

July 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 (4ps, IDeA, LACORS, LGE and Leadership Centre for Local Government), 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 Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA)

The IDeA aims to make public services the best public services by supporting self-sustaining improvement from within local government. The IDeA works in partnership with all councils, to enhance the performance of the best, accelerate the speed of improvement of the rest, and develop the sector as a whole. For more information visit: <http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageld=1>

Leadership Centre for Local Government

Leadership Centre for Local Government give leaders the opportunity to shift their thinking on leadership so they can fundamentally transform their communities for the better. They help and support leaders while they reassess their approach to leadership – in practice leading across place rather than just their authorities. This means thinking beyond the familiar, to find new and different ways of meeting the leadership challenges. LCLG create the space for senior managers and politicians to think about the ambitions they have for their communities and how they can achieve them in order to fundamentally transform their localities for the better. For more information visit: <http://www.localleadership.gov.uk/>

Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS)

LACORS provide and disseminate comprehensive advice, guidance, good practice and information to make a major contribution to the development of high quality, consistent and co-ordinated local authority regulatory and related services across the UK. For more information visit: <http://www.lacors.gov.uk/pages/trade/lacors.asp>

Local Government Association (LGA)

The LGA exists to promote better local government. It works with and for member authorities to realise a shared vision of local government that enables local people to shape a distinctive and better future for their locality and its communities. The LGA aims to put local councils at the heart of the drive to improve public services and to work with government to ensure that the policy, legislative and financial context in which they operate, supports that objective. The LGA's European and International Unit (the former Local Government International Bureau) lobbies the EU and international institutions to get the best deal for councils; keeps councils informed about EU work that affects them; develops international partnerships and co-operation; supports locally elected members in European and international institutions; and promotes the development of local democracy around the world. For more information visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk>

Local Government Employers (LGE)

LGE is the national centre of excellence for local authorities on pay, pensions and employment strategy. They work with local authorities, regional employers and other bodies to lead and create solutions on pay, pensions and the employment contract, to ensure the provision of excellent and affordable local services. For more information visit: <http://www.lge.gov.uk>

4ps

4ps, local government's project delivery specialist, works exclusively to help all local authorities deliver better public services via major infrastructure and service projects. A range of support is available from 4ps including access to best practice, skills development workshops, gateway reviews and project management support. This support can help local authorities seeking to deliver initiatives such as Private Finance Initiatives (PFI) and Public Private Partnership (PPP) secure funding, carry out options appraisals, evaluate bids and negotiate contracts. For more information visit: <http://www.4ps.gov.uk/>

Employment pay and workforce trends

Equality group inequalities in education, employment and earnings: research review and analysis of trends over time

This Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) report provides an analysis of patterns and trends in the educational and work-life experiences of several equality groups, focusing on gender, ethnicity, disability and sexual orientation. In addition to a review of existing research, it draws on a range of national data sources over a period of several years. The report finds that, although education protects minority ethnic groups, women and disabled people against disadvantage in employment and income, they do not enjoy the full returns to education that might be expected. For a copy of this report contact: research@equalityhumanrights.com

Pay gaps across the equality strands

This EHRC report examines research evidence on pay gaps in the UK from 2000 onwards by gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, disability, religion or belief and age. Building on the substantial body of evidence on the gender pay gap, the report considers the extent of pay gaps as measured by the existing research evidence, outlines the limitations of this evidence (which is particularly acute for sexual orientation and religion or belief), and draws out the implications for future research and data collection.

For a copy of the report contact: research@equalityhumanrights.com

Older people inside and outside the labour market

This EHRC report reviews the research literature on people aged 50 and over from an equalities perspective. Drawing on academic, government policy and evaluation evidence, the report focuses on five broad themes: employment; income: earnings, pensions and benefits; education; health; and community life and access to services. It reveals that many of the disadvantages afflicting individuals at younger ages have consequences in later life. The extent to which older people experience inequality of opportunity and outcome is also affected by a range of determinants, notably class and gender. For a copy of the report contact: research@equalityhumanrights.com

The growth of claimant unemployment to vacancy ratio by area

LGA Analysis and Research have examined how the number of unfilled vacancies has changed over the past year at local authority district level. The report analyses the growth in job seekers allowance (JSA) claimant count unemployment to live unfilled vacancy ratio as at May 2009 and May 2008. Maps show how the geographical distribution of rising claimants per vacancy ratio varies between these years.

