

November 2009

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

The LGA Group has published the results of its annual Local Government Workforce Survey. Councils reported that recruitment or retention difficulties had fallen for the fifth year running, although occupations such as children's, adults and mental health social workers have all shown an increase in reported recruitment and retention difficulties. The survey also shows that against the current economic backdrop councils are still continuing to invest in their workforce with 71 per cent of councils being Investors in People accredited and 89 per cent operating 'grow your own' career pathways. The full report shows the progress councils are making in addressing key workforce challenges such as leadership development, recruitment and skills issues; this will support and inform the implementation and development of the Local Government Workforce Strategy.

The 2009 Local Government Workforce Survey report can be found at
<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelid=1956067>

Working better: fathers, family and work - contemporary perspectives

This Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) report investigates how fathers experience and think about work and care in Great Britain today. For more information visit:
http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/fathers_family_and_work.pdf

Work and worklessness in deprived neighbourhoods

This Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) report contrasts policy assumptions about work and worklessness with the personal experiences of residents living in deprived neighbourhoods. For more information visit:
<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/work-worklessness-deprived-neighbourhoods-full.pdf>

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. The October edition reviews; Local government employment (England and Wales, 2006 - 2009) the gender pay gap (Eurofund) and Experian research which reveals the councils worst hit by the recession. For more information visit:
<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelid=1094987>

Provider-led pathways: experiences and views of early implementation

This report from the Social Policy Research Unit (SPRU) at the University of York, presents findings from qualitative research carried out in 2008 to explore experiences of the early implementation of the Provider-led Pathways programme. Provider-led Pathways provides information, advice and practical help to claimants of incapacity benefits to help them (back) into work. Provider-led Pathways is delivered by private companies and not-for-profit third sector organisations. For more information visit:
<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/rrep595.pdf>

A qualitative study of satisfaction and dissatisfaction with Jobcentre Plus: an exploration of issues identified in the 2007 customer satisfaction survey with a particular focus on those most likely to be dissatisfied

This Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) report presents the findings of qualitative research undertaken with Jobcentre Plus staff and customers to further understand the findings of the 2007 Customer Satisfaction Survey. The publication identifies differences in the drivers of satisfaction and dissatisfaction between different benefit groups. It also explores customer satisfaction with different services and contact channels, identifies what is seen as good customer service and puts forward some suggestions for how this may be improved. For more information visit: <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/rrep575.pdf>

Labour market statistics statistical bulletin - November 2009

This bulletin from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) provides information on the latest data for employment, economic activity, economic inactivity, unemployment, claimant count, average earnings, productivity, unit wage costs and vacancies. For more information visit: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/lmsuk1109.pdf>

Understanding small employers' likely responses to the workplace pension reforms: report of a qualitative study

This DWP report explores small employers' likely behaviour in reaction to the forthcoming workplace pension reforms, the effect these reforms will have on their administrative systems and how they will cover the cost of this and the monthly contributions. For more information visit:

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/rrep617.pdf>

Transport

Evaluating transport schemes which make better use of the existing network

The Department for Transport (DfT) is conducting a programme of research to understand and generate evidence about the impacts of small-scale, low-cost transport schemes which make 'Better Use' of the existing network. For more information visit: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/evaluation/evaluationguidance/existingnetworks/>

Congestion on inter-urban roads - monthly provisional estimates: September 2009

These latest DfT monthly National Statistics on congestion on inter-urban roads in England cover the inter-urban network which 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/roadtraffic/speedscongestion/congestiononthestrategicroad5359>

Reported road casualties in Great Britain: quarterly provisional estimates Q2 2009

This DfT publication provides national statistics on road casualties in personal injury road accidents reported to the police in Great Britain for the second quarter of 2009. For more information visit:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/adobepdf/162469/221412/221549/398822/rcgbq209.pdf>

Road traffic and congestion in Great Britain: quarter 3 2009

This DfT statistical bulletin includes information on road traffic and congestion in Great Britain. It includes: provisional estimates for road traffic in Great Britain for the third quarter of 2009, provisional estimates for inter-urban congestion in England for the year ending September 2009, provisional estimates for congestion in ten major urban areas in England for the 2008/09 academic year and revisions to some published statistics for previous years. For more information visit:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/adobepdf/162469/221412/221546/224925/224965/466456/roadtraffgbq32009.pdf>

