LariaNews

LOCAL AUTHORITIES RESEARCH + INTELLIGENCE ASSOCIATION

LARIA NEWSLETTER NO.47 JANUARY 1995

Dates for your diary

LARIA in Scotland
Annual Open Forum - 15th March 1995
(see further details page 22)

LARIA Annual Conference 1995
'Policy and Research in a Culture of Change'
10th-12th April, Queen Margaret College, Edinburgh
(see further details page 22)

Next Issue
Copy should be sent to the editors, (addresses on page 2), to arrive by **Friday, 3rd March 1995.**

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily their employing organisations or of LARIA. Readers are advised to ascertain for themselves that courses, conferences or services advertised are appropriate for their needs.

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FROM THE CHAIR

Readers will find details of LARIA's 1995 Annual Conference in this issue, together with a booking form. Edinburgh is the venue and the dates for your diary are 10-12th April. This conference will mark LARIA's 21st birthday and we expect that an excellent venue, a stimulating programme and some enjoyable social events will attract a lot of interest.

Always useful for research practitioners working in or for the public sector, LARIA's conferences are also an important means by which the many local authority officers who use research and statistical information can find out about how research is addressing the latest issues facing local government, from league tables to population change. Much in this year's annual conference will appeal to those working in other parts of the public sector too, such as TECs, LECs, health authorities and universities.

LARIA Launches Research Project

Although it is increasingly being recognised that policy and research must go together if services are to be based on assessments of need and their effects evaluated by 'learning organisations', research in local government is facing serious threats from local government reorganisation and continuing budgetary pressures. For this reason, the LARIA Steering Group has agreed to take what is probably one of the most significant steps in the history of the organisation. We have invited Professor John Stewart of Birmingham University to chair an advisory group and report by May 1995 on the condition of local government research and to make recommendations about its future. The advisory group will include senior representation from the local authority associations, professional associations, CIPFA, LARIA and the LGMB. Its work will be informed by research commissioned by LARIA from the School of Advanced Urban Studies.

The initiative is being launched this January and the academic research is likely to include a survey of local authorities and a series of interview-based case studies. The advisory group's report will be sent free to local authority chief executives and a variety of other key stakeholders. Anyone interesed in finding out more about the initiative should contact Tim Blackman,

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LOCAL AUTHORITIES RESEARCH & INTELLIGENCE ASSOCIATION

LARIA was established in 1974 to promote the further development and understanding of research practices in local government. LARIA aims to encourage communication amongst interested persons by providing a national forum for the sharing of technical knowledge and research methods.

Membership is by participation in LARIA's activities: conferences, workshops and publications are organised by the Steering Group which acts as the Association's Management Body. LARIA also publishes this newsletter, **"LARIA News"**, three times a year.

LARIA is registered as a Specially Authorised Society under the Friendly Societies Act 1974. Its activities are of interest to all people working on Research and Intelligence activities for Local Authorities or allied fields, and depends upon the active participation of such people to promote, maintain and develop professional practices.

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ADVERTISING
LARIA welcomes copy for the Newsletter from advertisers, subject to the material not being in conflict with the interests of LARIA's members. LARIA may sell its mailing list to other organisations. Please let the Administrator know if you do not wish to be included in any list sold.

EQUAL OPPPORTUNITES
LARIA wishes to encourage participation in its Steering Group, its events and its other activities. It aims to remove barriers to participation associated with race, gender, disability and sexuality. It expects delegates and contributors to help in achieving this aim.

.....continued from page 1

Graham Smith or James Kelly (see page 2 for contact details).

Finally, we still have copies of the 1994 LARIA Annual Conference Proceedings available, price £20. Papers include studies of community safety initiatives and crime, the Census and indicators of need, and the local government review. Copies can be ordered directly from Marian Howett, Research Section, Chief Executive's Department, Newcastle City Council, Civic Centre, Newcastle NE99 2BN (Tel: 091-232 8520 Ext. 5037).

Tim Blackman

NEIGHBOURHOOD & NETWORKS IN NEWHAM

By Aston Community Involvement Unit

In the context of "Community Care" policies it is important for planners, social workers and those in the voluntary sector to understand and express clearly what we mean by the notion of "community". Is it simply a synonym for neighbourhood, is it simply a pleasant sounding word which can be used to cover resource cutbacks in the welfare state, or do we mean the network of informal relationships between people who live in a locality? Is it true as older people often say, "there is no community round here any more?"

This report is based on a survey of 67 Newham residents which was carried out by six medical students in November 1993 as the Community Module part of their second year course.

The students used a questionnaire designed by Greg Smith, Research Officer of the Aston Community Involvement Unit which aimed to gather information about community involvement, personal informal networks, and sources of help and support.

The sample of respondents was recruited by a networking process starting from contacts suggested by the voluntary sector and church workers in the area. The snowball sampling procedure showed that for many people the number and strength of their local network ties was extremely limited.

While the sampling method means that the survey results cannot be generalised to the whole population of Newham, they suggest some important trends in community life, especially for older white people and mothers of small children.

Findings

- The respondents in the survey fell into two contrasting groups, on the one hand older long term residents, mostly white working class people, and on the other a younger group, from a wider range of class, geographical and ethnic backgrounds, mostly living in family/households with children.

- Nearly 70% liked living in the neighbourhood, but only 11% saw it as a strong friendly community and only a third belonged to more than one community group. However almost all the respondents with children reported their children had been involved in some local community activity.

- Respondents reported they were in touch with an average of 3.6 kin (outside their own household), 3.3 friends, and 2.9 neighbours. Older respondents had considerably more kin and neighbours, but less friends than younger respondents.

- Only a third of the relatives mentioned were living in Newham, compared with 70% of the friends. Only 37% of the relatives were seen at least weekly.

- Friends were likely to be of the same gender and age group as the respondent. Inter-ethnic friendship was rare and almost unheard of among the older respondents.

- Neighbours seemed relatively insignificant to most people and only 10% of the ones mentioned ever came inside the respondent's home.

- Only about one in ten of the respondents were receiving regular help from professional sources, although over a quarter of them had received nursing type care from friends or relatives.

- Over half the respondents felt they could turn to relatives and/or friends for routine help or support of more than one type, compared with only 20% who could turn to neighbours. Even for the proverbial "borrowing a cup of sugar" less than one in five had recently been helped by a neighbour and only another one in five thought they could approach a neighbour.

  While relatives were the most frequent source of help for "nursing" type care friends were turned to for the widest range of help and support, and particularly for talking through problems or companionship for an outing.

- Most people expressed high levels of contentment/happiness/satisfaction with their lives, despite living in a deprived urban area. The highest scores came from older long-term residents, and from those who had lots of friends.

Conclusions & Recommendations

In the Newham context, where neighbourly concern seems to be rare and declining, there is a growing role for community development work which recreates "local community" at the grass roots in neighbourhoods as a strategy for preventative social work. This is distinct from the usual bureaucratic process of setting up well managed, legally constituted voluntary bodies.

Present Care in the Community policies are tending to push voluntary sector groups into the contract culture which moves them towards professional and market values. Such changes could well be inimical to the flourishing of informal care using existing social networks.

Carers, who are usually the female kin of elderly and disabled people, need a better deal, especially in terms of support structures, financial provision and respite facilities.

Social services and health care policies need to be designed and implemented in the light of the findings of this and similar surveys. In particular they need to work with the grain of the existing informal social networks of their clients and patients, but without loading unrealistic expectations and burdens on relatives, friends and neighbours, where such relationships exist.

Replicating this research in other parts of the borough, especially in the newly built Docklands neighbourhoods, and among the various ethnic minority communities, would give valuable comparative insights into the situation and needs of Newham people.

The full version of this report is available. Please see page 16 for further details.

CAN THE CENSUSES OF EMPLOYMENT AND POPULATION BE RECONCILED?

By Graham Gardner, Nottingham City Council

"How many people work in Nottingham?" is the question I am asked fairly often, and people expect the City Council to know the answer. All I can do at the moment is to give a 1991 figure, which as well as being three years out of date is also very uncertain.

The Census of Employment identified 161,600 jobs in the city, which after checking addresses and postcodes we have reduced to 153,200. This checking is one-sided, as we have no way of identifying workplaces placed outside the city which are really inside. However, most of the reduction is due to the reallocation of one workplace: the Boots Company's main factory and warehouse, which straddles the boundary between the city and Broxtowe Borough.

The Census of Population, on the other hand, found 159,580 people employed in the city, which after taking out self-employed people, to bring it in line with the Census of Employment, comes down to 148,180. As the Central Postcode Directory was used for both Censuses, it is likely that the same errors in classification occur, so it is probably best to compare "unamended" Census of Employment jobs (161,600) with the Census of Population's 148,180 (excluding self-employed). This gives a discrepancy of 8.4%.

I have not done much comparison at a sectoral level, but it appears likely that similar differences arise there. For instance, the Census of Population identified 30,630 employees in SIC Division 6 (Distribution, Hotels and Catering), compared with 35,100 from the Census of Employment.

Looking at wards causes even more problems. Although producing ward employment figures is always bound to be a dubious business, it is sometimes necessary for exercises such as a recent bid for European Urban Initiative funds.

The biggest problem is in Park ward, which includes most of the city centre, where the Census of Employment figure was 9,400 (26%) higher than Census of Population employees. The lack of reliable figures for city centre employment, even if we request tabulations for a specially-defined area, will in itself cause difficulties in trying to devise and implement planning and transport policies.

As I understand it, there are several possible reasons for the discrepancies between the two Censuses. Although there is not time to expand upon them here, the main ones are:

1. Under-enumeration in the Census of Population, particularly as imputation was not used in producing the 10% data. In Nottingham, there is a difference of 4,722 (4.7%) between people in employment in the 100% and 10% data.

2. The Census of Population only recorded a person's main job, whereas in the Census of Employment the

same person could be counted several times in different jobs.

3. A significant number of people could have entered the wrong postcode for their workplace in the Census of Population. Provided it was a valid postcode, this would not be picked up.

4. There are significant errors in the Central Postcode Directory, with OPCS admitting that errors in the allocation of postcodes to wards probably amount to about 5%. If the same directory was used in both Censuses, this should not cause much of a problem when comparing them.

5. Both Censuses are samples, which must bring in an element of sampling error.

The recession had become much worse between the April 1991 Census of Population and the September 1991 Census of Employment. All other things being equal, the former should, therefore, give higher figures, contrary to what is actually the case.