For more information visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageld=2322082>

Disability Living Allowance and work expectations: analysis of the New Deal for disabled people-eligible population survey

This Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) report investigates the relationship between the receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and employment. Entitlement to this benefit is not affected by a person's work status, however employment rates among DLA recipients are very low. The survey assessed respondents' attitudes towards work and included a set of questions asking about 'barriers' preventing work and the factors that would potentially act as a 'bridge' back into work. For more information visit: <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/rrep584.pdf>

Disability Living Allowance claimants: a new assessment - the characteristics and aspirations of the incapacity benefit claimants who receive disability living allowance

This DWP report considers the 1.25 million adults of working age who claim DLA as well as incapacity benefits. It aims to identify the characteristics and aspirations of these men and women, and to assess the extent to which they differ from, or are similar to, the Incapacity Benefit (IB) claimant group as a whole. For more information visit: <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/rrep585.pdf>

Recruitment, retention and turnover survey report

The 2009 Recruitment, retention and turnover survey report from the Chartered Institute of Personnel Development (CIPD), provides information on current and emerging trends in people resourcing practice. It considers; resourcing strategies and objectives, recruitment difficulties, attracting and selecting candidates, diversity strategies, labour turnover and staff retention. For more information visit: http://www.cipd.co.uk/subjects/recruitmen/general/_recruitment_summary.htm?lsSrchRes=1

Transport

Review of low carbon technologies for heavy goods vehicles

This Department for Transport (DfT) research presents an analysis of a number of HGV technologies with carbon saving potential. It evaluates these technologies in terms of CO₂ benefits, technology costs, environmental costs arising from production of the technology, safety and other limitations, and the maturity of the technology within the market. For more information visit: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/freight/lowcarbontechnologies/lowcarbon.pdf>

Vehicle registration and licensing statistics - May 2009

These DfT statistics provide updated information on the licensed vehicle stock and new registrations in Great Britain. For more information visit: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/vehicles/vehreg.xls>

International sea passengers: provisional estimates - May 2009

This DfT release updates key statistics on passengers arriving and departing Great Britain by ferry. For more information visit: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/maritime/passengers/seapassapr2009.xls>

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

The latest DfT monthly national statistics provide information on congestion on inter-urban roads in England. For more information visit: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/roadstraffic/speedscongestion/congestiononthestrategicroad5359>

Road casualties in Great Britain: main results: 2008

These DfT statistics provide information on road casualties in accidents reported to the police in Great Britain in 2008. For more information visit: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/accidents/casualtiesmr/rcgbmainresults2008>

Road statistics 2008: traffic, speeds and congestion

This DfT bulletin includes the first release of national statistics on 2008 road traffic in Great Britain, free flow vehicle speeds in Great Britain, and traffic speeds on the strategic road network in England. The bulletin also includes further information about congestion on urban and inter-urban roads. For more information visit: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/roadstraffic/speedscongestion/roadstatstsc/roadstats08tsc>

Housing

Mortgage rescue scheme monitoring statistics: May 2009

These Communities and Local Government (CLG) statistics give information on the number of households approaching local authorities with mortgage difficulties and households applying and accepted for the scheme. For more information visit: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/mortgagerescuestatistics>

Education and children's services

What is needed to end child poverty in Wales?

This Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) study discusses progress made in Wales to end child poverty, and suggests what the Welsh Assembly Government could do to reach the 2020 target. For more information visit: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/end-child-poverty-wales-summary.pdf>

The exclusion from school of children aged four to seven

The number of children aged seven and under who are excluded from primary schools is very small however, some children of this age group are receiving fixed-period exclusions which occasionally lead to permanent exclusion. This Ofsted report explores the reasons for this and the ways in which some schools manage to avoid using exclusion. For more information visit: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/The-exclusion-from-school-of-children-aged-four-to-seven>

Student loans for higher education in England: financial year 2008-09 (provisional)

This statistical first release from the Student Loans Company provides statistics on loan outlays, repayments of loans and borrowers' activities for students in Higher Education (HE). It covers English domiciled students studying in the UK and EU students entering HE in England and shows provisional figures for financial year 2008-09 and final figures for financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08.

For more information visit: <http://www.slc.co.uk/pdf/slcsfr022009.pdf>

Post-16 education and skills: learner participation, outcomes and level of highest qualification held

These latest statistics from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) report on post-16 education, learner participation and outcomes and level of highest qualification held for the period 2005/06 to 2007/08.

They also show provisional information for 2008/09. For more information visit:

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000855/SFR.pdf>

Destinations of leavers from higher education in the United Kingdom for the academic year 2007/08

This Statistical First Release has been produced by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). This is an annual publication which shows figures for the first destinations of graduates six months after graduation (i.e. the numbers in employment, those in further study, and unemployed), including comparisons with the previous two years. For more information visit: http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1479&Itemid=161

Becoming a teacher: teachers' experiences of initial teacher training, induction and early professional development - final report

This DCSF report explores beginner teachers' experiences in initial teacher training (ITT), induction and early professional development. It investigates why some did not enter into teaching or left the profession within the first few years of teaching and how their experiences related to their ITT route. For more information visit:

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR115.pdf>

Special educational needs in England: January 2009

These DCSF statistics provide information on special educational needs and special schools in England. It updates and supplements provisional information published on 7 May 2009. For more information visit:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000852/SFR14_2009.pdf

Mapping the terrain: 16-19 funding transfer

In October 2008 the LGA commissioned the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to undertake research to establish local authority and providers' early experiences with regard to the 16–19 funding transfer. The aim was to inform future progress in terms of workforce capacity issues. Key findings from nine case studies, including 54 semi-structured interviews are presented in the report under the headings; progress, challenges and the future. For more information visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelId=2394367>

DCSF schools research news

This newsletter is produced by the Chief Adviser on School Standards Unit at the DCSF. It 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 provides opportunities to get involved in research. The June edition is now available. For more information visit: <http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk/research/>

The impact of integrated services on children and their families in Sure Start children's centres

This Ofsted report is the result of small-scale evaluation involving children, parents and families in 20 children's centres visited between June and December 2008. It found that the effective integration of services is having a positive impact in terms of support for children and parents in over half of the centres visited. The least effective partnership working seen was between the children's centres and Jobcentre Plus. For more information visit: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/The-impact-of-integrated-services-on-children-and-their-families-in-Sure-Start-children-s-centres>

Statistical release: NI 52 - take up of school lunches in England 2008-2009

These statistics are based on data provided by local authorities (LAs) as part of the 2009 School Food Trust and Local Authority Caterers Association annual survey. There has been a small increase in the take up of school meals and this is the first time that there has been an increase at secondary level since the new standards for school food were introduced. For more information visit:

http://www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk/UploadDocs/Library/Documents/ni52_statistical_release08-09.pdf

Preventable child deaths in England: year ending 31 March 2009

This DCSF statistical release provides figures on child deaths which have been reviewed by Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) in England between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009. For more information visit:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000863/STR_PreventableChildDeathsv2.pdf

Black role models: which messages work?