Housing

House building: June quarter 2009, England (Revised)

This Communities and Local Government (CLG) quarterly Statistical Release presents information on new house building starts and completions in England and its regions up to June 2009. For more information visit:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1367801.pdf>

Social landlords possessions and evictions, 2008/09

This Statistical Release from the Welsh Assembly Government, presents information on possession orders and eviction warrants obtained against tenants of social landlords (local authorities and registered social landlords – RSLs) in Wales during 2008/09. For more information visit:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/housing2009/hdw200910282/?lang=en>

Housing and neighbourhoods monitor

This JRF publication provides an analysis of trends in housing and neighbourhoods and how these interact across different parts of the UK. For more information visit:

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/housing-neighbourhood-monitor-full.pdf>

Education and children's services

The Cambridge primary review

Following its three-year enquiry, the Cambridge Primary Review has published its final report on the condition and future of English primary education. The Review has examined matters as diverse as childhood, parenting, learning, teaching, testing, educational standards, the curriculum, school organisation, teacher training and the impact of national policy. For more information visit:

http://www.primaryreview.org.uk/Downloads/Finalreport/CPR-booklet_low-res.pdf

Pupil absence in schools in England: Autumn term 2008 and Spring term 2009

This Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) release provides information on absence in maintained primary and secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies across the Autumn term 2008 and Spring term 2009. It is based on pupil level absence data collected via the School Census for the two terms combined. For more information visit: http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000882/SFR29_2009withTables.pdf

Hidden talents II: getting the best out of Britain's young people

This report is a response to the LGA publication, Hidden Talents: Re-engaging young people, which focused on the issues surrounding young people not in education, employment or training. Together with the Centre for Social Justice LGA drew on the insights of partners and practitioners in councils, the public, private and voluntary sectors, to describe a new approach to engaging young people in productive activity. For more information visit:

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/publications/publication-display.do?id=4919689>

Provision of mental health services for care leavers; transition to adult services

The LGA commissioned the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to carry out research into the provision of mental health services for care leavers. The report examines the extent to which recent developments have improved outcomes for young people leaving care, particularly those with mental health difficulties.

The research draws upon interviews with service providers and care leavers from three local authorities. It examines the views of service users and service providers, the coordination and availability of services, outcomes and the contribution of voluntary organisations. For more information visit:

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageld=5275024>

Sex education poll October 2009: headline findings and data tables

This DCSF report gives the results of a poll of 1,791 adults aged 18+ and 1,661 parents who were interviewed to find out if they agreed that every child should attend such lessons. The government is planning to make sex and relationship lessons part of the National Curriculum from September 2011. For more information visit:

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-SE-POLL-HF.pdf>

Neighbourhood statistics - small area National Curriculum Assessment, GCSE and equivalent attainment and post 16 attainment by pupil characteristics in England, 2008

DCSF have released the latest national statistics on Small Area Pupil Attainment in England for 2008. For more information visit: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000866/index.shtml>

Children's messages to the Minister: a report of children's contributions to the 2009 ministerial stocktake of care, by the Children's Rights Director for England.

Ofsted has published a report giving first-hand accounts of children and young people in care. It contains children's messages from a survey, and from focus groups and a conference which were attended by Baroness Delyth Morgan of Drefelyn, Minister for Children, Young People and Families. The report will contribute to the Government's stocktake of how well services are supporting children in care and care leavers and is designed to help to develop future government policy for children in care. For more information visit: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Care/Children-s-rights/Children-s-messages-to-the-Minister>

Schools research news – November 2009

This DCSF newsletter is intended to help keep policy and field staff, practitioners, teacher educators and others with an interest in education, up to date with recently published research and opportunities to get involved in research. For more information visit: <http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/research/>

Environment

Lofty ambitions: the role of councils in reducing domestic CO₂ emissions

This Audit Commission publication examines and reports on the progress made by councils to cut domestic CO₂ emissions in their areas. For more information visit: <http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/AuditCommissionReports/NationalStudies/20091021loftyambitions.pdf>

Land use change statistics (England) 2008 - provisional estimates (October 2009)

These CLG statistics are annual data which provide revised estimates for 2008 of changes on previously-developed land and the average density of new dwellings. For more information visit: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1362889.pdf>

URSULA - investigating the sustainable development of urban river corridors

The URSULA (Urban River Corridors and Sustainable Urban Living Agendas) research consortium believes that there are significant social, economic and environmental gains to be made by integrated and innovative interventions in urban river corridors.