I know that other local authorities have encountered similar problems when trying to reconcile the two Censuses. My reason for writing this article is to see if anyone has had more success than I have. More importantly, though, has anyone given any thought as to how to use the 1991 Censuses to produce more reliable figures (if possible including self-employed people) when the 100% 1993 Census of Employment is available?

Please contact: Graham Gardner, Development Department, Nottingham City Council (Tel: (0115) 948 3500 Ext. 5466) or write to LARIA News.

ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY

By Malcolm Wells

As a part of Humberside County Council's Environmental Technology Initiative, Economic Development Services has contacted Ben Vivian and Marion Justice (the School of Geography and Earth Resources, University of Hull) to research and prepare a directory of companies in Humberside which are already successfully marketing products and services in the Environmental Technology sector.

The Directory will contain three distinctive sections: first, a detailed description of their products, environmental performance indicators and a contact name and address; secondly an easy-to-use cross-reference section will allow users to identify possible suppliers of their requirements; and thirdly, some background on the theme of environmental issues in business and particularly environmental technology. It should become a local company and information reference.

A broad definition of Environmental Technology is: "all technologies, processes and products that can be of importance in preventing or limiting the environmental burden".

Environmental technology is split into two types of activities - clean-up technology and environmental technology. Clean-up technology refers to products and services designed to limit environmentally damaging substances before they can get into the environment. For example the large coal powered electricity generators have been required, by law, to retrofit "flue-gas desulphurisation" (FGD, a chemical scrubber fitted to the boiler stack at places like Drax) to remove the sulphur dioxide which contributes to acid rain. A clean technology solution would be to remove or reduce the sulphur content of the coal before it is burnt to generate electricity. It is generally accepted that clean technology has less impact on the environment as it prevents rather than cures the problem.

Environmental technology offers enormous potential for businesses to improve competitiveness and increase profitability as well as the means to avoid prosecution. Being aware of the environmental benefits of these improvements can provide the added value to good public or worker relations. But the simple act of reducing pollution and waste will in most cases result in improved business performance. Environmental Technology is a rapidly expanding market and the potential for Humberside firms to benefit directly, in terms of increased sales of products and services, is clear.

One of the central roles of the directory is to identify local resources and thus benefit the local economy - whilst improving the environment. The quality of our environment is one of the major issues for all and the spotlight has been switched onto business - benefits exist for those that choose to take them. Interviews and discussions are underway and it is intended to publish the directory in January 1995.

Contact Malcolm Wells (0482) 884973.

LOCAL AUTHORITY R & I NEWS

Cleveland County Council

The following is a selection of reports of recent studies undertaken by the Cleveland County Research and Intelligence Unit. They are available at the price shown (cheque with order please, payable to Cleveland County Council) from Cleveland County Council, R & I Unit, PO Box 17, Melrose Street, Middlesbrough TS1 2YW.

"Holiday" Findings from the Cleveland Social Survey 1993, CR864, June 1994, £10
In 1993, as part of its Autumn Phase only, the Cleveland Social Survey included a series of questions on holidays and day trips, at the request of the Tourism Section of Cleveland County Council's Environment, Development and Transportation Department. This report sets out the findings from these questions.
Contact: David Allen (01642) 264982

Health and Disability in Cleveland, CEN3, July 1994, £10
This report is one of a series of reports on the 1991 Census. It looks at health and disability in Cleveland and its constituent districts. A question was included in the 1991 Census which, for the first time, asked whether people suffered or had a long term limiting illness. This report is based upon the responses given to that question. The report covers five topics relating to people's health and disability:
- age and gender
- ethnic origin
- economic activity and socio-economic group
- household and lone pensioners
- communal establishments

Contact: Sheila Jefferson (01642) 264965

The Cleveland Visitor Survey 1993, CR863, August 1994, £10
Both day visitors and visitors staying overnight make important contributions to the local economy and form part of a growth industry. This survey updates a study in 1989, provides key characteristics of the market and works towards an assessment of the significance of tourism to Cleveland.
Contact: Eric Smith (01642) 264973

Cleveland Statistics in Brief 1994, IN458, September 1994, £3
A pocket-sized card containing a range of information on Cleveland and its boroughs. The data includes population structure, births and deaths, unemployment, employment and council tax figures. There is also a section on County Council comparative statistics.
Contact: Alan Tinkler (01642) 264962

The Effectiveness of Display Screen User Training, Z90, September 1994, £3
This paper was presented at the Postgraduate Occupational Psychology Conference 1-2 September 1994. It reports a study whose purpose was to examine whether a pilot training package developed at Cleveland County Council would meet requirements contained in Regulations 6(1) of the Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations 1992. Ninety-six display screen "users" were involved in the study which adopted a quasi-experimental separate-sample pretest-posttest control group design. Awareness and behaviour were examined one week prior to training, and one and four weeks after training had been delivered. An analysis of the results indicated that training had been 'effective' in so far as change in awareness and behaviour were evident one week after the delegates had attended training. Findings are not wholly conclusive; implications are reviewed.
Contact: Stephen Hartley (01642) 264975

The Elderly in Cleveland, CEN4, September 1994, £10
This report is one of a series of reports on the 1991 Census. it looks at the elderly in Cleveland and its constituent districts. It also gives figures for the 94 borough wards of Cleveland. The report covers four topics relating to elderly people:
- age and gender
- marital status and economic activity
- health and disability
- household tenure

There was a lower proportion of the population of retirement age in Cleveland than nationally, 16.6% compared to 18.8% and slightly more females than would be expected. One in 15 retired persons was aged 85 and over in Cleveland.
Contact: Sheila Jefferson (01642) 264965

Research & Intelligence Performance Review, CR868, October 1994, £10
The report outlines results from three surveys undertaken in 1993/1994 by the Research & Intelligence Unit on its performance. It reports on:
- a survey of Chief Officers, Members and Borough Chief Executives to gauge the general performance of the unit
- a survey of clients on specific projects and
- a survey of people requesting information from Research and Intelligence

It also compares the results with similar surveys carried out in 1992/1993
Contact: Graham Smith(01642) 264950

"Inadequate Process: Indefensible Proposal" a Joint Response to the Proposal to Close RNSD Eaglescliffe, Y95, October 1994, £10
This report is a joint response to the consultation documents issued by the MOD to the local authorities and trades unions concerning the proposed closure of the Royal Naval Stores Depot at Eaglescliffe. The report highlights the inadequacy of the consultation process, the lack of information relating to alternatives, flaws in the costings and impact on the local area and on Exchequer costs of the proposed closure. The MOD case is found not proven.
Also **"Inadequate Process: Indefensible Proposal: New Options", Y96, December 1994, £10**

The reports are supported by:

- Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union (AEEU)
- Civil and Public Servants Association (CPSA)
- Institution of Professional and Managerial Staff (IPMS)
- National Union of Civil and Public Servants (NUCPS)
- Transport and General Workers Union (T & G)
- Cleveland County Council (all political parties)
- Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (all political parties)

Contact: Eric Smith (06142) 264973

Cumbria County Council

Corporate Information Unit

The County Council's Corporate Information Unit has undertaken a number of major projects on behalf of clients during the past six months, including the following.

Local Government Review
As a member of the County Council's Local Government Review Group, the Unit played a major role in preparing the Council's submission to the Local Government Commission. In addition to a summary document arguing for continuation of a two-tier system of local government in Cumbria, the submission comprised several considerable appendices which provided the Commission with a substantial database on the topography, demography, economic and social characteristics of Cumbria. Chapters also dealt with the electoral arrangements, issues and geography of service delivery, local and community identity, and reported the findings of an opinion poll on community identity commissioned from MORI by the County Council. It also contained the results of an opinion survey amongst parish councils carried out by the Unit. A section also analysed the costs of different sizes of unitary authorities in the County.
Contact: Eric Cripps (0228) 812970

Assessing Needs for Cumbria Fire Service - a preliminary study
Cumbria Fire Service spends some 30% more than it receives in grant via the SSA. The County Council argues that the current basis for calculating the Fire SSA is flawed, in that it fails to recognise adequately the costs of providing cover in sparsely populated areas like Cumbria and favours large densely populated areas. The Unit's preliminary study examined why the present approach to calculating the Fire SSA should be reviewed.

Stepwise regression analysis of data from English shire counties was used to examine the factors which contribute to variations in spending on fire services. This suggested that the number of appliances and stations deployed in relation to low risk category areas which have smaller populations was a significant explanation of spending in excess of SSA.

A "fire stations approach" to the calculation of the SSA was examined and compared with the present method of calculating the SSA. The adoption of this approach by central government will depend on the confidence it has in the optimality of local fire cover. The pattern of cover in West Cumbria was therefore studied by comparing isochrones around each fire station with the boundaries of risk areas.
Contact: Eric Cripps (0228) 812970

Service Delivery & Disadvantage
As part of a joint research programme between Cumbria Social Services and local health authorities, the Unit has analysed and mapped the scale and type of different services offered. The analysis has been undertaken at a district ward level. Patterns of delivery have consequently been compared with population numbers and measures of the incidence of disadvantage. This modelling exercise has pointed out the substantial differences between the current distribution of services and putative need based on population and disadvantage characteristics. The results of an analysis are at present confidential.
Contact: Stuart Pate (0228) 812971

Neighbourhood Forums Evaluation
As part of the Council's policy of devolving decisions and achieving greater empowerment of local communities, over 20 local neighbourhood forums have been set up in different parts of the County. Each forum has the opportunity to develop in a way which best fits local needs. The Unit has undertaken an evaluation of the success of these forums. This has included surveys of members, officers, voluntary organisations and the general public. The valuation highlighted the need to 'sell' the initiative to service departments and the key role of effective communications.
Contact: Stuart Pate (0228) 812971

Adult Education Review
The County Council is conducting a review of Adult Education in Cumbria with a view to clarifying and changing future policy, practice and management of the service. On behalf of Neighbourhood Services, the Corporate Information Unit has undertaken a number of questionnaire surveys to gather the views of all those involved in Adult Education in the County to inform the review.

The views of three groups have been collated: those organisations providing Adult Education in Cumbria; the Adult Education Coordinators; and a representative group of local organisations which represent special client groups.
Contact: Susan Whitehead (0228) 812978

Childcare Information Service
In order to provide a comprehensive source of information for those parents and employers seeking childcare, the Unit has established a database containing details of over 900 childcare facilities in the County including: County Council nursery schools and classes; Private Day Nurseries; playgroups; parent and toddler groups; childminders; after school care schemes; and crèches.

