Entry Form: LARIA Research Impact Awards 2014

Good luck in entering the LARIA Research Impact Awards 2014. These awards aim to showcase the impact research has at a local level.

**Can I apply?**

The key criteria are that award winners should show us excellence in research that is making a real difference to the people they serve. The awards focus on research impact based on a sound evidence base. We will also be looking for entries that are demonstrating citizen/user involvement/engagement, partnership working, delivering positive outcomes, achieving efficiencies, and embracing innovation.

All entries must include at least one LARIA corporate member and a public sector body. Entry is free to all LARIA corporate members. If you are not a member please join (it only costs £80) or pay a separate £80 fee to enter the awards.

**What’s in it for you?**

LARIA strongly supports the awards to showcase how local researchers help public sector organisations make evidence based decisions. By entering these awards we hope you will be able to identify how your work makes an impact. It is a good exercise in itself to consider the questions we ask and we would encourage you to discuss your entry with your team and within your organisation and with partners. If shortlisted, and hopefully as a winner, you will be showcased as demonstrating best practice in our sector. This will raise your profile both within your organisation and externally. We also plan to publish winning submissions so you will be helping the sector by sharing best practice. An award will also demonstrate that your organisation values evidence-based decision-making and research that makes a real impact.

**How to apply**

* Download this Word document onto your computer and save your responses directly onto this form.
* Please use one form per entry
* Please return to Nicola at admin@laria.gov.uk by **11am Mon 17th March 2014.**

The shortlist will be published in early April and awards will be presented at the LARIA Annual Conference dinner on 13th May 2014.

We look forward to hearing from you and good luck.

Neil Wholey

Chair

LARIA

Award Categories

**A: Best use of local area research - Sponsored by Opinion Research Services (ORS)**

To win this award the successful entrant will show how their research has led to a greater understanding of a local area or an issue that is locally important. This could be based on primary or secondary data analysis. Not only that, but they must also show that this has led to evidence-based decision-making within at least one public sector body. Judges will be looking for submissions that show a well argued methodology, clear reporting of the findings and impact. Ideally the winner will also show strong partnership working, citizen/user involvement/engagement, innovation, and the outcomes that have been achieved locally.

**B: Best use of health research – Sponsored by HeRC (Health eResearch Centre)**

To win this award the successful entrant will show how their research has led to a greater understanding of a health issue. This could be based on primary or secondary data analysis. Not only that, but they must also show that this has led to evidence-based decision-making within the health sector. Judges will be looking for submissions that show a well argued methodology, clear reporting of the findings and impact. Ideally the winner will also show strong partnership working, citizen/user involvement/engagement, innovation, and the outcomes that have been achieved locally.

**C: Best community engagement/consultation - Sponsored by the LGA (Local Government Association)**

To win this award the successful entrant will show how they have successfully engaged with a local community. Not only that, but they must also show that this has led to evidence-based decision-making within at least one public sector body. Judges will be looking for submissions that show a well argued and engaging methodology, clear reporting of the findings and impact. The entry could include a range of techniques, such as public opinion or employee surveys, but they must be shown to have engaged a local community. Ideally the winner will also show strong partnership working, citizen/user involvement/engagement, innovation, and the outcomes that have been achieved locally.

**D: Best use of public data**

To win this award the successful entrant will show how they have used secondary analysis of publically available data to lead to a greater understanding of a local area, community or health issue. This could include official statistics such as census, health, economy, labour market or any other publically available datasets such as public opinion, transparency or financial data. Not only that but they must also show that this has led to evidence-based decision-making within the public sector. Judges will be looking for submissions that show a well argued methodology, clear reporting of the findings and data visualisation and real impact. Ideally the winner will also show strong partnership working, citizen/user involvement/engagement, innovation and the outcomes that have been achieved locally.

**E: New researcher of the year**

This award is given to a researcher with under three years of employment in a research field who has made an impact. This could be a person of any age. The entry could be based on a particular project they have led, an innovation they have pioneered or a particularly strong skill set. Their career to date should show a researcher who is able to conduct research that provides insightful analysis, promotes citizen/user involvement/engagement, presents information well, and helps develop evidence-based decision-making in the public sector. The researcher cannot nominate themselves for this award.

**About the organisation or organisations who are entering**

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| **Name of organisation(s) entering the award** (as it will appear in any published document) | Lancashire County Council and Lancashire Constabulary |
| **Are you a public sector body?** (delete as applicable) | Yes |
| **Corporate LARIA member number** | Enter number: 1396 |
| **Do you agree to us publishing your award entry in full if you are shortlisted?** | Yes |

**Your contact details**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name | Mike Walker |
| **Job title** | Corporate Research and Intelligence Manager |
| **Organisation** | Lancashire County Council |
| **LARIA Member** (only LARIA members can enter awards) | Corporate/Full |
| **Email address** |  |
| **Tel number** |  |
| **In providing your contact details you are confirming that you take full responsibility for your award entry and have obtained all necessary permissions from the organisations you are submitting on behalf of before submitting this application** | |

