

Analysis and research bulletin

October 2010

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

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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

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

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

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

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

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

New research and statistics

Employment pay and workforce trends

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>

Working-age 'welfare': who gets it, why, and what it costs

This Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) paper which was produced prior to the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR), provides basic facts about the five main benefits that make up, or add to, the income of the approximately five million out-of-work working-age adults to help inform the debate on public spending cuts.

The paper also examines the geography of claims; the reality for those claiming disability and illness benefits; and considers what these benefits are worth and how much they cost. For more information visit: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/working-age-welfare-summary.pdf>

An infographic is also available: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/working-age-welfare.pdf>

Activating lone parents: an evidence-based policy appraisal of the 2008 welfare-to-work reform in Britain

This report from the Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER) at the University of Essex, examines the likely effect of the recent welfare-to-work reform which requires lone parents with older children to be available for work. For more information visit:

<http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/publications/working-papers/iser/2010-29.pdf>

Markets and households on low incomes

This Office of Fair Trading (OFT) report provides a review of how people on the lowest incomes are treated in a number of case study markets and identifies reasons for any disadvantages that they suffer compared with people on higher incomes. A range of factors were considered on both the demand and supply sides of these markets which might contribute to any disadvantage. The report also considers whether people in low income groups have less access to certain 'enabling' products, such as bank accounts and the internet, which provide improved access to other products and whether they are, as a result, disadvantaged in other markets. For more information visit: http://www.offt.gov.uk/shared_offt/research/OFT1268.pdf

Good practice in involving employers in work-related education and training

This Ofsted report examines the benefits of employers' involvement in government-funded work-related education and training. It aims to identify the features of good practice and the ways in which provision could be further improved. For more information visit:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Good-practice-in-involving-employers-in-work-related-education-and-training>

Learning from the best: examples of best practice from providers of apprenticeships in underperforming

This good practice report from Ofsted examines the work of 39 providers of work-based learning, including independent learning providers, employer providers and colleges. These have been successful in providing apprenticeships in three currently underperforming vocational areas: hospitality, motor vehicle, and retail; and two historically underperforming areas that have improved to the national average in recent years: care and construction. The report describes the factors which contribute to sustaining high numbers, or increasing the numbers, of apprentices completing their qualifications, and to improving the time taken for them to do this. For more information visit:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Learning-from-the-best-examples-of-best-practice-from-providers-of-apprenticeships-in-underperforming-vocational-areas>

Transport

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

The latest monthly statistics on congestion on inter-urban roads in England produced by the Department for Transport (DfT) are now available. The inter-urban network consists of all motorways and trunk 'A' roads managed by the Highways Agency, as well as the M6 Toll. For more information visit: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/roadstraffic/speedscongestion/congestiononthe strategicroad5359>

International sea passengers: provisional estimates - August 2010

These DfT statistics provide information on passengers arriving and departing Great Britain by ferry. For more information visit:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/maritime/passengers/seapassaug2010.xls>

Vehicle registration and licensing statistics - August 2010

These DfT statistics provide information on licensed vehicle stock and new registrations in Great Britain. For more information visit:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/vehicles/vehreg.xls>

Housing

Social housing sales to sitting tenants: England - 2009-10

These Communities and Local Government (CLG) statistics cover sales through Right to Buy, Preserved Right to Buy, Right to Acquire, Social HomeBuy and other outright or shared equity sales to sitting tenants. They do not include Low Cost Home Ownership sales through shared ownership schemes to non-social tenants. For more information visit:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/17207621.pdf>

Education and children's services

Towards a strong careers profession

The Careers Profession Task Force has published a report which sets out its vision for high-quality careers education, information, advice and guidance. It sets out fourteen recommendations to establish and enhance the principles of professionalism in the careers sector. For more information visit:

<http://publications.education.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/CPTF%20-%20External%20Report.pdf>