The information is accessible to the general public through a series of local paper directories and a telephone enquiry line, which became operational at the beginning of July. We are currently looking at ways of developing the service further.
Contact: Susan Whitehead (0228) 812978

Unit Publications
In addition, the Unit produces a wide range of publications covering different aspects of the County's population, economy and geography. Each year it publishes: a range of briefing notes; a statistical digest; a quarterly Economic Review; population and economic information packs; and Cumbria at Work (a Directory of Cumbrian businesses). In addition, the Unit has a number of 1991 Census of Population publications including a Census Atlas and four standard Census profiles of population, social, economic and housing data for a number of different geographical areas.
Contact: Dawn Wilson (0228) 812976

Cunninghame District Council

House Motivation Survey
Cunninghame District Council's Planning Department has recently produced a report on the results of a survey of private house purchases in the District. Twelve months residential sales data for 1992 extracted from the Register of Sasines formed the basis for the survey. The survey itself took the form of a 25% stratified sample of all private house sales in mainland Cunninghame. A full survey of sales on the islands of Arran and Cumbrae was carried out, in order to get a meaningful response level in view of the relatively small number of annual sales in these areas.

The survey, which was a follow-up to one carried out in 1992, achieved a response rate of over 50%. The broad aim of the survey was to examine the pattern of house purchases at sub-District level in Cunninghame by establishing the key factors influencing choice of location.

The survey report has been distributed as a guide to private builders and other housing development agencies in Cunninghame. In addition, the report has been used to guide policy decisions on the allocation of housing land through the statutory local and strategic planning process.
Contact: Stephen Fraser (01294) 274166 Ext. 2508

Local Companies Survey
The Economic Development Section of the Planning Department produces a Business Directory of local companies to foster inter-company trade in the area. A major postal survey of local companies has recently been completed, to ensure the validity of the company information held on the Business Directory.

This survey also provided the opportunity to distribute questionnaires to local companies to ascertain their views on the local economy. This produced an invaluable portrait of economic conditions, and substantially augments official statistics. All aspects of the survey process, from questionnaire design right through to data input and analysis, were performed in-house, to minimise the total survey cost.

In 1994, around 600 local companies were contacted. The response rate was almost 60%, an excellent result for this type of unsolicited survey. A full report on the survey results has recently been produced, covering such areas as markets, trade with other local companies, recruitment plans, business confidence and training. Complimentary copies of this report area available to interested parties.
Contact: Patrick Watt (01294) 274166 Ext. 2508

Essex County Council

Planning The Future of Essex
A major new report on the future planning of Essex for the next ten to fifteen years has been published by Essex County Council.

'The Essex Replacement Structure Plan, Issues Report' covers the need to protect the county's countryside and coast, its historic heritage and built environment, whilst raising questions on how to promote the Essex economy, provide for future housing needs, leisure and tourism facilities.

In particular, the report comments on future shopping facilities and transport needs, highlighting the growing

controversy over the balance between the enhancement of town centres, as opposed to meeting shoppers' needs at superstores and retail warehouses, usually located towards the edge of town and accessible mostly to car drivers only.

"It seems unlikely that the county's roads will be able to handle the expected increase in road traffic over the next few years, so new ways of providing for people's travel needs will have to be found,' said Ken Boddie of the County Council's Planning Department. "There is also increasing concern about air pollution created by road traffic and its impact on health. The key issue is whether people can be attracted away from using their cars towards public transport, cycling and walking, either as a direct alternative or together with shorter car trips."

The 'Essex Replacement Structure Plan, Issues Report' is available, price £25 from the County Planning Department, Essex County Council, County Hall, Chelmsford CM1 1LF
Contact: Patrick Amos (0245) 437557 Ext. 51557

Kirklees Metropolitan Council

Kirklees Talkback
In April this year Kirklees Council and the West Yorkshire Health Authority recruited over 1,000 local residents to form a 'panel' to comment on Council services and health issues. The panel is now being used for postal surveys and discussion groups. The first general postal survey among panel members looking mainly at information from the Council and Health Authority, achieved a response rate of over 85%. The panel has also been used to test public reaction to a draft health strategy for the district.
Contact: Debbie Wilson (01484) 442048

QUANGO Handbook
The Council has produced a handbook listing details of over 100 organisations providing public services outside of central and local government in the Kirklees area. Copies of the handbook are available for £25 plus £3.50 postage and packing.
Contact: Val Young (01484) 443191

Outlook Report
"Kirklees 1999 - Where are we heading, the outlook for the Council". This examines the changes faced by the Council and looks at where the Council is heading, and where it might have reached in five years time. The document covers five sections:
1. The major issues facing Kirklees
2. The institutional environment
3. The Council's goals
4. How the Council will operate as a service provider
5. Developing the organisation

Copies of the report are available for £10.
Contact: David Griffiths (01484) 442014

London Research Centre

CareBase
The staff and database of the Children's Placement Network - *CareBase* - became part of the LRC in September. CareBase provides the London boroughs with information, advice and consultancy relating to the residential care of children and young people. It maintains a database of information on children's homes, residential schools and other specialised services. It covers facilities in the South East for children and young people with disabilities and has national coverage of some specialised resources. It publishes an annual directory of residential resources.
Contact: Jo Moad 0171-627 9620

DOE Index of Local Conditions
Through an arrangement with the Department of the Environment, the LRC is now able to disseminate data from *the Index of Local Conditions* to all users. The data include 1991 Census-based and other indicators relating to local authority districts, wards and enumeration districts throughout England. The service includes data formatting, secondary analysis and documentation.
Contact: Keith Folwell 0171-627 9658

Manchester City Council

1991 Census - Topic papers

Manchester's Elderly Population
This paper provides a profile of persons in Manchester aged 60 and over, based upon a wide selection of information provided in the 1991 Census. Maps, graphs and tables are used to cover issues such as population change (1971-1991); elderly people by age group, as a proportion of total population (1981-1991); elderly people by age and sex; geographical distribution of elderly people in Manchester; age and ethnic group of elderly people; country of birth; limiting long-term illness by age and sex; dependent pensioners and carers; pensioners in communal establishments; household composition; tenure; and economic position.
Contact: Sheila Ritchie 061-234 4569

Gender in Manchester
This paper provides a profile of males and females in Manchester, based upon population data in the 1991 Census. Using tables and graphs, this paper covers issues such as age and sex structure change (1981-1991); marital status and sex (1981-1991); ethnic group by sex; country of birth; migration ; headship rates; household composition; limiting long-term illness by sex; residents in communal establishments; economic position;

occupation; hours worked; mode of travel to work; higher qualifications; socio-economic group; and social class.
Contact: Sheila Ritchie 061-234 4569

Ethnic groups in Manchester
The new question in the 1991 Census on ethnicity provided information on the various ethnic groups in Manchester. Following an introduction on immigration in Britain and immigrant communities in Manchester, this paper, using maps, graphs and tables, looks at the proportions in each ethnic group; age and sex structure; country of birth; household composition; geographical distribution of the ethnic minority population; housing tenure patterns; household amenities; household size; economic position; socio-economic groups and ethnic origin; higher qualifications; and limiting long-term illness by ethnic group.
Contact: Reaz Talukder 061-234 4566

Households in Manchester
Using information extracted from the 1991 Census, this paper, with the help of maps, tables and graphs, looks at household type trends (1981-1991); size of household (1961-1991); household size change (1931-1991); amenities; tenure; car ownership rates; pensioner households; households with and without children; lone parent households; large families; and ethnic groups..
Contact: Judith Ingham 061-234 4568

Manchester's Health
Using the analysis of the new Census question on limiting long-term illness (LLTI), this paper looks at the health of the residents of Manchester. Maps, graphs and tables are used to show ethnic groups of residents with LLTI; LLTI in medical and care establishments; LLTI by age; geographical distribution of residents in households with LLTI; economic activity and LLTI; length of the working week for persons with LLTI; and LLTI ratios standardized for wards, and for ethnic group.
Contact: Linda Frost 061-234 4570

Manchester's Housing Stock
This paper profiles housing in the City of Manchester, based upon data from the 1991 Census. Following a brief background on housing in the 19th century, the paper looks at recent trends which have occurred in Manchester. Maps, graphs and tables help to describe changing tenure patterns; improvement in amenity provision; housing stock type and its distribution; property size; tenure; vacant accommodation; and non self-contained accommodation.
Contact: Judith Ingham 061-234 4568

Trends in Manchester
This paper looks at population and housing trends in Manchester over time, mainly from 1981-1991. For some characteristics, comparisons are made with the major metropolitan cities and with England and Wales. Following a brief history of the growth of Manchester, maps tables and graphs are used to cover issues such as population growth (1801-1991); population change (1961-1991); age structure; marital status; household composition; lone parent households; average household size; household size change (1931-1991); economic activity; industry of employment; social class, car ownership; mode of travel to work; tenure; overcrowding; and amenities.
Contact: Linda Frost 061-234 4570

Copies of these topic papers are available for £5 each from Planning reception or by sending a cheque, payable to 'MANCOR', to Manchester City Planning Department, PO Box 488, Town Hall, Manchester M60 2JT.

Merseyside Information Service

What is MIS?
Merseyside Information Service was established under Section 88 of the 1985 Local Government Act, to provide joint data, information and research services to public bodies on Merseyside. MIS is funded by all the District Councils and Joint Boards on Merseyside and Merseyside Development Corporation: we also work for Health Authorities, TECs and others. MIS's work programme is controlled by a Steering Group of officers, chaired by Wirral MBC.

The following paragraphs outline the main areas that MIS operates in, with examples drawn mainly from the last few months. For all contacts phone 0151-236 4131.

GIS (Geographical Information Systems)
The basis of our GIS work is the Merseyside Address Referencing System (MARS) - a comprehensive database of all the streets and properties on Merseyside, and one of the first in the country. We have now replaced the original hand-crafted FORTRAN programs that ran the system, and the data is held in ORACLE, and accessed directly or through the specialised Arc/Info (GIS).

The computing systems, including the GIS, are now linked through a Wide Area Network to workstations at 11 sites in Planning and other Departments of our supporters.

Our large colour plotter produces maps for MIS (and maps produced by colleagues at District sites) on an almost 24-hour basis: paper at A0 size is plotted out at over 5 miles a year.

Address-matching
The development of MARSMATCH address-matching software extends the application of GIS technology to a wide range of local authority data sets. Without the need for digitising, your files of address data (for example your clients) can be automatically given grid

references and allocated to areas (such as wards, Police beats, or whatever is appropriate for you). The addresses can then be mapped or compared with other area-based data - from the Census for example.
Contact: Mike Stone

Ordnance Survey Digital Mapping (OSDM)
The GIS holds a wide range of Ordnance Survey map bases which are available to subscribers. The 1:50,000 and 1:10,000 scales are available as raster images and we run a map management system for the large-scale digital maps. We receive all 1:1,250-scale OSDM for Merseyside and OSCAR (the road centre-line data), and we load, archive and transfer the data to District sites in a variety of formats. Hard copy outputs are also available.

