Entry Form: LARIA Research Impact Awards 2014

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

**Can I apply?**

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

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

**What’s in it for you?**

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

**How to apply**

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

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

We look forward to hearing from you and good luck.

Neil Wholey

Chair

LARIA

Award Categories

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

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

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

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

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

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

**D: Best use of public data**

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

**E: New researcher of the year**

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

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

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| **Name of organisation(s) entering the award** (as it will appear in any published document)  | Lambeth Council |
| **Are you a public sector body?** (delete as applicable) | Yes  |
| **Corporate LARIA member number** | Lambeth Council joined LARIA as corporate member on 12/3/14Awaiting confirmation of membership number |
| **Do you agree to us publishing your award entry in full if you are shortlisted?** | Yes |

**Your contact details**

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

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

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| --- | --- |
| **Category you are entering** | Best community engagement/consultation |
| **Name of your entry** (as it will appear in any published document) | Neighbourhood Enhancement Programme |
| **Summary of your entry*****Word limit*** ***(200 words)*** | Lambeth Council has successfully delivered a community-led street improvement programme across six wards over a 12 month period, based on firm evidence of popular support.Improvements have included the creation of new community spaces and play areas, green routes through estates, educational projects and planting of over 300 trees, as well as a range of road safety measures. Working closely with other departments and agencies has helped us to quickly deliver improvements to services and facilities for which we are not responsible. We engaged the community in three phases, using a wide range of approaches, successfully encouraging community groups to lead the engagement in some areas.Around 8% of residents participated. We received many compliments, for example: “I feel you are working towards the world I want to live in. Thank you for your hard work”.“I just wanted to say how impressed I am with the letter I received asking for my opinion on which improvements I would prefer in my own area. The information was very succinct but comprehensive… all very professional. Most importantly, it feels good to live somewhere where the opinion of the locals is asked for and stands for something”. |
| **Wow factor**Give us the most important lesson learned, fact discovered or observation made within your entry***Word limit******(50 words)*** | The community-based Stockwell Partnership carried out 528 minority language face-to-face interviews for us in restaurants, hairdressers, mosques, playgrounds, after-school clubs and other venues with Portuguese, Spanish, Polish, Arabic, Somali, Tigrinian and Amharic speakers, amounting to almost half of the total responses we received from residents of the area. |
| **Synopsis**How does your entry meet the criteria for this award? What were the objectives and what impact did you have?How did you show partnership working, citizen/user involvement/engagement and innovation?***Word limit*** ***(500 words)*** | Lambeth Council received over £1 million from Transport for London to spend on street improvements by the end of March 2014. We engaged residents extensively during 2013 on how to spend this Neighbourhood Enhancement Programme (NEP) money.**Phase 1**: A postcard invited residents to consider what they like and do not like about their streets and how they could be improved. Residents could also respond electronically or by phone.The postcard was distributed to 38,000 households across the NEP area in April 2013. Posters and postcards were displayed in council offices, libraries, advice centres, GP surgeries, children’s centres and jobcentre plus\employment centres and street notices were fixed to lampposts. The postcard was also available on request in key community languages and alternative formats for visually impaired residents.Primary schools held ‘walk to school’ projects and competitions; we addressed assemblies and individual classes and engaged in informal discussions with parents at the school gates. And we attended events organised by youth and sports clubs. We met with residents’ associations and community groups. One conducted and analysed their own online survey; another developed detailed plans for a public piazza in their area and ran a highly participative consultation of residents. Another residents’ association designed and ran a successful exhibition asking residents to send in and comment on photos. We created a forum bringing together residents’ associations in one area: representatives noted enthusiastically the stronger links and communication flows between them. Several residents expressed an interest in setting up new residents’ associations in order to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the NEP.An extensive set of factsheets were developed to help residents to understand the range of options available for making their streets safer, cleaner and more attractive and the respective pros and cons and costs of each measure.After analysing residents’ responses project managers drew up a set of possible improvements designed to address the concerns raised by residents which fell within the scope of the NEP; the remaining comments were discussed with other departments. **Phase 2**: Twelve co-design workshops were held in July in community centres. All of the residents who had said that they wished to be kept informed were invited, as well as residents from the streets most likely to be directly affected by the proposals. **Phase 3**: We formally consulted all residents on the outcomes from those workshops. We listed all of the proposals, saying approximately how much each was likely to cost and wrote to every household in the NEP area in September asking residents how they would spend the £200,000 budget.**Decisions and feedback**: Ward councillors met with council officers at the end of October to consider the findings from the public consultation and to make decisions on which improvements should go ahead. In December 2013 we sent feedback on the consultation results and councillors’ decisions to all residents, placing more detailed information on the website.A programme of 50-60 schemes was delivered by the end of March 2014 – on time and on budget. |
| **What should LARIA members learn from your award entry?*****Word limit*** ***(200 words)*** | * Having a budget agreed in advance and needing to be spent within a tight timeframe contributed to speedy decision-making and implementation, which should build trust.
* Sometimes residents may need a longer lead-in time and more face-to-face contact and encouragement to understand what ‘permission’ we are giving them to change their streets and public spaces and to bring out their creative side.
* Some residents’ associations are prepared to lead community engagement, but may need to be incentivised.
* Working out when and how to feed in technical expertise to a resident-led process can be a challenge. Officers may be reluctant to step in too early, with the risk that sometimes schemes can be consulted on which are not feasible or which have an unreasonable impact on a particular group.
* Residents respond well when offered real choices and provided with the information they need (including costs) to form a view.
* Some councillors showed real leadership in bringing residents together and helping them to shape the schemes for their areas.
* Early engagement with officers in several departments helped to secure their buy-in, which proved vital when asking them to read and respond to large numbers of comments received from residents.
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| **Is there a published report or background information on your study publically available? Please provide this link.**(This will be not consulted as part of this submission but we may publish a link if you are successfully shortlisted) | There are feedback reports on each of the six NEP areas (and a seventh on ‘out of scope’ suggestions), on the NEP page of the Lambeth Council website: [www.lambeth.gov.uk/nep](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/nep)  |

**Rules of entry**

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