Safeguarding pressures

The Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) has issued a report on Phase 2 of its safeguarding pressures research project. The Phase 1 report, published in April 2010, provided analysis from 105 local authorities, covering 75 per cent of the under-18 population of England, and evidenced a significant increase in all safeguarding activities except granting of Full Care Orders, against a fairly static population. This phase takes the initial work further, exploring reasons for the increases, cost pressures and the effect of, and on, partner agencies. For more information visit: <http://www.adcs.org.uk/news/safeguarding-pressures.html>

Referrals, assessments and children who were the subject of a child protection plan

These Department for Education (DfE) statistics contain national and local authority level figures on the numbers of referrals, assessments and children and young people who were the subject of a child protection plan for year ending 31 March 2010. For more information visit:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000959/OSR24-2010.pdf>

Understanding the children's social care workforce

This research from the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) looks at updating current workforce data, and identifying the key roles and the roles of graduates within the care workforce. It aims to give a better understanding of the core roles and skills required in children's social care and to set out how these could be supported. For more information visit: http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/assets/0001/0260/Understanding_childrens_social_care_

[workforce_research_07092010.pdf](#)

Vulnerable (looked after) children: final summary and recommendations

This report from the Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services (C4EO) brings together the key messages from three C4EO knowledge reviews with the aim of supporting the sector to develop effective services for looked after children and young people. The reviews include up to date evidence from research and from validated local practice as well as the views of service managers, children, young people, parents and carers gathered in consultations organised by C4EO for the purpose. For more information visit:

http://www.c4eo.org.uk/themes/vulnerablechildren/files/vulnerable_children_final_summary.pdf

The special educational needs and disability review

This Ofsted review was commissioned to evaluate how well the legislative framework and arrangements serve children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. It considers the early years, compulsory education, education from 16 to 19, and the contribution of social care and health services. For more information visit:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/The-special-educational-needs-and-disability-review>

Securing a sustainable future for higher education

This review makes recommendations to government on the future of fees policy and financial support for full and part-time undergraduate and postgraduate students in England. It aims to increase participation, improve quality and create a sustainable long-term future for higher education. For more information visit:

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/corporate/docs/s/10-1208-securing-sustainable-higher-education-browne-report.pdf>

BSF school report - B+ for attendance but C- for attainment

This National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) publication looks at attendance and attainment at Building Schools for the Future (BSF) schools. It shows that the impressive new buildings have had little or no observable impact on their pupils' achievements.

Researchers found that pupils at BSF schools make, on average, less progress than other similar pupils in similar schools and that there is no significant difference in the levels of attendance between pupils in BSF schools and pupils in other schools. However, there is substantially less absence in a small number of schools which have a mixture of rebuild and refurbishment. For more information visit:

<http://www.nfer.ac.uk/nfer/publications/99908/99908.pdf>

Grasping the nettle

This paper from C4EO demonstrates the challenges and opportunities in supporting children, families and communities through early intervention, based on effective local, national and international practice. For more information visit: http://www.c4eo.org.uk/themes/earlyintervention/files/early_intervention_grasping_the_nettle_full_report.pdf

Achievement of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage profile

This DfE report uses data on children's achievement by the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage to examine the proportion of children achieving a good level of development. For more information visit: <http://www.education.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DFE-RR034-WEB.pdf>

Effective early childhood education programmes: a best-evidence synthesis

This review from the Confederation for British Teachers (CfBT) Education Trust systematically examines research on the outcomes of programmes that teach young children in a group setting before they begin reception. The review concludes that on academic outcomes at the end of pre-school and/or reception, six early childhood programmes showed strong evidence of effectiveness and five had moderate evidence of effectiveness. For more information visit: http://www.cfbt.com/evidenceforeducation/pdf/15349_ECE-Blocks_v5.pdf

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. 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.education.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000938/sfr18-2010v2.pdf>

New apprenticeships web-resource for local authorities

A new web resource, offering practical advice for local authorities on strategies to boost apprenticeship opportunities for 16 to 18 year-olds, is now available. The online tool was developed by the Young Foundation in partnership with LG Improvement & Development for the National Apprenticeship Service. The tool was launched on the Public Sector apprenticeships community of practice through a video download from Simon Waugh, CEO of the National Apprenticeship Service and two online live discussions, attracting 170 delegates. For more information visit:

Online tool: <http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/LAToolkit.aspx>

Community of Practice: <http://www.communities.idea.gov.uk/login.do>

C4EO data tool

The C4EO data tool allows users to access information in a number of ways. Interactive maps allow users to; produce a summary area profile report for any of the C4EO themes, explore and investigate sets of data using a combination of interactive maps and charts, create custom tables, maps and charts and export the data to spreadsheets or download the maps and charts to a document or presentation.