Objective 1 maps
A recent example of the effectiveness of our GIS operation was the production by MIS (for Liverpool City on behalf of the co-ordinating committee) of maps defining the geographical target areas for Driver 5 assistance under the European Union's Objective 1 status
Contact: David Booth

PC-GIS
The software and hardware (a workstation) needed to operate a fully-fledged GIS like Arc/Info is expensive. To supplement our Arc/Info work we are now supporting a range of PC-based software. This should give many more officers the ability to look at automated information on a map base.

We can provide data for a number of PC-based systems (for example, Arc/View, Mapviewer and Mapinfo) as a GIS Starter Pack. However, we are concentrating our applications development and support on MapInfo. This decision follows an extensive review of PC-based GIS and mapping software.
Contact: John Mason for report MIS 94/13 "An Evaluation of PC-based GIS", (or the summary report MIS 94/28)

Police street maps
Merseyside Police use MARS data in their Command and Control systems, but a major extra task over recent years has been the production of street maps for each Police sub-division, and now for the new Police Areas. These are for wall display and general use, and are produced in a style similar to the commercial "A-Z" maps.

The street maps are based on the MARS data, with added police beat boundaries, but have been individually edited to ensure that all street names are visible, and to add parks, schools and other public buildings. Though designed for police use, they are available (minus the beat boundaries) for other supporters.
Contact: Norma Crossley

Journey-to-hospital studies for MRHA
We carried out a GIS-based project for Merseyside Regional Health Authority (MRHA) which looked at Emergency Units in the area and calculated journey time contours. The MARS Address Matching software allocated over 100,000 addresses of attenders to the appropriate Enumeration Districts, and provided a grid reference for each address.

A series of plots was produced showing, for example, the density of distribution by ED of ambulance arrivals and attenders at each Accident & Emergency Unit.
Contact: Alistair Newman or Gareth Keen

Bus route planning system
We have installed a GIS-based system on Mersey-travel's workstation. This allows bus routes to be imported from their live Passenger Transport Information System (PTIS). A catchment area can be generated around the route and intersection with census information produces a profile of residents in that catchment.
Contact: Gareth Keen

Drive-time catchment areas
We have development a user-friendly system to produce population totals for areas defined by drive-times, based on the MARS road network for Merseyside and a less detailed road network for the rest of the UK. Population profiles can be supplied, together with a plot of the derived catchment area.
Contact: Alistair Newman or Gareth Keen

Automatic vehicle location
Our GIS data has also been called upon to assist Merseyside trials of an automated vehicle location system(AVLS) which would enable control rooms to see at a glance the position of all police vehicles and the police helicopter.
Contact: Norma Crossley

MerITS
The technical work for MerITS (the Merseyside Integrated Transport Study) sponsored by the five district authorities, Merseytravel, MDC and Merseyside Task Force, was completed in 1993. It marks a real step forward in joint working in Merseyside and the first major strategic transport study locally for 25 years.

MIS was involved from the start and supplied two full-time staff to the consultant's team. We are now able to take on future policy testing (through the transport model deposited with us) and we are carrying out policy monitoring based on relationships generated during the study.

The importance of MerITS is already evident in the new-style Transport Policies and Programmes (under the "package approach") which aim to co-ordinate transport policies where it would not be sensible for

Districts to work in isolation. MerITS is the basis for this joint submission.
Contact: Alistair Newman

Day-time populations
The 1987/88 County-wide Household Interview Survey (CWS) was used to estimate the daytime population of major centres. With the completion of the 1991-93 CWS, these estimates have now been updated and are being used, for example by the Police as part of the process of establishing Area staffing levels.
Contact: Alan Moore

Police re-organisation
Merseyside Police are in the process of re-organising their structure: seven Divisions and 23 Sub-divisions are becoming five Districts and 15 Areas. The redefining of the various police boundaries has taken up some of our time recently, but now it is completed we are able to revise the Command and Control data to the required timetable, and to produce census statistics and maps to help the strategic planning of the new designated area commanders.
Contact: June Winslow

Economic data
Unemployment: We have been distributing for some time our monthly WURM estimates (the Ward Unemployment Rates on Merseyside) and this has now been joined by an Economic Fact Sheet. The Fact Sheet gives more detailed statistics about unemployed claimants and Job Centre vacancies, for example, but also contains the data from the quarterly national Labour Force Survey (LFS) that is published at District level.

NOMIS: Much of the unemployment data comes to us through our computer link with NOMIS - the National On-line Manpower Information System. Not only Merseyside data is available from NOMIS, but information for the whole of the UK to enable comparisons to be made with other Districts and Regions. NOMIS also includes a range of other nationally-gathered statistics, such as the Census of Employment, NHS Migration data, population projections, and VAT registrations and de-registrations.

LFS: MIS now holds the data from the Labour Force Survey. This covers not just Merseyside but the whole UK, and is an extremely valuable source of information on a wide range of social-economic issues.

Firms database: We hold a database of firms in Merseyside. This has been built up from local databases compiled by the Districts, from information from the Census of Employment, and from some detailed local studies - for example, the work done on our annual survey of companies in the MDC area. It is available for analysis or, subject to various confidentiality constraints on some of the data, for producing lists or samples.

Business confidence survey: We analyse, on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, a quarterly sample survey of business confidence. This has covered Liverpool, Knowsley and Sefton, and will soon be extended (in co-operation with the Wirral Chamber) across the Mersey.
Contact: John Harrison

Census products
The 1991 Census of Population data has now all been distributed from MIS to our supporters, including the Migration and Special Workplace data. Districts have taken the Census Data supplied through MIS and produced a range of Census digests for their own areas.

Any of the hundreds of Census variables can be mapped by Ward or Enumeration District (ED) for all or part of Merseyside on our GIS systems.

We looked at the various commercial programmes for summarising the complex Census data. With the 1981 Census we had used a system based on the ACORN product: for 1991 we commissioned the production of 1991 Super Profiles for Merseyside Enumeration Districts.

Each ED is allocated to one of 160 categories on the basis of Census and some other market research and profile data. These 160 "Clusters" can be combined into 40 higher-level groups called "Target Markets", or into 10 "Lifestyles".

With other county bodies in North West England we commissioned the *North West Census Atlas* from the Regional Research Laboratory.

A customised pack of Census information, including maps of boundaries, was produced for the Adviser in each Local Education Authority, for school use.
Contact: Jim Kerrigan

Surveys
Calls on us to carry out surveys, large and small, continue to grow. With developments such as CCT and the Citizen's Charter we are sure this will continue. Surveys carried out just within the last year include:

- large scale Skills Audits of all households in much of the Liverpool Inner City area
- a base-line household survey for Bootle Maritime City Challenge
- assistance with a Liverpool City survey on a proposed Recycling Plan
- a postal survey of financial problems of former Wirral Metropolitan College Students
- customer surveys of planning applicants for Sefton

MBC and for Wirral MBC

- surveys for Merseyside Police of people involved in traffic accidents and career plans of Police officers
- a survey to assess the impact of the Battle of the Atlantic 50th Anniversary Commemoration
- an annual survey for Merseyside Development Corporation of investment and employment by companies in the MDC area
- a survey of companies in St. Helens for St. Helens MBC and Qualitec
- traffic surveys to measure the impact of the possible closure of the Conway St. flyover in Birkenhead
- a survey of interchange characteristics of passengers at a selection of Merseyrail stations

The continued demand for surveys has led to a further re-organisation in MIS. Alan Holcroft has been appointed as Survey Manager to co-ordinate the survey programme, and there are two Assistant Survey Managers: Mary Hutchins and - joining us recently - Anna Coleman.
Contact: Alan Holcroft

Forecasting of traffic growth
As part of work on traffic growth, MIS has obtained the TEMPRO database from the Department of Transport. This gives the trip ends, car ownership and planning data by District for each year to 2025 AD, together with the North West region and GB comparisons.
Contact: Mike Kilby or Alistair Newman

Car ownership
We have recently produced an updated car ownership report which provides details of vehicle registrations by district by year for 1981-1992. There are also tables for cars/person and cars/household by ward for 1981 and 1991.
Contact: Alistair Newman for report MIS 94.16

Fuller details of what we have done, and what we are doing, can be seen in the formal projects set out in our Annual Report, available on request.
Contact: Brian Jones for a copy of the Annual Report

Telephone for all contacts: 0151-236 4131

Newcastle City Council

Each of the following reports is available price £5 including p&p by contacting Edna Hetherington, Research Section, Chief Executive's Department, Newcastle City Council, Civic Centre, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE99 2BN (Tel: 091-232 8520 Ext. 5036 Fax: 091-232 1107)

Newcastle Poverty Profile
As part of the City Council's anti-poverty strategy, the Research Section has published a *Poverty Profile of Newcastle upon Tyne*. The report presents a wide range of statistics, including benefit dependency, low pay, unemployment, health indicators, housing data, reported crime, educational achievement, transport and multiple deprivation. Among the key findings are that over 35% of children in the city are living in Income Support dependent households, that 45% of all unemployed people in the city have been out of work for more than a year, that infant death rates and SMRs have increased in recent years, and that since 1980 incidents of reported crime have doubled, with one ward recording 225 burglaries from dwellings per 1000 households in 1993.
Contact: Deb Tyler 091-232 8529 Ext. 5039

Profile of Young People in Newcastle
This report presents information and statistics about young people aged 16-25 in Newcastle. The main areas included are education, training, employment, health, poverty, housing and criminal justice. Key aspects of the report are the different distribution of youth unemployment compared with adult unemployment, the concentration of Youth Trainees in non-employer based schemes, severe hardship among young people and its link with offending, and student poverty.
Contact: Deb Tyler 091-232 8520 Ext. 5039

Identifying Community Needs Using the Priority Search Technique
Priorities for neighbourhood improvements were identified by the Research Section using focus groups and the priority search technique with residents of an inner city housing estate in Newcastle. Focus groups were held with young men, young women, families, ethnic minorities and older people. Crime prevention, road safety, rubbish clearance, local activities and a greater social mix were identified as particularly important topics where action was needed. The priority search technique enables clear priorities to be identified and their relative importance to be measured. The results will be used to inform a neighbourhood improvement strategy.
Contact: Deb Tyler 091-232 8520 Ext. 5038

Reception Services in Social Services Offices
A survey of reception and information services in the local offices of Newcastle's Social Services Department has been undertaken to identify the type of improvements perceived as important by users of the offices. In general, high levels of satisfaction with the services were evident but improvements needed included activities to occupy children and better privacy. There were some marked variations between offices.
Contact: Rajshree Shirbhate/Tim Blackman 091-232 8520 Ext. 5038/5034

REORGANISING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

NORTH TYNESIDE - A NEW APPROACH

North Tyneside is in the national spotlight for its extensive restructure. Now we're holding a major conference to tell you how it was done.

