Time	Event
09:00-09.50	**Registration and networking**
09:50-10:00	**Introduction** **Gerallt Evans-Hughes, MD Global 1-Digital Insight and Chair of LARIA CPD Events Group, LARIA Council Member and LARIA Trustee.**
10:00-10:10	**Welcome Address**
10:10-10:40	**Session Details TBC** **CACI**
10.40-11.10	**Session Details TBC** **Dr Tommaso Spinelli, AI Senior Change Manager and Martin Kelly, Principal AI Technologist, Cabinet Office, Central Digital and Data Office (CDDO)**
11.10-11.30	**Refreshments and Networking**
11.30-12.00	**"We're going on an adventure!" - Kirklees Council's journey with Artificial Intelligence and Data Science** *This session will provide an overview of Kirklees Council's journey to date in its use of AI and data science, discussing how staff have been empowered to discover the art of the possible regarding data analytics.* *Kirklees Council has a small Data and Insight service which is in the early stages of leveraging AI and data science techniques to generate more robust and insightful analytics. Despite the current financial challenges, colleagues have been upskilling to learn and apply new AI and analytical techniques using Python. The session will show examples of projects completed using Python, including descriptive and predictive analytics, discussing the benefit that this new way of working has provided to the service and wider council.* *This presentation will highlight challenges we have faced, including promoting a cultural shift in the way we work and building confidence with our stakeholders regarding the benefit of data science and AI techniques.* *Throughout the session, the benefits and potential pitfalls of AI will be discussed. One challenge which will be highlighted is the use of AI language models (like ChatGPT) when learning new analytical techniques in python. AI language models have proved to be of great value by quickly providing answers to complex questions and producing solutions when errors in coding occur. However, AI language models present an array of inherent risks, extending beyond compliance with general data protection regulations. Overreliance on AI language models can hinder the development of skills and increase the likelihood of misinterpretation by users without a background in data analytics, potentially compromising the accuracy of generated code and shared outputs with stakeholders.* *This presentation is based on my own journey in learning to adopt AI in data science, and the experiences of those within the Data and Insight Service.* **Dr Debbie Archer, Senior Data and Insight Analyst, Kirklees Council**

12:00-12:30	**Creating a social vulnerability index for social care** *Predicting need for Adult Social Care has been an issue that we've been struggling with in Manchester for some time. By developing a partnership between Manchester City Council (MCC) and the University of Manchester (UoM) we have been able undertake a research project to tackle this issue using routinely collected data and statistical modelling to develop a vulnerability Index. This index identifies characteristics or factors that increase a person's risk of increasing need for Adult Social Care support. This session will cover the research project, how we have used the output to produce a tool and how we are beginning to utilise that to automate the identification of service users with higher risk or increasing need. We'll go onto talk about the potential uses for the tool including to support planning and demand management and the stratification of the Manchester residents to support population heath management strategic aims.* **Leo Wall, Performance and Insight Lead, Manchester City Council & Paul Clarkson, Senior Lecturer in Social Care & Deputy Director: Social Care and Society, University of Manchester**
12:30-13:30	**Lunch, Networking & Awards** **Chaired by Juliet Whitworth, Head of Research and Information, Local Government Association and LARIA Council Member**
13:30-14:00	**Lessons learned from applying predictive analytics to the challenges of school attendance and NEET** *Our aim is to use data science techniques to unlock greater value from the large volume of education and social care data we hold. In Newcastle, we are developing a proof-of-concept model to predict whether a pupil will be persistently absent from school in the following term. In Bradford, we are developing a model to predict the likelihood of a pupil becoming NEET (Youth not in employment, education, or training). These models could be used to guide decision making on how to allocate finite resources to improve school attendance and reduce NEET.* *This session will describe our journeys of applying predictive modelling to an organisational challenge, highlighting the lessons learned throughout the process. It will include an overview of the data we used, technique selection and how the models were trained, refined and performance evaluated. We will also discuss how we worked with internal and external partners, including university researchers to promote rigor and accuracy, and for technical support on machine learning techniques.* *In this session you will learn about the skills and resource we needed to apply predictive modelling approaches in a local authority setting, and effective strategies for overcoming challenges and delivering innovation.* **Kate Sheffer, Health Determinants Research Collaboration (HDRC) Public Health Intelligence Specialist, Newcastle City Council & Yanhua Xu, HDRC Data Scientist, City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council**
14:00–14:30	**Microsoft Copilot AI – Hype or Help?** **Evaluating the Roll Out of Microsoft Copilot in a Local Authority Organisation** *Kent County Council recently piloted Copilot for M365 by deploying 500 licences across the organisation (~5% of staff). An evaluation was undertaken to understand potential uses, efficiencies, benefits, and challenges. This session will focus on our evaluation design, touching on its strengths, weaknesses, and challenges. Despite the limited pilot timescales and varied use cases, we were able to design methods*

	and capture a wealth of data applicable to other organisations who may be looking to evaluate the roll out of AI in a similar way. We will share findings of the evaluation in relation to implementation as well as early uses, successes, challenges, and facilitators. **Jessica Daly, Senior Evaluation Manager, Jack Chapman, Evaluation Analyst & Matt Bracegirdle, Evaluation Analyst, Kent County Council**
14:30-14:50	**Refreshments and Networking**
14:50-15:20	**Artificial Intelligence – state of the sector, and the LGA support available** *In February 2024, the LGA launched a survey to explore the landscape of AI deployment within local authorities. The purpose was to build a picture of where AI is currently being used in councils and to map where the greatest opportunities and risks lie, to build an evidence base for the support councils need in this space, and to ensure that local government is part of the national conversation. Building on the findings of this survey, which highlighted the need for practical examples, we have now also developed a use case bank showcasing the diverse ways local authorities are leveraging AI.* *Using the insights from these exercises, and the intelligence gained from our collaborations with partners, academia and government, in this session we will describe the current state of the sector in terms of AI.* *You will also hear about the free to access support, resources and guidance available from the LGA to help councils responsibly explore the possibilities of AI and connect with peers. Whether your council is at the outset of its AI exploration or seeking to expand its existing capabilities, this support offers a wealth of valuable insights and best practices to support your organisation's AI journey.* **Tom Hindmarch, Adviser (Digital), Local Government Association**
15:20-15:50	**How we're exploring AI work at the Office for National Statistics** *Session Overview TBC* **Arron Maspero MBE, Head of Digital Innovation & Andy Banks, Office for National Statistics**
15:50-16:00	**Conference Close**

LARIA reserves the right to amend the programme at any time.