This CLG research summarises findings from a study that explored the effect of different types of role model messages in order to identify those with the most positive potential impact on Black boys and Black young men, and to identify any potentially negative effects. For more information visit:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/1281168.pdf>

Understanding the risks of social exclusion across the life course: youth and young adulthood

The Social Exclusion Task Force (SETF) commissioned four studies based on the secondary analysis of existing data with a view to providing evidence to better understand social exclusion at different stages of the life course. The research showed that one of the most significant triggers of risk of social exclusion in young adulthood is having lived in a family who was in receipt of income support during adolescence. For more information visit:

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/226116/youth.pdf>

Environment

Making NERC science work for local authorities

The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) is funding a project to develop its partnership with local government (LG). NERC is the UK's main government agency for funding and managing research, training and knowledge exchange in the environmental sciences. The project is being undertaken in conjunction with LARCI – the Local Authority Research Council Authority (<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/innovation/partnership/larci/default.htm>). Tim Allen, who is Director for Local Government Analysis and Research at the LGA is chair of the LARCI Operational Group.

Called “Making NERC Science work for Local Authorities”, the project sets out to improve the way NERC interacts with LG. This includes ensuring that its science outputs, eg in the areas of climate change and flood management, are relevant to and more easily available to LG. The work is covering:

- identifying the key drivers of environmental priorities in LG and understanding the consequent environmental issues and knowledge requirements of Local Authorities (LAs)
- gaining an overview of the extent and nature of current links between NERC and LG
- analysing how NERC science maps onto LG environmental priorities and where NERC might help fulfil LG knowledge requirements
- identifying gaps which it might be appropriate for NERC to fill in the future and how LA needs might influence development of NERC's strategy, and
- developing mechanisms or tools which will improve the interface with local authorities and the uptake of NERC science.

Workshops on LG priorities and NERC science will be held as part of the work. Jo Tudor, who is managing the project, would be delighted to hear from local authorities about their environmental priorities and the areas where they require scientific knowledge – either now or in the future. For more information contact: jot@nerc.ac.uk or telephone 01793 418016.

Pollutants in the urban environment (PUE)

The PUE consortium, led by the University of Manchester, involving six UK academic partners and 17 other partners from industry and government organisations in the UK and Europe, has created an innovative sustainability assessment software that enables more sustainable management of urban pollution.

The all-in-one sustainability assessment software estimates environmental and health impacts as well as the socio-economic costs of different products, technologies and activities in order to help identify more sustainable options.

For more information contact Stephen.Daniels@manchester.ac.uk or visit <http://www.pureframework.org/?page=events>

Renewable energy capacity in regional spatial strategies: final report

This CLG research was undertaken to establish what is known about the potential renewable energy capacity in England, as delivered through Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS). The research provides an evidence base to inform the planning elements of the UK Renewable Energy Strategy (RES). For more information visit:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/renewableenergyreport.pdf>

Health and social care

Building public support for eradicating poverty in the UK

Public support is needed to ensure that the government and other organisations take action to tackle poverty in the UK. The perception of poverty is often misguided, with people believing that it is a result of laziness, or an inevitable part of modern life. The aim of this JRF research is to identify ways of changing such perceptions and building public support for addressing the problem. For more information visit:

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/public-support-eradicating-poverty-full.pdf>

The weight of the matter - final report of the LACORS national medical weighing project 2008/9

The aim of this LACORS project was to deliver demonstrable improvements in patient care, while also raising the profile of legal metrology and trading standards. This project was commissioned in 2007 and consisted of two inspections of hospital weighing equipment: one in 2008 and one in 2009. In 2008, 93 councils took part and in 2009, 68 councils participated. The report shows improvements in standards though continued vigilance is required. For more information visit: <http://lacors.gov.uk/LACORS/upload/21749.pdf>

LinkAge Plus national evaluation - final reports

LinkAge Plus aimed to test the limits of holistic working between central and local government and the voluntary and community sector to improve outcomes for older people, improving their quality of life and wellbeing. Its aim was to bring together the various forms of mutual help, services and support for older people at local level in a way that adds value, building on the aims and objectives of partner organisations. The Local Government Centre, Warwick Business School, was commissioned by DWP to undertake a national evaluation of the LinkAge Plus pilot programme and the final reports are now available. For more information visit: <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rrports2009-2010/rrep572.pdf> and http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/report_abstracts/rr_abstracts/rra_573.asp

