

# LGA analysis and research bulletin

Welcome to the Local Government Association analysis and research bulletin (LGAARB), the regular one stop publication that keeps you informed about key issues and developments in research impacting on local government. The bulletin brings together our work as well as that of the other members of the LGA group (IDeA, LACORS, LGE, Leadership Centre for Local Government and Local Partnerships), and features relevant publications from the wider research community. The information in LGAARB is grouped under themed areas and our aim is to provide, on behalf of the LGA group, high quality:

- horizon scanning;
- analysis; and
- research.

Information about each of the members of the LGA group can be found along with website details overleaf. This publication is produced by LGA analysis and research which has been established to deliver a high quality and single research service to support the policy, lobbying and service delivery needs of the LGA group.

How to register

You can register to receive this bulletin by visiting:  
<http://www.lga.gov.uk/research>

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## information about the LGA group

The **LGA** is the single voice for local government. As a voluntary membership body, funded almost entirely by the subscriptions of our member authorities in England and Wales, we lobby and campaign for changes in policy and legislation on behalf of our member councils and the people and communities they serve. We work with and on behalf of our membership to deliver our shared vision of an independent and confident local government sector, where local priorities drive public service improvement in every city, town and village and every councillor acts as a champion for their ward and for the people they represent.

[www.lga.gov.uk](http://www.lga.gov.uk)

The **IDEA** supports improvement and innovation in local government, focusing on the issues that are important to councils and using tried and tested ways of working. We work with councils in developing good practice, supporting them in their partnerships. We do this through networks, online communities of practice and web resources, and through the support and challenge provided by councillor and officer peers. We also help develop councillors in key positions through our leadership programmes. Regional Associates work closely with councils in their areas and support the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships (RIEPs).

[www.idea.gov.uk](http://www.idea.gov.uk)

**LGE** works in partnership with local authorities, regional employers and other bodies to lead on and create solutions for pay, pensions and the employment contract. LGE offers advice on all employment issues, and represents local government employer interests to central government, government agencies, trades unions and European institutions.

[www.lge.gov.uk](http://www.lge.gov.uk)

**LACORS** promotes quality regulation to councils in the areas of trading standards, environmental protection, licensing and gambling, food safety, hygiene and standards, animal health and welfare and private sector housing. LACORS offer comprehensive advice and guidance to councils and their partners, disseminating good practice and providing up-to-date information on policies and initiatives that affect local people and local services. We lobby on behalf of councils and ensure that legislation and government policy can be practically implemented, and with our colleagues in the LGA group, ensure we contribute to sector-led improvement.

[www.lacors.gov.uk](http://www.lacors.gov.uk)

### **Leadership Centre for Local Government**

We believe great places require ambitious leadership that paints a picture of the future, inspiring and carrying with it the local residents' hopes and happiness. We support local government leaders to create the future through building effective and efficient partnerships, improving the lives of local people and fundamentally transforming communities for the better. Place is contested space for local government leaders, so we focus on the unique realities of the relationships involved helping members and officers develop their skills and thinking on leadership, through national and regional initiatives.

[www.localleadership.gov.uk](http://www.localleadership.gov.uk)

### **Local Partnerships**

Local Partnerships is a joint venture between the LGA and Partnerships UK, incorporating 4ps and all its current services. Local Partnerships mission is to enhance the quality of people's lives by giving trusted, professional support to local public bodies to improve their ability to source and deliver high quality, cost-effective public services and infrastructure. Local Partnerships will work at the market interface and work 'shoulder-to-shoulder' with public bodies to develop and deliver innovative solutions to new and emerging problems. This will be done by working alongside local public bodies to improve their sourcing and commissioning skills, programme and project management capabilities, procurement, negotiating and contract management capacity, and their delivery, funding and partnering abilities.