National Conference 7th March 1995

- Education
- Community Services
- Social Care
- One Stop Shops
- Cultural Change
- Member Structures
- Partnerships
- *and the total package for change*

Call Elaine Borthwick on 0191 262 7371
Fax Victor Gallant on 0191 263 5752

Monitoring City Challenge
The Second Annual Report of the City Challenge Information Strategy has been published by the Research Section. The report presents key indicators of economic and social change in Newcastle's City Challenge area, making comparisons over time and with the city as a whole. Three years into the City Challenge initiative, the area has not changed its position in relation to the rest of the city, with the exception of some types of crime and female unemployment, where the gap has closed in comparison with the rest of the city, and the proportion of Year 11 pupils in the City Challenge area not entered for GCSEs, which fell in 1993.
Contact: Chris Stephens 091-232 8520 Ext. 5035

City Challenge Area Skills Audit
A report on a survey of skills, qualifications, job choice and barriers to accessing employment among residents of Newcastle's City Challenge area has been published by the Research Section. The report includes separate analyses of white, black, lone parent and disabled respondents.
Contact: Rajshree Shirbhate/Tim Blackman 091-232 8520 Ext. 5038/5034

Housing Services for the Mentally Vulnerable
The Research Section has completed a survey which assesses the nature of difficulties faced by people vulnerable to mental health problems. Among the key findings are that the quality of life of people with these problems depends in part on appropriate housing in appropriate areas, and that problems are more intense among people aged under 45 and informal carers. Although people assessed as less vulnerable identified the same type of problems with their neighbourhood as people assessed as more vulnerable, the latter group was more likely to identify these as problems. Those respondents with 'moderate or high levels of mental health problems were less likely to have contact with relatives or friends. High levels of mental health problems were found among a sample taken from the housing waiting list. The study, commissioned by the Housing Department, will be used to inform multi-agency mental health strategies.
Contact: Marian Howett 091-232 8520 Ext. 5037

Nottinghamshire County Council

The Planning Policy Group of the Department of Planning and Economic Development produce a range of planning related bulletins and short reports on economic employment, population, Census and retail issues amongst others.

Census Profiles and Bulletins
Four volumes provide profiles of 1991 Census statistics for the wards and parishes in the County. Each profile (100% and 10% for each area) holds about 80% counts for commonly used statistics. The volumes cost £25 each. Profiles for districts in the County are included in two free 'Census Bulletins'. Others include First Census results, Census guides and Ethnic Minorities.
Contact: Maria Moroz (0115) 9774541

Population Projections and Estimates
County, District and 'Sub-Area' population projections have been produced in line with the Draft County Structure Plan. These are available by age and sex in Population Bulletin PB 94/2. They will be updated when the Structure Plan is approved in late 1995. Population Estimates for Wards and Parishes are produced annually, based upon OPCS mid-year estimates. Other population issues such as migration are dealt with occasionally.
Contact: Sonia Tomlinson (0115) 9774538 or Maria Moroz (0115) 9774541

Household and Dwelling Estimates
As part of the Structure Plan projection process an assessment of households has been made using information from the OPCS mid-year estimates, 1991 Census results and information from the Census User Guide on under-enumeration. An initial estimate using the OPCS adjustment to Census Resident population was seen to over estimate households.

The results, while not final, appear to indicate that Census household size is lower than a figure which takes the undercount into account.
Contact: Richard Cooper (0115) 9774541

Economic and Employment Bulletins
An Employment Bulletin reviewing unemployment and employment statistics for the County and its districts is published monthly. A bi-monthly Economic Bulletin reviews the economic events affecting the County. Regular brief studies of aspects of the County's economy are published, including aspects of coal industry decline.

Contact: Les Kightley or Peter Elderton (0115) 9774328

NEWS FROM SCOTLAND

LARIA In Scotland GIS Seminar

LARIA in Scotland is planning a GIS seminar which is expected to take place in June 1995. The seminar will examine/consider how to develop GIS beyond 'digital mapping' into areas of data integration and policy analysis. Speakers will include Alan Bourke (Scottish Homes), Isabel Page (Gordon District), Geoff Robson (Highland Region), Rob Swainston (Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council), and Ian Masser or Heather Campbell (University of Sheffield).

For further information and advance booking information please contact Simon Ellis (Lothian Region) on 031-469 3859

Launch of Scottish Local Government Academic Network
An important new link between local government and the academic community was forged late last year with the formal inauguration of the Scottish Local Government Academic Network. It was marked by a conference "*Towards New Governance: research, policy and practice*," hosted by the University of Strathclyde, and the publication of a directory listing more than 200 academic contacts in Scotland with an interest in local governance issues and research.

Participants from a wide range of local government and academic backgrounds - including many LARIA in Scotland contacts - took part in workshop sessions focused on various corporate and strategic issues of local government concern: decentralisation; the management of change; local authorities as enablers; joint working; urban regeneration; community care; the environment; poverty.

In an opening address, **Professor Gerry Stoker**, chair of the Network's Steering Group (and co-ordinator of the ESRC Local Governance Initiative) outlined the key purposes of the Network: promotion of the exchange of information, ideas and expertise between academic community and local government, having regard to such developments as the recent white paper *Realising Our Potential* and the ESRC's corporate plan, which underline the importance of research providers, such as academic institutions, developing a closer relationship with their "user" communities, such as local authorities.

As the publication of the directory has confirmed, he told his audience, academic staff have a wealth of specialist knowledge and expertise on offer - in such fields as economics, housing, planning, management, marketing, and social policy - which could be tapped into by local authorities. He saw the Network becoming an important all-purpose clearing house for ideas and information which would be expected to lead to better policy making and practice.

Speaking from a local authority perspective, **Graham Atherton**, Research Officer, Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, which was giving the Network its support, outlined the needs, difficulties and opportunities which faced local authorities as organisations using the fruits of research and intelligence to inform their policies and practices. The Network constituted another important building block - following the foundation of LARIA in Scotland almost a year earlier - which needed to be cemented into the research and intelligence process in local government.

The Network's Steering Group will be considering at its next meeting how to capitalise upon the momentum built up by the conference and the publication of the directory (which was being circulated widely among local authority, LARIA in Scotland and other key contacts). It has also registered interest in working with LARIA in Scotland to promote the networking process.
Contact: Graham Atherton, COSLA, 031-346 1222.
Email: aa91@solo.pipex.com

NEWS FROM ELSEWHERE

Aston Community Involvement Unit

Information on Voluntary Sector Research in Newham

Aston Community Involvement Unit is a voluntary sector agency working in the London Borough of Newham. Their Research Officer helps local community groups carry out surveys and gather information relevant to their work. Major themes recently include poverty alleviation and small area census studies. The unit often works collaboratively with the local authority and contributed to the recent Newham Poverty Profile ("Poverty on Your Doorstep" by Steve Griffiths ... available from Rita Davies, Anti Poverty Welfare Rights Unit of LB Newham (tel 081-472 1430)).

Geography, Ethnicity and Poverty - Newham in the 1991 Census by Greg Smith

This working paper (soon to be formally published through Queen Mary College Geography Department) based on their analysis of 1991 Census material is now available at a cost of £5 (from Aston CIU, Durning Hall, Earlham Grove, London E7 9AB).

The small area statistics of the 1991 census, in particular the availability for the first time of an "ethnic" question, provide the opportunity for detailed geographical and ecological analysis of the most deprived and second most ethnically diverse local authority district in England. A brief overview of the census statistics for the whole of Newham sets the scene. Factor analysis is then used to show how particular types of deprivation are correlated with ethnicity at the enumeration district level. In particular overcrowding and poor housing conditions are found in neighbourhoods where South Asian Communities are concentrated, while lone parent families are more likely to be found in predominantly white and Afro Caribbean neighbourhoods with high levels of Council accommodation. Cluster analysis is then used to break down the borough into fourteen distinct types of enumeration districts which are then mapped to show their location. With the exception of one cluster all the types show at least one indicator of above (borough) average deprivation. Finally indices of dissimilarity are calculated to quantify the extent of ethnic segregation in the borough. The findings are discussed in the light of Chicago school zone and sector theory and with reference to Rex's notion of housing class as an explanation of growing ethnic conflict over housing policy. A final section suggests how this research can be used by the local authority and community groups to support campaigns for greater resources for the borough and to target the resources which are available in the most appropriate ways for the alleviation of poverty.

Three other items available from the unit:

The Directory of Research in Newham published by Newham Community Research Forum... cost £5 (from Aston CIU, Durning Hall), Earlham Grove, London E7 9AB). This lists and gives contact people for over 100 research projects commissioned or carried out in the last few years by Newham Council, East London Health Authorities, University of East London and other academic bodies and voluntary sector groups. It is hoped to keep the database up to date in preparation for future editions and the CIU will be pleased to receive relevant information about new research.

Neighbourhood & Networks in Newham is a report on a small survey carried out in Newham in late 1993 exploring the personal support networks of local residents. The research method, findings and recommendations are of particular interest to those involved in the community care planning process (see article on page 3 for more details) cost £3 (from Aston CIU, Durning Hall, Earlham Grove, London E7 9AB).

The Directory of Religious Groups in Newham (2nd edition) is due out in December 94. It is an important networking tool covering over 250 religious organisations in a single borough. In addition it challenges the myth that inner urban areas are secularised places. It also gives details of similar directories of religion in three adjacent East London Boroughs, cost £3 (from Aston CIU, Durning Hall, Earlham Grove, London E7 9AB).

British Society for Population Studies

1995 Conference: Call for papers

The 1995 BSPS Conference will be held from August 30th-September 1st in the heart of the Sussex Downs at the University of Brighton and will feature strands on Local Authority Demography; Migration; Women and Children; Families and Households; Mortality and Health and Historical Demography.

Local Authority Demography

These sessions will look at a wide range of Local Authority applications of demography. We are looking for contributions from all areas of demography, e.g.