URSULA is unique in that it tackles river corridor issues holistically by treating the river and its urban setting as a system. Over 4 years the project will produce innovations, tools and knowledge to help guide the regeneration of urban river corridors worldwide. For more information visit: <http://www.ursula.ac.uk>

Urban futures: Sustainable regeneration: envisioning the future to make more sustainable decisions today

Urban Futures, the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) research group led by the University of Birmingham, aims to develop a number of future scenarios that will provide different interpretations of how human behaviour will effect the environment. The futures will not be built upon probabilities or predictions, but instead will bring together a number of factors to create varyingly disparate pictures of the world in 2050. For example, one future may be based upon a 'do nothing' mentality, another may reflect a world where environmental concerns drive policy, a third might have limited resources such as water and energy.

These scenarios will provide a backdrop against which the impact of today's urban regeneration decisions, with respect to sustainability, can be measured. For more information visit: www.urban-futures.org

ReVISIONS – regional visions of integrated sustainable infrastructure optimised for neighbourhoods

ReVISIONS believe that to gain a full understanding of urban areas they need to be researched within a regional context using an integrated multi disciplinary method. ReVISIONS research involves a number of in-depth regional case studies, carried out in partnership with government agencies and other stakeholders, for systematically testing the effectiveness of alternative design and development strategies for year 2031, and beyond.

This four year project has been awarded funding of £3.8m by EPSRC as part of the Sustainable Urban Environment (SUE) programme and started April 2008. For more information visit: <http://www.regionalvisions.ac.uk>

The PUrE Intrawise project

The aim of the PUrE Intrawise consortium is to develop an integrated decision-support framework for more sustainable management of indoor pollution associated with the provision, conservation and use of energy in buildings.

PUrE Intrawise builds on the PUrE project. While PUrE focused on outdoor pollution, PUrE Intrawise is concerned with developing a framework for management of indoor pollution. The framework will be applied to a number of case studies that will compare the environmental, health and economic implications of the principal options for future home energy provision, to aid policy development. For more information visit: <http://www.pureintrawise.org> or email info@pureintrawise.org.

Health and social care

Assessments and social services for adults 2008-09

This statistical release from the Welsh Assembly summarises information on assessments and social services provided to people aged 18 and over by Welsh local authorities. For more information visit: <http://wales.gov.uk/docs/statistics/2009/090924sdr1422009en.pdf?lang=en>

Local authority social services – staff numbers March 2009

These statistics from the Welsh Assembly Government include information about numbers of social services staff employed by local authorities in Wales at 31 March 2009. For more information visit: <http://wales.gov.uk/docs/statistics/2009/091014sdr1592009en.pdf?lang=en>

Children, young people and alcohol: how they learn and how to prevent excessive use

This JRF report considers what influences how children and young people behave towards alcohol. For more information visit: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/children-and-alcohol-use.pdf>

Choice at the point of referral: early results of a patient survey

For the past three years patients referred by their GP for a specialist outpatient consultation have had a choice over where to be treated. As part of a larger project, King's Fund sent a survey to patients in four case study areas of England to ask them about their experience of referral and choosing a hospital for treatment.

This report summarises survey findings on:

- whether patients were offered a choice
- patients' opinions on choice and awareness
- which patients travel away from their local hospital for treatment
- the information and support used by patients to help them choose
- factors that influenced patients choices.

For more information visit: http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/research/publications/choice_at_the_point.html

Social care TV

A new broadband TV service has been launched, aimed at the social care workforce. Social care is taking a starring role in a series of 'TV films' intended to show the realities of the sector. Whether you are a professional, student, carer, service user or just someone who wants to learn more about social care, this new service should have something to help you.

