA and others.

LGA and the Medical Research Council are holding a workshop in October on Older People's Health and Well Being and the Built Environment bringing together leading councils and academics to identify priorities for councils. This will serve as a preliminary for subsequent desk research on the knowledge already available. Councillor David Rogers (Chair of the Community Wellbeing Board at the LGA) is co-chairing this event.

LGA will also commission research on Assistive Technology, funded by the Local Authorities and Research Councils' Initiative (LARCI) with input from the Assistive Living Innovation Platform to promote local government's role in introducing the technology to users and their carers, and identifying the barriers to development and take up.

To keep informed about the programme and to let us know what your interests are, join our community of practice at www.communities.idea.gov.uk. You'll be asked to give a password, and a very short statement of your interest in the subject area. For further information contact: jill.mortimer@lga.gov.uk or: elizabeth.spratt@lga.gov.uk

Control of immigration: quarterly statistical summary, United Kingdom, January-March 2010

These Home Office statistics provide information on border control, the number of applications for asylum, enforcement and compliance and managed migration. For more information visit:

<http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/imm1q110.pdf>

British citizenship statistics: United Kingdom 2009

This Home Office bulletin provides provisional summary statistics on applications for and grants or refusals of British citizenship in 2009 and preceding years. For more information visit:

<http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb0910.pdf>

Worker registration scheme (WRS) data: January – March 2010

The January – March 2010 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>

Local government

Innovation and Partnership

Richard Kemp, Deputy Chair of the LGA, recently chaired a workshop between leading councillors and senior officers from the sector and the Technology Strategy Board. The Technology Strategy Board exists to foster technological innovation in businesses, and approached the LGA to discuss partnerships with councils to promote a virtuous circle of targeted technological innovation to help councils' meet their objectives in areas such as housing, transport, the environment and assistive technology, whilst also helping businesses and therefore supporting economic development. LGA are in the process of establishing subgroups to map out directions for joint working. For further information contact: jill.mortimer@lga.gov.uk

Council Tax collection rates, 2009-10 - Wales

The latest statistics on Council tax collection rates by Welsh unitary authorities include data on amounts collected, written off and outstanding both for in-year and for previous years. The latest release updates the statistics released on 18 June 2009. For more information visit: <http://wales.gov.uk/docs/statistics/2010/100617sdr902010en.pdf>

European and international

One world, many places: citizen's views of municipal government and local areas across the world

This Ipsos Social Research Institute report measures how satisfied or dissatisfied residents in 23 countries around the world are with their local area as a place to live and what top three priorities each want for improving their communities.

The report shows that residents of the Netherlands, Canada, Australia, India, Germany and the US were the most satisfied with their local communities compared to residents in South Korea, Hungary, Japan and Russia who were the least satisfied with where they live. For more information visit:

http://www.ipsos-mori.com/DownloadPublication/1361_sri-one-world-many-places-june-2010.pdf

Sport and physical activity

This Eurobarometer survey examines which Member States' citizens do the most (and the least) physical activity. The survey report examines the context in which people exercise in particular, whether they play formal sports or are active in other, more informal ways. It also reveals how EU citizens perceive the opportunities to engage in sporting activity in their areas, and considers how many people volunteer to help run sporting activities in their communities. For more information visit: http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_334_en.pdf

Crime and disorder

Experimental statistics on victimisation of children aged 10 to 15 - findings from the British Crime Survey for the year ending December 2009

These Home Office statistics provide information for the first time on estimates of victimisation from the extension of the British Crime Survey (BCS) to children aged 10 to 15 years resident in households in England and Wales. They provide details of the extent and risk of victimisation and comparisons of child estimates with adult estimates. For more information visit: <http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb1110.pdf>

Communities and place shaping

Pathways through participation

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) published this literature review in January 2010. It forms part of a major national research project entitled 'Pathways through participation: what creates and sustains active citizenship?' The project is led by the NCVO in partnership with the Institute for Volunteering Research (IVR). The project aims to explore how and why people get involved and stay involved in different forms of participation over the course of their lives.