- demographic methods
- application of demographic information
- policy implications of demographic information
- dissemination of demographic data
- preparation of demographic data in the light of the Local Government Reorganisation

Please send a 100-150 word abstract to Louise Johnson, County Planning Department, Dorset House, 20 Christchurch Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH1 3NL by April 10th or telephone Louise on (01202) 221014, Fax (01202) 221375

Leeds Metropolitan University

Community Research - Help Wanted

The Policy Research Unit at Leeds Metropolitan University is currently collecting reports on research undertaken in communities relating to needs, services or facilities (eg community profiles, social audits, needs audits). More than 70 studies have already been collected and a selection were published as a bibliography in *Community Profiling: auditing social needs* (Open University Press, 1994). There are now plans to expand on this work and attempt to produce a bibliography that is as comprehensive as possible. Once the bibliography is complete it will be widely publicised. If you have undertaken any research of this nature and have any reports that are available we would gladly receive them. If there is a charge for your publications, please contact PRU first or send details.

Contact: Anne Foreman, Geraint Hughes, Policy Research Unit, Leeds Metropolitan University, 16 Queen Square, Leeds LS2 8AJ. Tel: (0532) 833225).

Humberside TEC

Annual Economic Review

Humberside's economy is now leading where it used to lag, according to the Humberside Training and Enterprise Council. But it warns that the area is not naturally destined to lead.

In its fifth annual economic review, the TEC points to Humberside's comparative resilience in the recent recession and expresses cautious optimism for the future.

Historically, the review says, Humberside has borne the brunt of recessionary impacts much more acutely than Britain as a whole. For once, however, this does not seem to be so much the case. Other areas to the west and south have emerged as new employment and business failure blackspots.

In this year's review, the TEC has probed more deeply into Humberside's comparative resilience which has enabled it to take a national lead in economic recovery. Looking forward, it is cautiously optimistic about short-term prospects, but it is cautious that challenges ahead need to be tackled if the edge is not to be taken off Humberside's growing competitiveness. The area does not have all the key success ingredients to stay ahead.

The review voices concerns over potential mismatches, in particular the increasing supply of higher qualified entrants to the workforce with their higher expectations which is in danger of outstripping employer demand for skilled people. The nature of responses by individuals, businesses and organisations supporting the local economy, the review says, will be critical to sustained economic development.

It calls for partnership approaches as a requisite for success, and these must be more than token initiatives. By providing analyses and highlighting issues, the 1994 Economic Review maps out beginnings of a partnership agenda for Humberside's economic development.

Peter Fryer, Managing Director of the TEC, said: "This is the most profound and comprehensive review of Humberside's prospects for many years. We shall be using it as the basis for the continuous improvement of our services."

He urged others to carry out their own critical assessment of how they fit in so that everyone can work together to maintain and improve Humberside's competitiveness.

Contact: Margaret Airs, Public Relations Works on (0759) 303471

School for Advanced Urban Studies (SAUS)

The School for Advanced Urban Studies at the University of Bristol have produced their Autumn 1994 Research Bulletin which summarises a wide range of research work which SAUS has been involved with. Some 80 projects are listed including:

- Local governance and labour market fragmentation
- TECs and provision for people from ethnic minorities
- Consumer involvement in health care delivery evaluation
- Evaluation of emerging community care systems in Avon
- Financial management assistance schemes for elderly people with dementia in Kirklees
- Avon 'Special Needs' housing survey
- Monitoring the implementation of the community care reforms
- Evaluation of renewal areas and neighbourhood renewal assessment
- Wrekin housing needs study
- Rural incomes and housing affordability
- Client/purchaser/enabler roles in local government
- Learning from customers and citizens

- Bradford City Council's policy of community government: audit of progress

For a copy of the Bulletin contact: Carroll Pierce (0272) 741117

ARVAC - Association for Research in the Voluntary & Community Sector

Code of Good Practice for Researching in the Voluntary and Community Sector

Partly spurred on by the recent surge of academic interest in research in the voluntary sector and the prospect of hosts of eager academic researchers rushing in 'where angels fear to tread', ARVAC believes that now would be an appropriate time to establish a 'Code of Good Practice for Researching in the Voluntary Sector'.

ARVAC would argue that researching in the voluntary and community sector requires a particular appreciation of the mores and values of voluntary and community organisations and the wider sector as a whole, as well as a particular understanding of the sensitive process of carrying out research in this dynamic and volatile field.

As a first step it aims to put together a draft code of practice.

ARVAC Bulletin Winter 1994
The Bulletin contains a wide range of items of interest to anyone researching in the voluntary and community sector. This includes the three paragraphs above and reports on two conferences: "Researching Voluntary and Community Action: A New Climate?" (ARVAC AGM and Annual Workshop, 21 September 1994) and "Research in the Community: How to do it?" (ARVAC Training Workshop, 18 October 1994).
Contact: Pat Marsden (0206) 824281

CENSUS RESCUE SERVICE

In this issue readers have again raised a number of very important issues. Although virtually all of the 1991 Census data have now been released, problems and questions are continuing to arise. As 2001 draws nearer and planning for the next Census begins, new issues are also coming up so that it seems likely Census Rescue will continue to be busy for some time to come yet.

Please send your census problems, and solutions if you have them, to:

LARIA Census Rescue Service,
c/o Planning and Transport Research,
Buckinghamshire County Council,
County Hall,
Aylesbury,
Bucks HP20 1UY

LARIA Special Census Data Workshop

The LARIA Workshop on Special Census Data in October was attended by 58 people and feedback from delegates indicates that most found the event very useful. A collection of the speaker's papers will be published shortly. Contact Sue Gee, LARIA administrator for further details.

One delegate raised a very interesting issue following the Workshop concerning the construction of a ward index to describe travel to work characteristics. Here is her letter.

A Travel to Work Index for Wards?

Dear Census Rescue
I have been exploring the possibilities of combining several items of data about a ward to produce an overall index which describes that ward in terms of its journey to work characteristics. This could be achieved using multivariate analysis but I am really looking for something less complicated and, perhaps, more easily understood by the non-technical user. (Maybe along the lines of various deprivation indices.)

Some of the factors I have considered using include the following:

Average (or median) journey length, Number of residents/workers (these first two possibly in combination), In and out flows - could be linked to a 'self-containment' index, Population of people working at home, Mode of transport - % using cars.

There are obviously all sorts of logistical problems in combining different data items but I would be interested to hear from anyone who has had similar thoughts or has any brilliant ideas as to how such an index could be constructed.

Elizabeth Belcher
County Planning Department
Bedfordshire County Council
County Hall
Cauldwell Street
Bedford MK42 9AP
Tel (01234) 363222 Fax (01234) 228232

Preparing for 2001

Dear Census Rescue
How can we ensure that the lessons of the last Census are fed in to the 2001 Census to avoid some of the problems we encountered in 1991?

E. Numerator and A. User

Dear Ms Numerator and Mr User
Strategic planning work for the 2001 Census is already underway and OPCS have held consultation meetings recently to review the 1991 experience and draw lessons from it. We understand that OPCS welcome any further comments which will help them plan the 2001 Census. Write to Faith Anderson, Census Development Programme, Room 4121, OPCS, Segensworth Road, Titchfield, Fareham, Hants PO15 5RR.

Count Von Toothree
Census Rescue Service

SARs Workshop for Local Authorities

Dear Census Rescue
We have the SARs for our county but are finding it difficult to work out how to make best use of them in a local authority. Most of the examples we have seen so far don't seem to be very relevant to our work.

A. Nonnie Mouse

Dear Nonnie
Help is at hand. The Census Microdata Unit are running a series of workshops aimed at the needs of local authorities. A three-part programme is planned beginning with basic analysis of microdata and moving through more complex analysis issues in workshops two and three. Workshop One will take place on 24 January in Manchester or 27 January in London. The cost will be £50 per person per workshop including full documentation and lunch and much of the day will be devoted to practicals. For information and booking form contact: Tracey Schofield, Census Microdata Unit, Faculty of Economics and Social Studies, University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL Tel 0161-275 4735 Fax 0161-275 4722.

Karl Kewlater
Census Rescue Service

Special Migration and Workplace Statistics re-releases

Dear Census Rescue
I'm very worried about the extra costs of handling the re-release of the Special Migration Statistics due to the omission of total flows from outside Great Britain in the first release. What can I do?

M. I. Grant

Dear Ms Grant
IDLG has been considering this problem and at its last meeting agreed to press for a Service Level Agreement with OPCS for 2001 in view of all the data error and timetable problems for 1991. Contact John Hollis for further information about this (0171 627 9604). Catherine Knight of Cheshire has also expressed concern about these extra costs and I suggest that you contact her to swap experience and useful tips (01244 602117). By the way, you will probably already have heard from OPCS that they also intend to re-supply the Special Workplace Statistics. In the meantime, OPCS can supply lists of affected wards if you do not already have these.

Stan D'Arderro
Census Rescue Service

Table 100

Dear Census Rescue
Table 100 still doesn't seem to make much sense to me. I get the feeling something is missing. Am I right?

Student T. Test
Cambridge

Dear Student Test
Yes we understand that some students with home address in Cambridge and Lothian Region were omitted from Table 100 data. We understand that OPCS will be resupplying all purchasers during January 1995. Contact Miss N Collins, Census Customer Services, OPCS, Segensworth Road, Titchfield, Fareham, Hants PO15 5RR

Martha Matticks
Census Rescue Service

OPERATIONAL RESEARCH & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Please send contributions for this regular feature of LARIA News to John Bancroft (address on page 2).

Cheshire County Council

Cheshire Management Consultancy is currently involved in the following areas of work:

National RSG Work
John Whiteoak, Group Director of Resources has been the principal RSG Negotiator for England since the start of this financial year. In this capacity he leads for all the local authority associations in discussions with government that lead to the annual revenue support grant settlement. In addition, he is lead financial adviser to the ACC and provides comprehensive information and advice to ACC committees and all 39 shire Counties.

To support these roles, a team has been established in Policy Planning, part of the Resources Planning service. This team has been involved in a wide range of issues over the past nine months including work on the Police funding formula and evaluating possible changes to SSA formulae. To assist on this work, a set of computer models has been developed that can calculate SSAs for all English local authorities and enable the implications of alternative formulae to be identified.

The provisional RSG settlement for 1995/96 was announced soon after the budget on 29 November 1994. During the week immediately after the announcement, the team analysed and interpreted the settlement and how elements have changed from this year. It communicates this information to all shire Counties as a matter of urgency.
Contact: John Bartley or Bill Keddie, Cheshire RSG Team (0244) 603334

Bulletin Board for the Deaf Society
Cheshire Management Consultancy are currently working for Cheshire Deaf Society to enhance their Bulletin Board System. This is a PASCAL computer program which allows deaf people to access information and send e-mail messages via minicoms or PCs located at home or at libraries. The project is being sponsored by the EEC and Cheshire County Council.