Social Care TV, managed by the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) is a first for the sector. The intention is that the good practice suggestions and discussion points will act as an exciting addition to current good practice materials.

The first set of 25 films covers eight social care topics from dementia to the children of prisoners. Each film tells a social care story often from the point of view of people who use services and each forms part of a web page with lots of guidance and advice and e-learning resources. There is also a technical section that will make 'good practice sharing' more efficient as users can watch segments of films by going to a specific point in the film to address a key issue in social care practice. They can also email that segment or a whole film to a colleague. For more details visit: www.scie.org.uk/socialcaretv

Population and migration

Skilled, shortage, sensible: second review of the recommended shortage occupation lists for the UK : Autumn 2009

This Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) report presents the second review of the recommended shortage occupation lists for the UK as a whole. The shortage occupation route is one of the points of entry under Tier 2 of the Points Based System (PBS) for immigration from outside the European Economic Area (EEA). For more information visit:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/workingwithus/mac/first-review-lists1/>

Attitudes to age in Britain 2004-08

This DWP research provides a comprehensive picture of attitudes to age in Britain over a five year period. Issues covered include: personal experience of age discrimination, stereotypes that exist about older and younger people, and the importance of age to people's self-concept. For more information visit:

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/rrep599.pdf>

National population projections

This Office for National Statistics (ONS) statistical release suggests that the population of the United Kingdom is projected to increase by over 4 million to 65.6 million in 2018, with a projected UK population which will exceed 70 million by 2029. For more information visit: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/pproj1009.pdf>

Worker registration scheme (WRS) data: July –September 2009

The July – September 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>

Communities and place shaping

Learning from city recovery in Europe and the United States

This JRF study considers why cities decline, how they recover and how low-income communities within them fare under the impact of dramatic changes. The study focuses on seven European cities – Sheffield and Belfast in the UK; Bremen and Leipzig in Germany; Torino, Italy; Saint-Étienne, France; and Bilbao, Spain. For more information visit: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/city-decline-and-recovery-summary.pdf>

Community philosophy: a project report

This JRF report covers the outcomes of a three-year experiment which used an approach called 'Community Philosophy' to promote conversations and develop positive relationships between different groups of people within a community. For more information visit:

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/intergenerational-community-understanding-full.pdf>

Economy/economic development

Communities in recession: the impact on deprived neighbourhoods

This JRF publication looks at the impact that the current recession is having on disadvantaged communities and asks what we can learn from evidence of previous recessions. For more information visit:

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/communities-recession-impact-neighbourhoods.pdf>

Communities in recession: the reality in four neighbourhoods

This JRF publication focuses on four communities to illustrate the impact of the recession on the lives of the people who live there.

Four very different communities - Gellideg in Merthyr Tydfil, Hedworth in Jarrow, South Tyneside, Broadgreen in Swindon and Barkerend in Bradford - reveal the recession's effect on people's lives, from the social and economic impact of job losses to disaffected young people and stalled regeneration. For more information visit:

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/communities-recession-realities-neighbourhoods.pdf>

Survey of the impact of the economic slowdown on local authorities 2009

This survey was conducted by LGA Analysis and Research for the IDeA, the LGA, regional LGAs, regional improvement and efficiency partnerships (RIEPs), and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (SOLACE).

The purpose of the survey was to capture authorities' views on the ongoing impact of recession in their area, and it builds on earlier surveys of chief executives in autumn 2008 and of leaders in winter 2008. The survey was sent to both chief executives and leaders, and provided the option of a joint response. The results provide the LGA with the intelligence to help its lobbying for support for the sector in tackling the recession, and to continue its engagement on behalf of the sector with central government. For more information visit:

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelid=4992489> or contact stephen.richards@lga.gov.uk

Capital contingencies: local capital finance in an era of high public debt

This New Local Government Network (NLGN) report suggests that inadequate investment into public infrastructure could lead to a decline in growth and hamper the modernisation of public services. It suggests how local councils could raise alternative forms of infrastructure investment in a scenario where the Treasury begins to clamp down on capital expenditure. For more information visit:

<http://www.nlgn.org.uk/public/press-releases/capital-contingencies-local-capital-finance-in-an-era-of-high-public-debt/>