The interactive tool also includes all of the published National Indicator data and a number of other datasets that have been identified as providing useful data for local authority strategic planners, operational managers and data analysts.

Links are also available to supplementary datasets that are held on other relevant websites. For more information visit: <http://www.c4eo.org.uk/data/default.aspx>

Child in the countryside - a challenging reality

This Commission for Rural Communities (CRC) publication provides a statistical picture of children and young people in rural England. The evidence will be of importance to a wide range of policy makers and organisations commissioning and delivering to children and young people in rural communities. For more information visit:

<http://ruralcommunities.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/childinthecountryside.pdf>

PE and sport survey 2009-10: children and young people's participation in sporting opportunities

This DfE report provides the results of a survey of all schools in England which collected information about participation in PE and out of hours school sport. It also covers a survey in FE colleges. For more information visit:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DFE-RR032-WEB.pdf>

Environment

Flood, vulnerability and urban resilience: a real-time study of local recovery following the floods of June 2007 in Hull (2007-2009)

Funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and the Environment Agency, this project is a response to the events of June 2007 in Hull which dramatically exposed the vulnerability of urban communities in the face of major flood events.

The aim of this project was to document and understand the everyday experiences of individuals following the floods of June 2007 in interaction with networks of actors and organisations, strategies of institutional support and investment in the built environment and critical infrastructure. For more information visit:

http://www.lec.lancs.ac.uk/cswm/Hull%20Floods%20Project/HFP_home.php

Children, flood and urban resilience: understanding children and young people's experience and agency in the flood recovery process

This participatory research project identifies key issues in children and young people's experiences and agency in relation to resilience to flooding and the flood recovery process. Funded by the ESRC, the Environment Agency and Hull City Council, this project engages with children and young people in Hull about their experiences of flood, flood recovery and the implications for future resilience. For more information visit:

http://www.lec.lancs.ac.uk/cswm/Hull%20Children's%20Flood%20Project/HCFP_home.php

Health and social care

Shaping public spending priorities for adult social care

Ahead of the Comprehensive Spending Review, JRF commissioned Ipsos MORI to look into the views and perceptions of local authorities and service user/carer organisations as they prepare for the challenges they now face. This publication summarises local authority decision makers' and service users' perceptions of these issues in relation to local authority spending on adult social care, and the role of service users and carers in shaping services and informing decisions. For more information visit:

Summary: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/public-spending-social-care-summary.pdf>

A funding settlement that works for people, not services

This report from JRF was produced in advance of the Comprehensive Spending Review in October 2010 and the coalition Government's new vision for social care. It examines the fact that the sector is at a critical point in the history of social care reform and asks whether the proposed funding settlement and statute will be aligned with each other, and, critically, with a vision for social care that is designed around people's lives, rather than around services? For more information visit: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/funding-care-services-full.pdf>

The links between global governance, UK poverty and welfare policy

This paper was commissioned as part of the JRF programme on Globalisation, which explores and promotes awareness of the impacts of globalisation on the UK and focuses on communities and people in poverty. The paper examines the relationship between globalisation and inequality in the UK and other OECD states; outlines where further research in global governance and the alleviation of poverty is needed; and discusses how global institutions can work towards poverty alleviation in the UK. For more information visit: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/governance-poverty-policy-full.pdf>

Perceptions of the social harms associated with khat use

This report describes the findings from a study exploring the perceived social harms associated with the use of khat. The study comprised focus groups and interviews with: members of the Somali, Yemeni and Ethiopian communities; members of the wider community; and practitioners including those from health, education and enforcement fields. In addition, a short survey of Drug Action Teams (DAT's) was conducted to gauge the availability of treatment service provision for khat users. For more information visit: <http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/horr44c.pdf>