Cheshire Deaf Society are also implementing a video conferencing system for deaf people to access staff in County Services. Again, the system will be located in libraries.
Contact: Neil Turner (0244) 603342

Data Entry or Filing/Retrievals/Storage Problems
Document Image Processing could be a solution for you.

What is DIP?

1. DIP is not a single stand-alone IT solution, as for example a spreadsheet or database, but a collection of IT hardware and software applications enabling active interchange between paper based data and IT data.

2. DIP is the application of information technology to the problems of data input, managing the storage, retrieval and work flow of paper based information. DIP systems provide for the storing, accessing, retrieving and distribution of documents in electronic form using common access systems.

3. DIP provides users with the opportunity to change current methods of documentation handling, reducing operating costs and speed up file handling in response to user demands.

DIP provides sophisticated management analysis of all documentation, by who, why, where, how long, how many and other utilisation factors.
Contact: Graham Watts (0244) 603340

Advice on Implementation of SLAs
Management Consultancy have drawn on their experience of the internal market to advise Information and Leisure's Tourism and Marketing service on the practical aspects of implementing SLAs. This project covered such topics as product/service definition, resource management and analysis, cost apportionment, and charge rates.
Contact: Mark Brierley/David Swaffield (0244) 603333/ 603336

Local Resource Management, Phase 3/4 Support
This project is concerned with the provision of training and support to the implementation of local financial systems in schools. Although work initially concentrated on training for the Local Resource Management (LRM) module of SIMS, support has been extended to cover the wider range of payment options now available to schools, eg Local Bank Accounts, Extended Imprest, Direct Payments Link. Future work on this project includes assistance in the analysis and development of LRM (Version 4) and the development of the bought back support package for schools seeking Grant Maintained Status.
Contact: Gill Allen (0244) 603091

NOTES & QUERIES

This section takes a sometimes serious, sometimes slightly frivolous approach to problem solving by correspondence. If you have a query related to the research and intelligence field, send it in to the editors and we will print it.

We've used the two queries received in other sections this time see pages 4 and 21.

Please keep your Notes & Queries coming in to the Editors.

NOT THE TIMEBOMB: DEMOGRAPHY MATTERS

Send your contributions, news and views, however short, for future issues to Steve Simpson, City of Bradford Metropolitan Council, Research Section, City Hall, Bradford BD1 1HY. Tel (0274) 754252 Fax (0274) 752065

Estimating with Confidence Workshop:
An Introduction to Population Projections and Estimates for Small Areas, University of Southampton 24-26 April 1995

This workshop, part of the Estimating with Confidence project, is aimed at junior researchers in Local Authorities and will include the following:

- Recent demographic trends in the UK and its regions;
- Data sources for population projections and estimates;
- How to make small area population projections and estimates;
- Measuring the accuracy of small area projections and estimates.

The workshop will comprise lectures, practicals and computer sessions. It will be led by Ian Diamond (Estimating with Confidence and University of Southampton) and Louise Johnson (Dorset CC and Estimating with Confidence Steering Group). There will also be input from other members of the Department of Social Statistics at the University of Southampton and from Local Authority Researchers.

The cost will be £80 which includes lunch but does not include dinner or accommodation. For further details contact Kathy Hooper, Department of Social Statistics, University of Southampton (01703) 594547.

Mid 1991 Ward Estimates
A consultation exercise with local authorities involved in Estimating with Confidence has led to a generally acceptable set of local adjustments to the 1991 census, to provide mid-1991 population estimates by age and sex. The adjustments include students at their term-time address and a plausible allowance for census under-enumeration. They are constrained to add to the official mid-1991 population estimate for each district.

It is hoped that by the time this issue of LARIA News appears, both a working paper describing the methodology, and the estimates for all wards in England and Wales will be available. OPCS are likely to market these estimates. Work on wards in Scotland and other census areas including parishes, postal sectors and EDs will follow.

Initial enquiries to Rachel Tye, Estimating with Confidence, Census Microdata Unit, University of Manchester M13 9PL, tel. 061-275 4736/5.

Calling all 'CAMPOP' Users!
'CAMPOP' - Cambridgeshire CC's population/household/economically active projection model - recently celebrated its 20th birthday. Over the years the original mainframe FORTRAN program has been transferred to PCs and broken down to sub-routines. However, it is definitely showing its age and we are sorely in need of some major improvements. Top of the shopping list is the requirement to include gross migration flows - and improvements to the handling of 'transient' (non-ageing) populations. Some of the logic needs an overhaul too!

Before going ahead and specifying a brief for the re-writes and 'add-ons' we would like to find out if we are duplicating work that others might have done. We know that several of you have CAMPOP - and have tinkered with it over the years. Perhaps you have already examined these issues - and may have the answers. Alternatively you might like to join with us in improving the model - even making it user-friendly with a menu!

If you are interested in this project, please call Richard Potter on (01223) 317208. If there is sufficient enthusiasm we would like to arrange a discussion about the development brief early in the New Year. And if you have any documentation which might help, we'd love to see it. Contact the Research Group,Corporate Planning Department, Room 213, Cambridgeshire County Council, Shire Hall, Castle Hill, Cambridge CB3 0AP.

LARIA EVENTS

LARIA 1995 Conference
Edinburgh 10th-12th April

The subject of this years conference is Policy & Research in a Culture of Change. There are a number of themes covering:

- How new and continuing authorities cope with the changing environment
- The Superhighway and information systems for new and continuing authorities
- Resource allocation and identifying need
- Local Statistics
- Education, adding value and forecasting need
- Population Estimates

Full details and booking form can be found as an insert to this copy of **LARIA News**
Contact: Sue Gee (0734) 783776

LARIA IN SCOTLAND - ANNUAL OPEN FORUM
15th March 1995

LARIA in Scotland is committed to holding an annual event which will set the scene for LARIA's work in Scotland over the coming year. The first Annual Forum is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 15th March 1995, in Stirling. The keynote speaker is Professor Gerry Stoker, from Strathclyde University's Department of Government, talking about Research and Information in Local Government. There will also be presentations and discussions about the work of LARIA in Scotland over the last year, and our plans for 1995-1996. Participation is free, and there will be a wine reception at the end of the event.

Anyone with an interest in LARIA in Scotland is very cordially invited to participate in this Open Forum.

Further details can be obtained from Richard Rollison (0786) 443381, or Dawn Turnbull (0786) 442942.

BOOK REVIEW

Census Microdata Unit (CMU) Publications

LARIA members are likely to be interested in a series of publications being produced by the Census Microdata Unit about Census data and issues arising from its use.

For anyone involved in (or exploring) the use of social indicators for resource allocation, Paper No.4 is essential reading. It contributes to the development and dissemination of practical steps to address issues that have been raised at LARIA events such as the Workshops and 1994 Annual Conference. While the report will not provide definitive answers, you will certainly come away much clearer of the implications (weaknesses) of different approaches. This paper should also stimulate further debate on these important issues.

Imputation was introduced in the 1991 Census as a means of improving upon the coverage achieved through enumeration. Paper No.1 provides an overview that should assist users in clarifying its limitations and implications at a local level. Hopefully it will ease the fears of many users by identifying the types of areas that were subject to the highest and lowest levels of imputation. It includes comparative statistics for all Districts and Boroughs in the country - giving indications of the level of imputation at District, Ward and ED levels. As such the paper offers a neat summary of the sort of analyses that many of us probably planned but never quite got round to completing. While welcoming the additional information the report provides, I can't help wishing that someone had carried out such an exercise much sooner.

Three papers relate to the Samples of Anonymised Records (SARs). I'm sure many of us in local government still have no real conception of how the SARs might be useful. I have long suspected that the best way to encourage their use, particularly within a local government context, is to provide case studies. Paper No.5 provides two examples, although it appears to assume a basic knowledge of the SARs. So don't start here if you want that introduction - the best source for that is still the Unit's "User Guide to the SARs".

Sadly the case studies included have been specially created and are likely to appeal more to the private sector given the language adopted. The time is yet to come for 'real' examples from local government, although this report is a start. (*SARs workshop coming up see page 19 - Editor*)

Paper No.3 appears to provide the technical manual detailing how to analyse the SARs using three common software packages (SPSS, SAS and QUANVERT), although like any such manual the proof is not in the reading but in the using! As most users are likely to be using only one of these, you are likely to find two thirds of the document irrelevant.

Paper No.2 seems essential background reading if you are using SARs and really want a feel for its reliability and how the data can (and cannot) be interpreted.

Finally, also available through the same channels is a report produced by the Manchester Census Group. Two primarily qualitative researchers try to make sense of the wealth of quantitative data provided by the 1991 Census on ethnic minority populations. The authors readily admit that theirs is a preliminary review of the data (and as such it covers national data that inevitably will be analysed in more depth elsewhere). But it does set a useful agenda for such analyses, emphasising that there is great heterogeneity not only among the minority groups but also, less explicitly, within the "white" majority. It also provides an assessment of the terms used in the Census and their interpretation which may make us start to think about what are the appropriate questions and terms to use in future Censuses. This report will help us to get value out of the 1991 results but also reminds us that we should be looking to a more "sympathetic understanding of the minorities' own definitions of themselves" for future Censuses.

The CMU Occasional Papers are as follows::

No.1 Problems of Imputation in the 1991 Census - Amarjit Sandhu

No.2 Bias, Sampling Error and Coverage: the preliminary validation of the Samples of Anonymised Records from the 1991 Census - Steve Simpson, Ed Fieldhouse & Amarjit Sandhu

No.3 An Introductory Guide to Analysing the SARs - Elizabeth Middleton

No.4 Resource Allocation using Measures of Relative Social Needs in Geographical Areas: the relevance of the signed chi-squared, the percentage and the raw count - Steve Simpson

No.5 Case Study Examples to Demonstrate the Use of Samples of Anonymised Records in Marketing Analysis - Barry Leventhal

The Ethnic Dimensions of the 1991 Census: A Preliminary Report - Roger Ballard and Virinder Singh Kalra (Manchester Census Group)

All the above papers are available from Ruth Durrell, Census Microdata Unit, Faculty of Economic and Social Studies, University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL at a cost of £3 each (including post and packaging). Payment with order, cheque made payable to "The University of Manchester".