[www.localpartnerships.org.uk](http://www.localpartnerships.org.uk)

### Employment pay and workforce trends

#### Skills for jobs: today and tomorrow

The UK Commission for Employment and Skills have published the first annual National Strategic Skills Audit for England 2010. The Audit, which will be produced annually, provides a comprehensive and authoritative evidence base for government, providers, Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) employers and individuals, informing their decisions about investment in education and training. For more information visit: <http://www.ukces.org.uk/reports/skills-for-jobs-today-and-tomorrow-the-national-strategic-skills-audit-for-england-2010-volume-1-key-findings>

#### Self-reported work-related illness and workplace injuries in 2008/09: results from the Labour Force Survey

These statistics from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) provide information on self-reported work-related illness and workplace injuries, in Great Britain, for the period 2008/09. For more information visit: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/lfs/lfs0809.pdf>

#### LGA analysis and research employment digest

This monthly publication keeps you informed on the labour market, pay issues and trends and the economy in general. Core data include: inflation, unemployment, pay settlements and average earnings. For the latest edition visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelid=1094987>

### Transport

#### Freight modal choice study

This Department for Transport (DfT) report explains the economic, social and environmental benefits of current freight movements by non-road modes on national network corridors and to identify where changes in future modal choice, from road to rail or water, could achieve appropriate outcomes on the network. For more information visit: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/freight/freight-modal/>

#### Concessionary fares: cost and impact of options for extending the current statutory minimum

This DfT report examines the cost of various extensions to the statutory minimum concession in England. Each extension scenario, explores the cost of estimated revenue reimbursement (payment for those travellers that would have travelled in the absence of the scheme) plus estimated additional costs (payment for carrying the costs of those passengers who would not have travelled in the absence of a concessionary scheme). For more information visit: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/buses/concessionary/informationforthepublic/concessionary-fares/pdf/report.pdf>

#### Congestion on inter-urban roads

These DfT statistics provide monthly provisional congestion estimates for February 2010. They include all motorways and trunk 'A' roads managed by the Highways Agency, as well as the M6 Toll (also known as the Strategic Road Network (SRN)). For more information visit: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/roadstraffic/speedscongestion/congestiononthestrategicroad5359>

#### Vehicle registration and licensing statistics - February 2010

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

#### International sea passengers - monthly provisional estimates: February 2010

These DfT statistics provide data on UK international sea passengers from 1998. Annual, quarterly and monthly data are shown. These figures are based on sea ports within UK mainland and separately they show Inward (Arrival), Outward (Departure) and Total (Inward plus Outward) number of passengers. For more information visit: <http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/maritime/passengers/seapassfeb2010.xls>

## Housing

### **How can the planning system deliver more housing?**

This Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) publication provides information on ideas and proposals for how to deliver more new housing, particularly affordable housing. For more information visit:

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/planning-and-housing-delivery-summary.pdf>

## Education and children's services

### **Councils working with nurseries to improve nutritional standards**

An extensive two year study coordinated by LACORS, part of the Local Government Association Group, found that none of the nurseries which volunteered to be involved were managing to meet all of the current guidelines on food for younger children, despite many putting a lot of effort into providing healthy menus.

The 29 councils which took part in the project, working with more than 100 nurseries, showed that food standards were improved when childcare providers were given better information by dieticians about how to give very young children the right diet. LACORS is now urging government to establish a single source of practical guidance for nurseries in association with councils and health professionals.

Problems varied across all the nurseries involved but included:

- excessively high levels of salt;
- inappropriate portion sizes, both too large and too small;
- shortages of carbohydrates to give children energy because some were being given too much fruit.

A common problem was applying healthy eating principles which work for adults and older children to the under fives, despite their very different needs. Some nurseries also encountered pressure from parents to offer low fat options such as skimmed milk, even though this could be bad for very young children. For more information visit:

<http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/NewsArticleDetails.aspx?N=0&Ne=0+2000+3000+4000+5000+6000+7000+8000+9000+10000+11000&id=23563>

### **Safeguarding post-Laming: initial scoping study**

Completed by the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) and commissioned by LGA Analysis and Research on behalf of the IDeA, this short scoping paper provides an overview of the research work on child safeguarding that has taken place since the Baby Peter episode. More specifically it provided a series of recommendations for future research and analytical work that will help to fill current gaps in knowledge. For more information visit <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelId=9659424>

### **Evaluation of the children in trouble programme**

The Children in Trouble programme is a joint project supported by LGA and the Howard League for Penal Reform and sets out to encourage, develop and showcase different approaches to reducing the use of custodial sentences. This report documents the programme's achievements and challenges following an evaluation by the NFER. For more information visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pagelId=10336035> or contact: [david.pye@lga.gov.uk](mailto:david.pye@lga.gov.uk) 020 7664 3267