Integrated services for people with long-term neurological conditions: evaluation of the impact of the National Service Framework

Many people with long-term neurological conditions (LTNCs) require support from a range of services, but these services do not always work in a joined-up way. The National Service Framework (NSF) for Long-term Neurological Conditions recognised the need for an integrated approach to service delivery. This report from the Social Policy Research Unit (SPRU) at the University of York explores what helps or hinders service integration and identified three types of service that promote continuity of care. A survey of all English Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) was conducted to assess the initial impact of the National Service Framework on integrated service provision. For more information visit:

Summary: <http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/pubs/rworks/2010-05August.pdf>

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

Sight line - designing better streets for people with low vision

This report from the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE), presents the findings from a year long study looking at how eight blind and partially sighted people navigated their local streets. It includes a new mapping technique to communicate how residual sight users, long cane users and guide dog users use a combination of sound, touch, and memory to get around independently and safely. It includes design briefs for products that would make streets easier to navigate, including road work barriers, new road surfaces to augment traffic sounds and tactile signs to attach to street furniture. For more information visit: <http://www.cabe.org.uk/files/sight-line.pdf>

Equality and diversity and older people with high support needs

This JRF publication considers what we know about the needs and situations of older people with high support needs from different equality groups, and the barriers they commonly face in service provision. The summary document shows what has been learnt so far about older people with high support needs and how they can live a better life.

Summary: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/supporting-older-people-summary.pdf>

Main report: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/supporting-older-people-full.pdf>

Bibliographic databases for social care searching

This report from the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) aims to help information professionals and researchers make an informed choice of databases when planning searches on social care topics. In light of a lack of previous evidence, this study adds to what is known about the relevance and coverage of social care databases, particularly on children's social care topics. For more information visit: <http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/reports/report34.pdf>

Communities and place shaping

How fair is Britain? the first triennial review

Every three years the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) are required to report to Parliament on the progress that society is making in relation to equality, human rights and good relations. This report brings together evidence from a range of sources, including Census data, surveys and research, to show how far what happens in people's real lives matches up to the ideals of equality. For more information visit:

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/key-projects/triennial-review/online-summary/>

How globalisation is changing patterns of marginalisation and inclusion in the UK

This JRF paper was commissioned as part of their programme on Globalisation, which explores and promotes awareness of the impacts of globalisation on the UK and focuses on communities and people in poverty. This paper explores the relationship between globalisation and the processes and patterns that determine the quality of life of communities in the UK; discusses how globalisation affects the labour market; and examines how governments and policy-makers should respond to the impacts of globalisation on poverty and inequality. For more information visit:

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/globalisation-marginalisation-inclusion-full.pdf>

Understanding the real depth and impact of fuel poverty in rural England

This report from the CRC investigates the depth and impact of fuel poverty in rural England and its effect on consumers, service providers and the local economy. The report highlights three study areas identified and agreed as specific rural wards within Shropshire, Durham and East Riding of Yorkshire to show the extent, depth and impact of rural fuel poverty in these areas. For more information visit:

<http://ruralcommunities.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/fuelpoverty.pdf>

The impact of global governance on poverty in the UK

This JRF paper was commissioned as part of their programme on Globalisation, which explores and promotes awareness of the impacts of globalisation on the UK and focuses on communities and people in poverty. This paper: classifies global governance institutions; examines how these institutions have contributed to the production and/or the alleviation of poverty in the UK; and outlines how anti-poverty campaigners in the UK can engage with global governance institutions. For more information visit:

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/governance-poverty-impact-full.pdf>

Crime and disorder

Policing anti-social behaviour: the public perspective

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) commissioned Ipsos MORI to explore public attitudes towards anti-social behaviour and police response. The research identified what people understand by the term 'anti-social behaviour'; who they feel ought to be responsible for dealing with it; their expectations of key agencies such as the police; and the conditions under which people report particular incidents. The research measures attitudes towards contact with the police when reporting anti-social behaviour and identifies key areas for improvement. For more information visit: [http://www.ipsos-mori.com/](http://www.ipsos-mori.com/DownloadPublication/1378_sri-crime-hmic-policing-anti-social-behaviour-september-2010.pdf)