Local government

Local authority performance 2008-09

The fourth annual local authority performance bulletin from the Local Government Data Unit - Wales provides information on a range of service areas, and highlights notable change in the overall level or range of performance across Wales. For more information visit: http://www.dataunitwales.gov.uk/Documents/Publications/bulletins/LGP02000_Performance_Bulletin_FINAL_v2_200809_without_watermark_eng.pdf

The state of local government - councillors views

This ComRes survey was conducted amongst more than 500 councillors across England and Wales. The poll provides an insight into the service areas thought to be performing best and worst and reveals that many of those surveyed feel that their council will emerge stronger from the recession, rather than weaker. For more information visit: <http://www.comres.co.uk/page190107359.aspx>

ESRC funded research project developing skills for government: political mentoring

Funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and co-sponsored by IDeA, the project is led by Professor Jo Silvester at City University London, and has two aims:

1. To review the use of mentoring for politicians in local government to identify what is working, why, and to produce evidence-based guidelines for best practice across the sector.
2. To contribute to academic understanding of how learning and development takes place in political environments.

Outputs from the project will include an on-line toolkit for local councillors and officers either currently involved in mentoring or interested in setting up a mentoring scheme. There will be an open seminar to disseminate the findings of the project and discuss implications for future support for local councillors.

The project group would like to hear from anyone in local government who has been involved in mentoring and/or coaching for politicians, or who has either been involved in setting up mentoring/coaching arrangements or might be considering this in future.

To get involved or receive more information about the political mentoring project please contact Dr Christine Seeliger (christine.seeliger.1@city.ac.uk).

Who's in charge? - the quango report cards

This new LGA report is the next step in the campaign for better accountability in public services. The report examines three principles for public services: value for money, accountability, and openness, in relation to a group of quangos and in relation to local government.

The publication aims to:

- Raise the profile of public spending on quangos
- Highlight concerns around overlap, duplication and poor use of public money
- Involve the quangos in the kind of public debate and scrutiny which councils face regularly
- Cite examples of good practice, and encourage quangos to work better with councils.

The report also highlights the positive track record of local government on the three principles, and the benefits of local democracy as a framework for providing public services.

For more information visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelid=2141819>

LGA press release: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelid=5582632>

European and international

Local authority views on the future of EU funds

The survey was completed by LGA Analysis and Research on behalf of the LGA European and International Unit during September 2009. The EU is currently undertaking a wide review of its budget and funding programmes for post 2013. This process offers an opportunity to shape the way these funds are accessed by local authorities in future years. The purpose of this survey was therefore to engage with a broad range of local authority staff with experience of working with EU funds to gather their views on the advantages and challenges with these funds, and whether there is need for reform post 2013. For more information visit:

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageld=5563443>

Europeans and tourism - Autumn 2009

This Eurobarometer survey was conducted to collect EU citizens' views on travel, details of their (planned) holidays and travel in 2009 and their expectations regarding holidays in 2010. The survey focussed particularly on the financial aspect of taking a holiday, as this is a concern for both travellers and the tourism industry in the midst of the serious economic downturn which is affecting all EU economies. For more information visit:

http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_281_en.pdf

Crime and disorder/ safer communities

Crime in England and Wales 2008/09: supplementary tables: nature of burglary, vehicle-related theft, bicycle theft, other household theft, personal and other theft, vandalism and violent crime

The Home Office British Crime Survey (BCS) is a large survey that measures the amount and nature of crime in England and Wales by asking people aged 16 and over, living in private households, about crimes they have experienced in the last year.

The tables presented here are based on the findings from BCS interviews conducted in the 2008/09 financial year and give a picture of the nature of burglary, vehicle-related theft and violent crime. They also provide detail on other types of theft and on vandalism. For more information visit: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/crimeew0809_tables_bv.html

Crime in England and Wales: quarterly update to June 2009

This Home Office Statistical Bulletin provides the most recent crime statistics from two different sources: the BCS and police recorded crime. For more information visit: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1509.pdf>

Seizures of drugs in England and Wales, 2008/09

This Home Office statistical release presents figures for drug seizures made by law enforcement agencies in England and Wales during 2008/09. The statistics relate to all drugs controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (MDA), which divides drugs into three categories (classes A, B and C) according to their harmfulness, with class A drugs considered to be the most harmful. For more information visit: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1609.pdf>