### **Building schools for the future (BSF): 3rd annual report**

PricewaterhouseCoopers' third annual independent evaluation of the BSF programme found clear early evidence that BSF schools are raising pupil aspirations and improving behaviour. Over 8 out of 10 headteachers surveyed believe the programme to rebuild or refurbish England's entire secondary school estate is transforming learning in schools. For more information visit:

[http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/\\_doc/14728/DCSF%20-%20BSF%20Year%203%20Final%20Report.pdf](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/_doc/14728/DCSF%20-%20BSF%20Year%203%20Final%20Report.pdf)

### **Reducing the numbers of young people not in education, employment or training: what works and why**

This Ofsted report examines the key factors that have contributed to reducing the proportion of 16- to 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training in 12 local authority areas. For more information visit: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Reducing-the-numbers-of-young-people-not-in-education-employment-or-training-what-works-and-why>

### **The impacts of short break provision on disabled children and families: an international literature review**

Short breaks are designed for disabled children to spend time in the company of other people than their primary family carers, both to give family carers a break and to allow children the opportunity to have new experiences with a wider range of people outside the immediate family. This Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) literature review evaluates the existing international research evidence concerning the impact of short breaks, to determine where there is robust evidence for the impact of short breaks on families with a disabled child and where more evidence is needed. For more information visit:

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-RR222.pdf>

### **Young people not in employment, education or training: statistics quarterly brief - February 2010**

This DCSF brief sets out the available statistics on young people not in employment, education or training in England. For more information visit: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000913/NEETQBQ42009final.pdf>

### **Parental experience of services for disabled children: findings from the second national survey**

This DCSF report presents the findings from a national survey measuring parental satisfaction with services for disabled children. The survey was primarily designed to generate an overall indicator and set of sub-indicators which measure parental views on the five elements of the Core Offer as set out in the government's report *Aiming High for Disabled Children*. For more information visit: <http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-RR216.pdf>

### **Poorer children's educational attainment: how important are attitudes and behaviour?**

This JRF research focuses on a range of factors under the umbrella term 'aspirations, attitudes and behaviours', encompassing a wide variety of influences on attainment throughout the childhood of poorer children. For more information visit: <http://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/files/jrf/poorer-children-education-full.pdf>

### **Moving through the system –information, advice and guidance**

This Ofsted report considers the importance of providing high quality information, advice and guidance to enable young people, as well as their parents and carers, to make thoughtful and well-informed choices about their next steps in education, training or employment, particularly at age 16 and beyond. It also evaluates the transfer of responsibility for information, advice and guidance services to local authorities from April 2008 and the changes to the nextstep provision for adults from August 2008. For more information visit: [http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Moving-through-the-system-information-advice-and-guidance/\(language\)/eng-GB](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Moving-through-the-system-information-advice-and-guidance/(language)/eng-GB)

### **Evidence of impact of sustainable schools**

This DCSF research provides information about the educational and social benefits to young people of learning in a sustainable school including raising standards and enhancing well-being. For more information visit: <http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-00344-2010&>

### **Participation rates in higher education: academic years 2006/07 to 2008/09 (provisional)**

These Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) statistics include data on 17-30 year old English domiciled first-time HE entrants to UK HE institutions and English, Welsh and Scottish FE colleges who remain in HE for at least six months. For more information visit: [http://stats.berr.gov.uk/he/Participation\\_Rates\\_in\\_HE\\_2008-09.pdf](http://stats.berr.gov.uk/he/Participation_Rates_in_HE_2008-09.pdf)

### **Drivers and challenges in raising the achievement of pupils from Bangladeshi, Somali and Turkish backgrounds**

This DCSF report examines the range of support available specifically for Bangladeshi, Turkish and Somali groups, in primary and secondary schools, and considers how these impact on pupil attainment and experience of school. It also considers the attitudes and aspirations of pupils within these groups, focusing on how they differ, and on the pupils' experiences of school. For more information visit:

<http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-RR226.pdf>

### **Supporting ambition in our young people: councils and young people aged 14–19.**

The aim of this LGA report is to show how councils will use the transfer of power and funding from the national level to make sure that all the young people in their area are given the opportunity to pursue their ambitions and fulfill their potential. The return to local councils of responsibility for commissioning education and training for 16 to 19-year-olds from 1 April 2010 provides an exciting opportunity to join up the delivery of local public services to young people and drive forward improvements.