[DownloadPublication/1378_sri-crime-hmic-policing-anti-social-behaviour-september-2010.pdf](http://www.ipsos-mori.com/DownloadPublication/1378_sri-crime-hmic-policing-anti-social-behaviour-september-2010.pdf)

Police recorded crime (2009-10 Financial Year) - Wales

The latest figures of police recorded crime are now available. The new figures cover the 2009-10 Financial Year and are available at local authority level. The data set is comprised of key offences from the Home Office's recorded crime series, which covers all 'notifiable offences' recorded by the police. For more information visit: <http://www.infobasecymru.net/IAS/eng>

Economy/economic development

Public expenditure statistical analyses: October 2010

These HM Treasury statistics provide analyses of public spending against budgeting and expenditure on services frameworks and cover public spending by department, function and economic category. For more information visit:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pespub_natstats_october2010.htm

Public service delivery and the third sector

This evidence review from the Third Sector Research Centre (TSRC) provides a review of the third sector and public service delivery over the last 5-10 years. It brings to light many of the issues faced by the sector when engaging in the commissioning process. This includes some of the difficulties they face in gaining full cost recovery, as well as concerns that commissioners lack knowledge about third sector providers and the wider benefits they can offer. For more information visit: <http://www.tsrc.ac.uk/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=kiUJDyaqxTs%3d&tabid=712>

Economic conditions for organisations contributing to the Big Society in rural England

This report from the CRC looks at how the Big Society is perceived by civil society organisations in rural England and their economic conditions in the current financial climate. For more information visit:

<http://ruralcommunities.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/ruraleconbig societycompanion.pdf>

The effect of the global financial crisis on emerging and developing economies

The aim of this Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) paper is to set out estimates of the cost of the global financial crisis to emerging and developing economies. It focuses on macroeconomic indicators and includes analysis of output, extended to encompass its effects across a range of variables: output, exports, remittances, aid and capital flows. For more information visit: <http://www.ippr.org.uk/publicationsandreports/publication.asp?id=776>

Local government

Local Government Pension Scheme funds for England 2009-10

These statistics give details on the Local Government Pension Scheme in England for 2009-10. They include data from 2005-06 to 2009-10 and updates on those statistics previously released on 15 October 2009. For more information visit:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1738358.pdf>

YouChoose: online budget consultation tool

LG Group have rolled out an online web application called YouChoose, an online budget consultation tool which lets residents see exactly how councils spend their money, and invites them to suggest areas where council budget cuts should fall, where efficiencies might be made, and where income might be generated. The tool was developed by the London Borough of Redbridge, and a partnership with the Local Government Group and YouGov means that YouChoose is now freely available to all councils in England and Wales. For more information visit: <http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelId=22436695>

Local authority revenue expenditure and financing: England 2007-08 and 2008-09

These releases from CLG have been used to compile the final outturn estimates of local authority revenue expenditure and financing for the financial year April 2007 to March 2008 and April 2008 to March 2009. For more information visit:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/revenueoutturnlocaldata0708>

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/capitallocaldata0809>

Big Society publications

Local Government Leadership launched a series of 3 publications at the Autumn 2010 party conferences. These look at the three parties' distinctive approaches to the Big Society agenda and the role of local government and councillors in it. For more information visit:

Community Politics in the 21st century: the challenges and opportunities for community politicians (launched at Liberal Democrat Party Conference):

<http://www.localleadership.gov.uk/images/Community%20Politics%20Sept%202010.pdf>

Co-operative Communities: creating a shared stake in our society for everyone (launched at Labour Party Conference):

<http://www.localleadership.gov.uk/images/Co-operative%20Communities%20Sept%202010.pdf>

Building a Civic Community: the ten principles to delivering the Big Society in Westminster (launched at Conservative Party Conference):

<http://www.localleadership.gov.uk/docs/Building%20a%20Civic%20Community.pdf>

For more information visit: <http://www.localleadership.gov.uk/>

LG Group consultation on spending and salaries disclosure

In partnership with sector experts, LG Group have created a practitioners guide to help people deliver on the commitment to greater transparency, initially by publishing finance and some other data by January 2011.