A minimum income standard for Britain in 2009

This JRF study updates 2008's research, based on what members of the public thought people need for an acceptable minimum standard of living. This report considers what different family types need to earn to meet the minimum income standard and how much the cost of a minimum household budget has changed since the original research in 2008. For more information visit:

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/minimum-income-standard-2009-full.pdf>

Population and migration

The equality implications of being a migrant in Britain

This EHRC report reviews the available information about inequalities that migrant workers and their families face in Britain today. It sets out the rapidly changing policy context and its implications in relation to gender, age, ethnicity, disability and sexual orientation, analyses recent statistical data from a range of official sources, and examines the experiences of migrants themselves. The report highlights a range of problematic areas and concludes that many government policies and approaches to immigration and citizenship fail to take into account their equality implications. For a copy of the report contact: research@equalityhumanrights.com

Annual overview 2008/09 on the migration statistics improvement programme

This annual overview from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) provides a summary of the first year's work under the Migration Statistics Improvement Programme (MSIP). The MSIP has been set up to deliver users' needs for timely, relevant and accurate migration statistics that measure population change at national and local levels and are capable of detecting turning points in patterns of migration. For more information visit: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/specific/population/future/imps/updates/downloads/Annual_Overview_2008-09.pdf

Migration statistics: the way ahead

The UK Statistics Authority have published a review of progress to improve official migration statistics. It concludes that whilst useful work is being done across government to deliver some improvements in the short to medium term, the longer term goal of high quality migration estimates derived primarily from administrative sources will take some considerable time to realise. For more information visit: <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/reports---correspondence/reports/authority-report-4--migration-statistics-the-way-ahead.pdf>

ONS seminars on the future improvements to the mid-2008 population estimates

ONS held a series of seminars in June 2009 to explain the future improvements to the mid-2008 population estimates. The presentations used at these events are now available. In due course ONS will also be publishing a summary of the questions and answers from these events. For more information visit: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/specific/population/future/imps/updates/default.asp>

Communities and place shaping

Community engagement for science and sustainability: Insights from the Citizens Science for Sustainability (SuScit) Project

It is often disadvantaged members of our society living in poorer neighbourhoods who are exposed to the greatest environmental risks, have the worst access to environmental goods and services and who experience the poorest health and quality of life. Yet these communities are also the least likely to be engaged in dialogues about how science and technology can help to address these problems.

The SuScit Project, part of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) funded Sustainable Urban Environments (SUE) Programme, is the first of its kind to attempt to provide local communities with a voice in the future of urban sustainability research and in so doing identify a distinctive community-led agenda for future research.

Centred around the Mildmay area of Islington, North London, the SuScit Project comprised an innovative programme of action research and networking activities designed to promote engagement and dialogue between the EPSRC research community, professional stakeholders and most importantly local citizens: particularly socially and economically excluded citizens, such as older people, single parents, young people, and those from Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority communities.

The process sought to explore whether it was possible to identify a distinctive community-led agenda for urban sustainability research, and if so what such an agenda might look like by using an innovative 'bottom-up' public engagement and foresight process. SuScit then used the information gathered to set out a ten point agenda for urban sustainability research.

A DVD including a short 10 minute documentary about the project has been produced. To obtain a copy contact project principal investigator, Professor Malcolm Eames: eamesm@cardiff.ac.uk . To download copies of the SuScit project reports and for additional information about the project go to: <http://www.suscit.org.uk/resources/>

The SUE MOT integrated sustainability assessment toolkit (ISAT)

The pressure is on for developers, architects and planners to make sustainability a top priority in new urban developments. But with 670 sustainability assessment indicators to choose from, how should it actually be measured? And which model of sustainability should stake-holders be working towards?

SUE MOT, an EPSRC funded consortium of academic, industrial and community focused partners, has developed an all-encompassing tool that will bring some uniformity to urban sustainability.