Delivering better housing and employment outcomes for offenders on probation

This DWP research examines the delivery of suitable settled accommodation and paid employment for offenders on probation. The study explores good practice in counteracting homelessness and in helping offenders on probation into paid work, including the roles of education and training services and Jobcentre Plus. For more information visit: <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/rrep610.pdf>

Policing performance data 2008-09

This Home Office data provides information on the analysis of policing and community safety performance indicators for each police force. For more information visit: <http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/performance-and-measurement/apacs-2008-09/?view=Standard&pubID=662016>

Longitudinal analysis of the offending, crime and justice survey 2003-2006

This Home Office report presents longitudinal analysis of self reported data on offending, drug use and anti-social behaviour amongst young people (initially aged 10 to 25) from the Offending, Crime and Justice Survey, which was carried out annually between 2003 and 2006. For more information visit: | <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/horr19c.pdf>

Police statistics 2009/10 estimates

This Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) publication contains a detailed analysis of estimated revenue expenditure and income, plus a wide range of other financial data including: information on police pensions; police authority costs; capital programmes and levels of reserves and balances. Non-financial information includes: details of police officer numbers by grade and other staff levels. For more information visit: <http://www.ipf.com/ipfvalidation/login/login.asp?type=OTHER&dest=www.cipfastats.net/publicprotection/policeestimates/default.asp>

Culture, tourism and sport

Taking part: the national survey of culture, leisure and sport - headline findings from the 2008-09 taking part child survey

This Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) survey collects data about children's engagement and non-engagement in culture, leisure and sport. The report looks at the number of sectors in which children participate and the levels of participation within each sector. For more information visit: http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/6409.aspx

regular publications and events

Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) knowledge exchange small grants scheme

This pilot scheme from ESRC provides funding for social science PhD students, researchers and knowledge transfer professionals to undertake knowledge exchange and impact generating activity. The scheme is not designed to fund new research but is explicitly for new knowledge exchange or impact generating activity that may include events, networks, policy briefings, mini exchange projects, online blog sites etc.

Although local government practitioners cannot apply directly for funding, they are able to contact academics in their area of interest, and work up a proposal, with the academic as lead applicant. The Local Authority research Council Initiative (LARCI) is available to provide a brokerage service, putting interested local government members in contact with academics, and vice versa.

As the scheme timescale is relatively short, in order to take advantage of the brokerage service on offer, we would ask you to contact LARCI with your requirements as early as possible. Please contact: Karin.Honeyball@esrc.ac.uk or 01793 442524.

Further information and guidance notes are available on the ESRC website via the link below:

<http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/KnowledgeExch/KEsmallGrants.aspx>

Technology Strategy Board user-centred design for energy efficiency in buildings competition

The Technology Strategy Board is launching a new competition on realising real energy demand reduction in buildings through engaging with occupants and employing user centred design to create buildings that work in practice. If you are interested in attending, you need to register on-line to compete for a place on the workshop: <http://www.technologyprogramme.org.uk/>

For more information visit:

http://www.innovateuk.org/_assets/pdf/Competition-Documents/User-CentredDesignCompetition.pdf

NeSS monthly update

This monthly newsletter for Neighbourhood Statistics, provides information on datasets recently published and due for publication on the website. Once available by registration only, the newsletter is now openly accessible on the Neighbourhood Statistics website's latest news page

<http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/Info.do?page=news/news.htm>

The NeSS Monthly Update also gives advance notice of products produced by the Centre for Regional and Local Statistics, including this month details of how you can get hold of your Change over Time Analysis (CoTA) Viewer CD. This is an invaluable tool for researchers because it uses Benefits data for 2001 - 2008 as a proxy for Worklessness, allowing analysis of the changes over time within a small area.

For your free copy of the CoTA Viewer, please email: better.info@ons.gsi.gov.uk quoting reference LGA1.

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 September edition is available at:

<http://www.esrcsocietytoday.ac.uk/ESRCInfoCentre/about/CI/CP/enews/eNews.aspx#0>

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/>



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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