Review by John Jenkins, Head of Research & Information, Northamptonshire County Council

Making Contacts: a directory of information resources in local government
Bedfordshire County Council Local Government Information Service, September 1994, £25, 147pp, ISBN 1 85351 1889

This potentially valuable publication somehow does not live up to the promise of the price and title.

The first section describes the work of a typical local government information service and the results of a survey. This discovered just 15 Councils operating information services for their own internal purposes. All but two are in counties. London Boroughs, Scotland and Wales are not represented. The question of why do some authorities find information services so indispensable whilst others manage happily without them clearly needs investigation.

This is followed with a directory of information contacts for almost all local authorities in the UK, together with an index of names. It has been compiled from a survey, with the information at the mercy of whoever completes the form, which rather reduces the value. For example Allerdale lists the Chief Executive as the main information contact for the Council, though it is not clear that this is his position. Similarly for Wear Valley DC in the Head of Administration listed as contact is actually the Chief Officer. Otherwise contacts are likely to be in Public Relations, Marketing and Planning Policy Units. Although a major part of the book, it is little more helpful than entries in *Municipal Yearbook*.

The book concludes with a directory of information providers. It appears wide ranging and is potentially the most useful part of the book. Yet it makes no effort to compare the usefulness of the organisations listed.

To give an example, the British Library Automated Information Service receives rather more space than the Association of Metropolitan Authorities - but I would always rather tap sources at the AMA than try to seek information through BLAISE.

Obtaining information is often expensive, but probably cheaper than the price of not having information! Yet few local government officers approach obtaining information in a systematic way. They use a network of informal contacts and this book could just help that networking process. However, £25 seems excessive. If the final section could be developed to give a much fuller account of each information service then, to paraphrase the Fat Controller, we could have a really useful publication.

Roger Backhouse, Policy and Review Officer, London Borough of Barking & Dagenham

Publication Received for Review

Involving Older People in Planning and Evaluating Community Care: a review of initiatives by Patricia Thornton and Rosemary Tozer
Social Policy Research Unit, University of York, 1994, 105pp, £7.50, ISBN 1-871713-45-5

Readers interested in reviewing this publication for LARIA News please contact John Bancroft (address on page 2).

Publishers please send books or other publications for review to the Editor, Alison Smith (address on page 2).

NOTICEBOARD

January 24 London
Local Government Anti-Poverty Unit Workshop
"Measuring Poverty"
Contact: 071-227 2878

January 24 Leeds
Leeds Metropolitan University Policy Research Unit Seminar
"Developing Strategic Management in Local Government"
Contact: Jean Richardson (0532) 833225

January 24 Manchester
Census Microdata Unit
"Workshop on SARs"
Contact: Tracy Schofield 0161-275 4735

January 25 Birmingham
Operational Research Society Training Course
"Games and Drama"
Contact: Chris Barrett (0121) 233 9300

January 26 London
Mapinfo User Group Meeting
Contact: Terry Tysoe (0908) 682547

January 27 London
Census Microdata Unit
"Workshop on SARs"
Contact: Tracy Schofield 0161-275 4735

January 31 Birmingham
Social Services Research Group Seminar
"Getting the Measure of Community Care: Monitoring the Mixed Economy"
Contact: David Henderson (01743) 253786

February 1 London
ARVAC Seminar
"Setting the Agenda: Improving Good Practice in Research in the Voluntary and Community Sector in the UK"
Contact: Pat Marsden (0206) 824281

February 2-3 University of Bristol, School for Advanced Urban Studies
"Decentralisation: Models and Examples"
Contact: Lucy Gaster, 0117-974 1117

February 7 Leeds
Leeds Metropolitan University Policy Research Unit Seminar
"Needs Auditing for Effective Local Services"
Contact: Jean Richardson (0532) 833225

February 8 London
Statistics Users Council Annual Conference
"Attitude Research in the Public Sector"
Contact: Ian Maclean (01372) 463121

February 9 Exeter
Western O.R. Discussion Society/University of Exeter Meeting
"Evaluating Health Services"
Contact: Tony Lewis (0272) 656261 Ext. 3134

February 13-17 Lancaster
Operational Research Society Training Course
"The Management of Complexity"
Contact: Chris Barrett (0121) 233 9300

February 14 London
South Bank University Local Economy Policy Unit Seminar
"The Impact of the New Government Offices for the Regions, SRB and City Pride"
Contact: Sam Aaronovitch 0171-815 7798

February 15 Birmingham
Midland/East Midlands O.R. Society Meeting
"Group Decision Support"
Contact: Mike Barnes (0332) 249468

February 28 Leeds
Leeds Metropolitan University Policy Research Unit Seminar
"Cable Technology Applications and Local Economic Development"
Contact: Jean Richardson (0532) 833225

February 28 London
South Bank University Local Economy Policy Unit Seminar
"EU Urban Policy: Meeting the Challenge"
Contact: Sam Aaronovitch 0171-815 7798

March 7 North Tyneside
North Tyneside Council National Conference
"Reorganising Local Government: North Tyneside - A New Approach"
Contact: Elaine Borthwick 0191-262 7371

March 7 Birmingham
Operational Research Society Training Course
"Introduction to System Dynamics"
Contact: Chris Barrett (0121) 233 9300

March 7 Venue t.b.a.
Local Government Anti-Poverty Unit Workshop
"Debt - Policy and Practice"
Contact: 071-227 2878

March 8 Birmingham
Operational Research Society Training Course
"Performance Measurement"
Contact: Chris Barrett (0121) 233 9300

March 15 Stirling
LARIA in Scotland - Annual Open Forum
Contact: Richard Rollison (0786) 443381 or Dawn Turnbull (0786) 442942

March 15 Leeds
Leeds Metropolitan University Policy Research Unit Seminar
"Meeting the Needs of Business Link Customers"
Contact: Jean Richardson (0532) 833225

March 16 Coventry
Operational Research Society Training Course
"Geographical Information Systems"
Contact: Chris Barrett 0121-233 9300

March 22 Birmingham
Operational Research Society Training Course
"Improving Forecasting"
Contact: Chris Barrett 0121-233 9300

March 30 Birmingham
Operational Research Society Training Course
"Effective Designs for Survey Investigation"
Contact: Chris Barrett 0121-233 9300

April 1-4 Bristol
International Conference on Survey Methodology and Process Quality
Contact: L Lyberg, R & D Dept., Statistics Sweden, S-11581 Stockholm, Sweden

April 3-4 Durham
Workshop Conference to mark 25 years of inner city policy
"Rivers of Blood: Cities in Crisis? - Urban Problems and Community Development in the late 1990s"
Contact: David Byrne, Dept of Sociology, University of Durham, Elvet Riverside, Durham DH1 3JT

April 6 London
British Society for Population Studies & Social & Official Statistics Sections of the Royal Statistical Society
"Looking towards the 2001 Census"
Contact: Marie Clarie Hislop, RSS, 12 Errol Street, London EC1Y 8LX

April 10-12 Edinburgh
LARIA Annual Conference 1995
"Policy and Research in a Culture of Change'
Contact: Sue Gee (0734) 783776

April 14 Leeds
Leeds Metropolitan University Policy Research Unit Seminar
"Performance Review and Quality in Local Government"
Contact: Jean Richardson (0532) 833225

April 24-26 Southampton
Estimating with Confidence Workshop
"An Introduction to Population Projections and Estimates for Small Areas"
Contact: Kathy Hooper (01703) 594547

April 26 London
O.R. Society Health & Social Services Study Group Meeting
"Balance of Care: Planning Care for Elderly People"
Contact: Ruth Kaufman 071-972 5198

April 28 London
Burisa 1995 Conference
"Populations, Postcodes and Points: Current Development using Geographical Information"
Contact: Anne Humprhies 0121-445 5955

Recent LARIA Publications

Research for Policy 92: Recent Developments in Local Government Research
(Proceedings of the 1992 LARIA Annual Conference),
July 1992 127pp
ISBN 1 85795 025 9 £20

Research for Policy 93: Community Identity, Information Strategies, New Angles on the Census
(Proceedings of the 1993 LARIA Annual Conference),
July 1993 117pp
ISBN 1 85795 075 5 £20

Research for Policy 94: Community Safety; Uses of 1991 Census Data; Housing; Local Government Reorganisation
(Proceedings of the 1994 LARIA Annual Conference),
September 1994 136pp
ISBN 1 85795 046 1 £20

Census Small Area Indicators of Poverty and Deprivation: Methodological Issues
(Papers from the LARIA/Manchester Census Group Workshops held in February and March 1993)
July 1993 80pp
ISBN 0 95076 812 X £10

Research & Intelligence and Change in Local Government: Opportunity, threat or challenge?
(Proceedings of the inaugural conference of LARIA in Scotland)
August 1994 32pp
ISBN 0 95076 813 8 £10

All the above available from:
Sue Gee, LARIA Administrator,
2 Turnstone Close,
Winnersh, Wokingham,
Berkshire RG11 5LQ.

Cheques with order please, payable to LARIA, or invoice on request.

May 15 York
University of Humberside/SCPR Workshop
"Social Research with Asian Communities"
Contact: Gary Craig, School of Policy Studies, University of Humberside, Inglemire Avenue, Hull HU6 7LU

May 16 Leeds
Leeds Metropolitan University Policy Research Unit Seminar
"Skills Audit: The Lessons for Local Economic Development"
Contact: Jean Richardson (0532) 833225

June 13 London
O.R. Society Health & Social Services Study Group Meeting

One of Britain's leading research agencies invites you to choose from this menu.

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- Field & Tab
- Data Preparation
- Panels
- Postal Research
- Telephone Interviewing (C.A.T.I.)
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Tel: 081 993 2220
Fax: 081 993 1114

Monarch House, Victoria Road, London W3 6RZ.

Evaluation of Community Care Initiatives"
Contact: Ruth Kaufman 071-972 5198

June 16 Leeds
Leeds Metropolitan University Policy Research Unit Seminar
"Local Economic Assessments: The Way Ahead"
Contact: Jean Richardson (0532) 833225

June 20 Leeds
Leeds Metropolitan University Policy Research Unit Seminar
"Empowering Communities: What Role for IT?"
Contact: Jean Richardson (0532) 833225

July 11-12 Henley
Operational Research Society/IBM Conference
"The Evaluation of Information Technology"
Contact: Chris Barrett (0121) 233 9300

August 30-September 1 Brighton
British Society for Population Studies 1995 Conference
Contact: Louise Johnson (01202) 221014

September 5 London
London & South East O.R. Society Meeting
"Case Studies in Community O.R."
Contact: Lesley Swindley 071-242 9050 Extn 3530