The Integrated Sustainability Assessment Toolkit (ISAT) creates a generic, integrated assessment framework which will bring together current sustainability assessment metrics, models and tools. The coherent, comprehensive toolkit assesses the economic, social and environmental dimensions of different urban environments and unlike previous tools, has been created with stake-holders in mind.

For more information visit: <http://sue-mot.org/research/work-package-1> or contact Prof Malcolm Horner at r.m.w.horner@dundee.ac.uk

Regional trends

This annual report from ONS provides a statistical picture of areas within the UK, to assist in understanding the complex relationships between locations and the people who live there. The 2009 edition features an article on women in business and detailed statistical portraits of three regions - Yorkshire and The Humber, East Midlands and East of England. There are also articles designed to help researchers measure change over time in small areas and how area classifications can be used to interrogate the Indices of Multiple Deprivation. This year's edition contains regional profiles, detailed regional portraits and accessible articles on a range of key subjects. The publication also includes a comprehensive directory of online tables of the latest regional and local statistic for the whole of the UK. For more information please visit: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/regionaltrends41>

For the latest data on the economy and society consult National Statistics at <http://www.statistics.gov.uk>

People, perceptions and place

This Ipsos MORI report is designed to help local public services and partnerships better understand what factors affect key outcomes such as satisfaction with quality of life, community cohesion, feelings of influence and ratings of local services. The publication combines an analysis of national Place Survey data by CLG with Ipsos MORI's own analysis of the Place Survey for those authorities whose data they have access to. For more information visit: http://www.ipsos-mori.com/Assets/Docs/Publications/sri-local-people_perceptions_place-june-2009.pdf

Citizenship survey: April 2008 to March 2009 - England

The latest national statistics from the Citizenship Survey produced by CLG cover a range of issues including community cohesion, empowerment, values, racial and religious prejudice and discrimination, volunteering and charitable giving. For more information visit: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1284311.pdf>

Working together for older people in rural areas

This Cabinet Office research examines evidence on the social exclusion experienced by older people in rural areas and identifies examples of innovative service delivery that can make a real difference. For more information visit: <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/226170/working-together-older-people-rural-areas-july09.pdf>

Geographic information

National statistics geography bulletins

The National Statistics (NS) Geography bulletins are designed to keep you up-to-date with developments in UK Geography. The latest bulletins provide information about:

- guidance on the presentation of government statistics for administrative areas following the reorganisation of local government effective from 1st April 2009;
- the April 2009 edition of the UK Statistical Geographies Database;
- the May 2009 edition of the National Statistics Postcode Directory and the related NHS Postcode Directory;
- the Standard Names and Codes(SNAC)2008 database;
- the 2008 Ward History Database (WHD).

The most recent bulletins can be found here: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/about-statistics/geography/news/index.html>

Economy/economic development

Sticking plaster or stepping-stone?

This report from Centre for Cities is the first of the Surviving Recession series. It considers youth unemployment in the UK and distinguishes between two groups of unemployed young people: the majority that are unemployed for a few months, and the growing minority (currently 130,000) that have been out of work for over a year. The report discusses the Future Jobs Fund (FJF), announced in the 2009 Budget and argues that it should take a segmented, targeted approach. For more information visit:

<http://www.centreforcities.org/assets/files/09-06-23%20Youth%20unemployment.pdf>

Global slowdown:local solutions II, councils helping people and businesses

This LGA publication contains a series of case studies which show that councils are the key players in developing an innovative and effective response to the current economic climate, and that they are already preparing people and businesses to be best placed when the recovery starts. For more information visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/aio/2314094>. Read the LGA press release: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageId=2336139>

Monitoring the impact of the recession on various demographic groups

This EHRC report covers the first quarter of 2009 and looks at the impact of the recession across groups by age, gender, race and disability. The report shows that young people, those living in deprived areas and men have suffered the biggest rises in unemployment in the recession so far and unemployment rates in deprived areas have risen to 11.3 per cent from 8.7 per cent for 2008. For more information visit:

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/monitoring-impact-recession-demographic-groups.pdf