**Your entry (awards A-D)**

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| **Category you are entering** | A: Best use of local area research |
| **Name of your entry** (as it will appear in any published document) | Improving vehicle security in Lancashire – the anti-theft screw operation |
| **Summary of your entry**  ***Word limit***  ***(200 words)*** | During 2012/13, Lancashire recorded year-on-year reductions of -18% for theft from a vehicle and interfering with a vehicle within the eastern side of the county. However, the theft of number plates from vehicles increased by 59%, with 236 plates being stolen during the same period. With stolen plates being used to commit further crimes, such as cash-in-transit robbery and drive-offs (making off without payments) at petrol stations, this became an increasing concern.  In addition, burglary and non-domestic burglary recorded had increased. Analysis showed this was partly due to properties and outbuildings being left insecure and opportunistic thieves taking advantage. But also it found that offenders were also using stolen plates to avoid detection from automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras.  The community safety partnership analyst researched methods and submitted a funding bid to LANPAC (the Lancashire Partnership Against Crime) for anti-theft screws. This was for 750 cars in the three targeted districts. The analyst then organised and implemented a security initiative to fit the screws to residents' vehicles for free, whilst discussing crime prevention measures with them. Crimestoppers volunteers also attended the event to engage with the public. |
| **Wow factor**  Give us the most important lesson learned, fact discovered or observation made within your entry  ***Word limit***  ***(50 words)*** | The analysis revealed that people thought that number plate theft was a minor issue, but in fact it had much wider criminal implications. Residents admitted they were somewhat naive in their previous approach in their precautions to vehicle and home security, as they didn't realise the more serious context. |
| **Synopsis**  How does your entry meet the criteria for this award?  What were the objectives and what impact did you have?  How did you show partnership working, citizen/user involvement/engagement and innovation?  ***Word limit***  ***(500 words)*** | This entry clearly demonstrates the key principles for this award in that it shows a sound framework for research and analysis to understand a local problem that also drove local activity.  The community safety partnership analyst (part of a team of partner-funded analysts in Lancashire) identified the problem through analytical research (use of inferential statistics, police intelligence data and wider partnership data collected and collated through MADE (Multi-Agency Data Exchange – a partnership data warehouse initiative). Analysis showed that whilst other crimes were decreasing, theft from vehicles was increasing, and the theft of number plates accounted for almost a third of this. Discussions at local community safety partnership (CSP) meetings also picked this up from complaints raised, with victims thinking the theft of their number plates was due to antisocial behaviour. Whilst the severity of the incidents was low, they left victims frustrated, inconvenienced, angry and vulnerable as all offences were undetected.  The analyst also conducted a literature review of existing research of similar crimes. This was used to identify a suitable response, which was identified through previous good practice. A funding bid was submitted to LANPAC to purchase anti-theft screws. The bid was approved and the analyst then organised a series of crime prevention events, in locations vulnerable to the identified offences. The top three locations being local businesses, all of whom agreed to support the crime prevention event and allowed the events to take place on their premises.  This resulted in providing the three districts with a free initiative to protect a number of vehicles and educate them against vulnerability to crime.  The operation met different aspects of the local community safety partnership plan:   * neighbourhood policing and engagement – engaging with the community and making them feel safe, involved and reassured; * protecting people – by giving them the advice to make their properties and vehicles protected against crime; and * value for money – for a small outlay, the impact of the operation prevented numerous number plate thefts being committed. This saved victims having to pay to replace plates and the cost of crimes committed whilst using the stolen plates. The crime prevention advice also prevented people being burgled/having their vehicle broken into, which saves them the inconvenience and the cost of having to replace the stolen goods.   The initiative featured in the local press and social media, and on the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) website, who endorsed the events as fitting in with his victim support strategy. These events were well received and promoted security awareness for vehicles. Attendees expressed their gratitude that something ‘was being done’ about local issues and those bodies, such as the CSP and PCC, were targeting these issues.  Theft from vehicle decreased In the main problem area following the operation. A comparison of year-on-year offending showed that there was an 18% reduction in theft from vehicle but a 75% reduction in the theft of number plates. The proportion of theft of number plates from all theft from vehicles reduced from 29% to 9%. |
| **What should LARIA members learn from your award entry?**  ***Word limit***  ***(200 words)*** | Councils and police can work closely together to tackle local crime issues, reducing incidents and improving local people feeling safe. Through the use of sound analytical techniques it is possible to research a local problem, and also cost-effective ways to deal with the problem. These findings can then form the basis of a value for money initiative. Furthermore, how problems are managed can have a significant positive impact on how local communities perceive public services and organisations. |
| **Is there a published report or background information on your study publically available? Please provide this link.**  (This will be not consulted as part of this submission but we may publish a link if you are successfully shortlisted) |  |

**Your entry (awards E)**

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| **Category you are entering** | New researcher of the year |
| **Name of new researcher** (as it will appear in any published document) |  |
| **How do you know the applicant?** (you cannot nominate yourself) |  |
| **I confirm this person has been employed as a researcher for under three years** | Yes |
| **Have you received permission from the applicant to make this submission** | Yes |
| **Wow factor**  **Give us the most important reason why they should win**  **(50 words)** |  |
| **Summary**  **How does this person meet the criteria for this award?**  **Word limit**  **(300 words)** |  |
| **Do they have a LinkedIn page, Twitter account or blog used in a professional capacity? Please provide this link.**  (This will be not consulted as part of this submission but we may publish a link if they are successfully shortlisted) |  |

**Rules of entry**

1. Submissions must be made on the forms provided and within the word limits set out
2. One form must be used for each entry
3. All entries must be made by a LARIA member
4. All entries for awards A-D must include at least one public sector body
5. All entries made by a LARIA Corporate member will be made free of charge. If you are not a LARIA Corporate member please join before entering the awards (it only costs £80). If you do not wish to be a member you will need to pay £80 to enter the awards
6. The main contact is responsible for ensuring all permissions have been sought within their organisation or partnership – especially in regards to the publication of information provided
7. LARIA reserves the right to publish all the information provided in this entry in the form of a case study – this includes online – unless otherwise stated
8. The judges’ decisions are final. LARIA will not enter into correspondence about why an entry was not selected as a finalist
9. No free tickets to the awards dinner will be provided automatically to entrants. Tickets are available to purchase separately or as part of attendance at conference. If you cannot accept in person we will ask you to nominate someone who is attending the dinner.
10. Please return to Nicola Adie at admin@laria.gov.uk by **11am Monday 17th March 2014**