The material is designed for those at the coal face, so it covers the technicalities of how to do this along with help on data legislation and licensing considerations.

LG Group would like feedback and input so people accessing the document can post comments and share experience. For more information visit:

<http://lgtransparency.readandcomment.com/>

Local authority performance 2009-10 - Wales

The 2009-10 national performance indicator data for local authorities in Wales has been published. The data shows that performance across Wales continues to improve, with 64 per cent of comparable indicators showing an improvement on 2008-09.

The PI values and their supporting data can be accessed from the data dissemination tool, Gwion. Simply select 'Performance Indicators' and select the theme you are interested in. For more information visit:

<http://www.dataunitwales.gov.uk/EBulletin.asp?Catid=407&id=SXDAE8-A77FF4B3>

European and international

Domestic violence against women

This report from the European Commission measures how domestic violence against women is perceived by the European public. The survey follows on from a previous Eurobarometer survey conducted in 1999 in the 15 Member States which comprised the EU at the time. The new report analyses the evolution of responses in the intervening decade. The survey also provides detailed socio-demographic information to help understand how different sections of European society view the problem of domestic violence against women. The statistical breakdowns include: gender; age range, divided into five categories; the impact of education; and a range of other socioeconomic factors. For more information visit:

http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_344_en.pdf

Culture, tourism and sport

Community sport: In it for the long run – Sport England’s efficiency support tool including new data tools and research

Sport England have produced a new online resource designed to help councils with the key questions being asked in the face of public sector budget reductions. Community Sport: In it for the long run, addresses the crunch questions such as ‘why invest in sport’, through to impact evaluation of investment. The tool helps councils prepare for the challenges, look for the opportunities and signposts to a range of evidence, tools and case studies to help develop the right solution for sport in the locality.

You can access the full resource at www.sportengland.org/longrun.

Geographic information

Bulletin 2010/10: 2009 standard area measurements for administrative areas in the UK

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) have produced the 2009 Standard Area Measurements for administrative areas in the UK. In this release 'land area' and 'inland water' measurements for Northern Ireland are included for the first time. For more information visit.

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/about-statistics/geography/news/bulletin-2010-10--2009-standard-area-measurements-for-administrative-areas-in-the-uk/index.html>

Other research

Measuring sexual identity: an evaluation report

The ONS has published first year's results on sexual identity, providing baseline estimates of the lesbian gay and bisexual (LGB) population of the United Kingdom. These have been based on the Integrated Household Survey.

ONS has also published an evaluation report of the findings as this is the first time that we have published data on self-perceived sexual identity. For more information visit:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15381>

Regular publications and events

Social Research Association (SRA) Annual Conference

Making a difference: Social Research in an era of austerity

December 7th 2010

British Library, 96 Euston Road, London, NW1 2DB 10.00am – 5.00 pm

Social research faces major challenges in the face of major reductions to public expenditure. It is now more important than ever to demonstrate how social research can make a difference to effective strategy, policy and practice. Arguably the role of social research becomes more important to guide practice in an era of austerity than one of affluence. Plenary and afternoon panel speakers will be addressing these issues and much more of relevance to the future of social research in the next few years. For more information visit:

<http://www.the-sra.org.uk/events.htm>

EMIE Update bulletin

This regular bulletin from EMIE at NFER features documents and news from and for local authorities and Children's Trusts. The latest issue includes items on community cohesion, family support and inclusion. For more information visit:

http://www.nfer.ac.uk/emie/content.asp?id_Category=277&id_Content=7512&level=1

Local Government Group

Local Government House
Smith Square
London SW1P 3HZ

Telephone 020 7664 3000

Fax 020 7664 3030

Email info@local.gov.uk

www.local.gov.uk



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



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