Local government

Collection rates for council tax and non-domestic rates in England 2008-09

This latest CLG statistical release includes data from 2004-05 to 2008-09 and updates those statistics previously released on 18 June 2008. For more information visit:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1264176.pdf>

Local area agreements and local economic development

This CLG research explores the variations in the number and types of economic indicators adopted across different localities within the 2008 Local Area Agreement (LAA) process. It identifies the factors that influenced indicator selection and the extent and nature of the relationship of the adopted indicators to processes of local economic development. For more information visit:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/1283467.pdf>

European and international

Europeans' attitudes to climate change

This report from the European Commission presents the results of a survey on Europeans' attitudes towards climate change which was carried out in January and February 2009. It explores citizens' perceptions of climate change in relation to other world problems, citizens' perceptions of the seriousness of climate change and citizens' attitudes towards alternative fuels and CO₂ emissions. For more information visit:

http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_313_en.pdf

LGInternational

The Summer 2009 edition of LG International, a supplement to the LGA's *first* magazine, gives news and information on European and international issues affecting local government. For more information visit:

<http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/aio/2048762>

Crime and disorder/safer communities

Examining attrition in confiscating the proceeds of crime

This Home Office report identifies the extent of attrition (financial loss) in the confiscation order process and why it occurs. For more information visit: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/horr17c.pdf>

Public concerns about organised crime

This Home Office report presents findings from a study that explored the nature and extent of public concern about organised crime. The study drew on two sources of data: 10 in-depth focus groups and a telephone survey of 1,000 randomly selected members of the public. For more information visit:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/horr16c.pdf>

Organised immigration crime: a post-conviction study

This Home Office report outlines the findings of an interview programme conducted in 2006 with 45 prisoners convicted of people smuggling/trafficking offences in 2005. The research was commissioned to provide a fuller understanding of the market dynamics of facilitated illegal entry into the UK. For more information visit:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/horr15c.pdf>

Crime in England and Wales 2008/09 - volume 1

This summary from the Home Office presents latest results from the British Crime Survey (BCS) and crimes recorded by the police. These statistics inform public debate about crime and support the development and monitoring of policy, for example by highlighting groups that are most at risk of certain crimes. For more information visit: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1109vol1.pdf>

Crime in England and Wales 2008/09 - volume 2

This Home Office publication is designed to be a useful reference guide with explanatory notes regarding the issues and classifications which are key to the production of the crime statistics featured in volume 1. For more information visit: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs09/hosb1109vol2.pdf>

Other research

Poverty in the media: being seen and getting heard

This JRF study examines how people with direct experience of poverty in the UK can have a more effective voice in the media. It discusses how people can give their views and tell their stories when they are presented as 'case studies' in the press, on radio or television and looks at opportunities in the 'new' media to produce and disseminate material, and the challenge of reaching an audience. For more information visit: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/poverty-in-the-media-full.pdf>

Regular publications and events

Understanding society: the perils of perception

The latest edition of this regular newsletter from Ipsos MORI focuses on the difficulties involved in measuring perceptions and suggests that we need to develop a more sophisticated understanding of what drives public attitudes. For more information visit:

http://www.ipsos-mori.com/DownloadPublication/1269_sri-understanding-society-newsletter-summer-2009.pdf

Call for papers for the LARIA Annual Conference 2010

The LARIA Annual Conference 2010, entitled: A rough ride for researchers? will take place at The Royal Holloway University (<http://www.conferences.rhul.ac.uk/>, Egham, Surrey) from Monday 12 April until Wednesday 14 April 2010.

The LARIA events group invites organisations and individuals to present a workshop, poster or main session at this conference. For more information visit: <http://www.mosaicevents.co.uk/docs/14/callforpapers.doc>



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.



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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.

For further information, please contact:
LGA Analysis and Research
Local Government House, Smith Square,
London SW1P 3HZ
Telephone 020 7664 3000
www.lga.gov.uk/research

Or telephone LGconnect for all your
local government queries on 020 7664 3131
Fax 020 7664 3030
Email info@lga.gov.uk