Understanding participation: a literature review:

<http://pathwaysthroughparticipation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/Pathways-literature-review-final-version.pdf>

The partnership have now completed four short summaries outlining the review's key points:

- Briefing paper 1: What is participation? Towards a round-earth view of participation:
<http://pathwaysthroughparticipation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/Briefing-paper-1-What-is-participation.pdf>
- Briefing paper 2: What are the drivers of participation? Participation in context:
<http://pathwaysthroughparticipation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/Briefing-paper-2-What-are-the-drivers-of-participation.pdf>
- Briefing paper 3: Who participates? The actors of participation:
<http://pathwaysthroughparticipation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/Briefing-paper-3-Who-participates.pdf>
- Briefing paper 4: Why participate? Understanding what motivates people to get involved:
<http://pathwaysthroughparticipation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/Briefing-paper-4-Why-participate.pdf>

For more information visit: <http://pathwaysthroughparticipation.org.uk/>

Culture, tourism and sport

Estimates of productivity of the creative, tourism and leisure related industries: June 2010

This Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) report presents the latest data for the indices of productivity (based to 2004) for the creative and tourism and leisure related industries as well as for the service sector and UK economy as a whole. For more information visit:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/productivityoftheCTLI_statrelease.pdf

Other research

ONS Statistical Bulletin on experimental data from the Integrated Household Survey (IHS)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) are releasing a statistical bulletin based on experimental data from the Integrated Household Survey (IHS) this September.

The first available Sexual Identity estimates will be included in the bulletin. It is also likely to be accompanied by a Sexual Identity Publication and ONS are currently scoping the areas they may include for analysis in this publication, such as; breakdowns by other Equality strands, namely gender, age (banded), social class, ethnicity, religion as well as other variables such as government office region and marital status. For more information visit:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/about-statistics/measuring-equality/index.html>

regular publications and events

UK Age Research Forum Conference

Promoting the collaboration of age research
Royal College of Physicians, London
29 September 2010

The UK Age Research Forum (UKARF) is a strategic partnership between government, research councils and charities that aims to make a positive difference to the lives of older people through research. The conference aims to highlight the best of UK research funded through collaborative working of the UKARF partners and to demonstrate the benefits of collaborative working in age research. For more information visit:

http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/Images/Promoting%20the%20Collaboration%20of%20Age%20Research_tcm6-36690.pdf to register visit: http://web.me.com/magic_bean/UKARF/registration.html

Integrated services for children and young people: what have we learnt?

Two projects from the CfBT Evidence for Education research programme will be discussed at this seminar. Both are on the topic of integration and both aim to help local authorities consider the options around the organisation of children's and young peoples' services. For these topics CfBT have brought together the NFER and the NYA and the agenda for the seminar will include presentations from the researchers and time to discuss the research findings. For more information contact: Sarah Jeffery on 0118 902 1181 or Research@cfbt.com

Making the Big Society happen!- getting more for less: co-producing public services with communities and service users

The Governance International Roadshow hits Newcastle and London in July 2010! This half-day workshop gives you the chance to catch up with recent developments in co-production, the topic which is on everyone's lips at the moment.

The workshop will give you a clear idea of what co-production is and how it has been used in innovative case studies to bring savings and service improvements. There will be plenty of opportunities to share your views with us and with colleagues. By the end of the workshop you will have gained new insights into how to fit approaches of co-production to your organisation and partnerships.

All participants will be given the opportunity to do a brief co-production assessment of their organisation to identify existing strengths and areas of improvement based on the Governance International Co-Production Toolkit.

The fee for the seminar will be £195 for participants from public sector organisations and £95 for participants from third sector organisations. Further participants from each organisation will get a significant discount.

The venues and dates for the seminars are:

Newcastle – 2 July 2010

London – 7 July 2010

For more information visit:

<http://www.governanceinternational.org/english/main-menu/events/training-courses/uk-training-programme.html>



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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