The report gives practical examples of what councils up and down the country are already doing to make this a reality. For more information visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/aio/10370014>

## **Environment**

### **Living with environmental change (LWEC)**

Living With Environmental Change represents an unprecedented partnership of organisations funding, undertaking and using environmental research, including the Research Councils, government departments, devolved administrations and delivery agencies. The ten-year programme will connect world-leading natural, engineering, economic, social, medical, cultural, arts, and humanities researchers with policy-makers, business, the public, and other key stakeholders. The latest LWEC booklet is available here:

[http://www.lwec.org.uk/sites/default/files/LWEC%20booklet\\_low%20res\\_19March2010.pdf](http://www.lwec.org.uk/sites/default/files/LWEC%20booklet_low%20res_19March2010.pdf)

## **Health and social care**

### **The third evaluation of the School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme (SFVS)**

This research was commissioned by the Department of Health (DoH) and conducted by NFER in partnership with nutritionists from the University of Leeds. As with previous evaluations, it was conducted in the north-east of England, where the scheme was introduced in March 2004.

This third and latest evaluation of the SFVS explored the impact of the scheme in the longer term. Over the four years since the SFVS started children were eating the same amount of fruit as before the scheme started, but more vegetables. However, broadly girls were 'doing better' than boys, and there had been a significant decline in the number of snacks and desserts they were consuming. For more information visit: [http://www.nfer.ac.uk/nfer/publications/SFRZ01/SFRZ01\\_home.cfm?publicationID=414&title=The%20third%20evaluation%20of%20the%20School%20Fruit%20and%20Vegetable%20Scheme](http://www.nfer.ac.uk/nfer/publications/SFRZ01/SFRZ01_home.cfm?publicationID=414&title=The%20third%20evaluation%20of%20the%20School%20Fruit%20and%20Vegetable%20Scheme)

### **Social worker workforce planning data - Wales**

This report from the Welsh Local Government Data Unit shows that local authorities in Wales project that over the five years to 2013-14, an average of 120 new social workers will be required per year to replace leavers and fill new social work posts. For more information visit:

[http://www.dataunitwales.gov.uk/Documents/Publications/lgp23050\\_swwp\\_v2\\_eng.pdf](http://www.dataunitwales.gov.uk/Documents/Publications/lgp23050_swwp_v2_eng.pdf)

### **Making the most of an older population**

The LGA's research programme 'Making the most of an older population' looks at the long term implications and opportunities of an ageing population for older people themselves, and for local communities and local services to the public.

LGA Analysis and Research are bringing together experts and innovators from across the public, private and voluntary sector, from think tanks and campaigning groups, and from the research councils and academic communities. The aim is to bridge the gaps between research, policy and practice and develop innovative solutions to what can sometimes seem to be intractable problems.

LGA Analysis and Research have held two workshops and have now launched a Community of Practice to underpin the next stages of the work programme. It includes nine lines of enquiry from which will be developed specific research questions. These are: the characteristics of older people in 2020; employment, retirement and pensions; citizens; older people's health and well being; older people's access to information and communication technology; the development and take up of assistive technology; lifetime homes and neighbourhoods; partnership working; the funding of care and support services for older people.

The community also hosts the Department of Work and Pension's (DWP) website on 'Building a Society for All Ages', and will support the work IDEa is taking forward to build council capacity. The community is at: <http://www.communities.idea.gov.uk/>

For more information contact: [liz.spratt@lga.gov.uk](mailto:liz.spratt@lga.gov.uk) or [jill.mortimer@lga.gov.uk](mailto:jill.mortimer@lga.gov.uk)

### **Health profile of England 2009**

This DoH report provides national and regional data, which local areas can compare against their own health profiles. The report provides information on improvements in health outcomes, specific challenges that remain, determinants of health, health inequalities and international comparisons. For more information visit: [http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod\\_consum\\_dh/groups/dh\\_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh\\_114938.pdf](http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_114938.pdf)

### **Attitudes to mental illness 2010 research report**

This DoH report provides information about public attitudes towards mental illness. Interviews were conducted with 1,745 adults (aged 16+) in England in January 2010. From 1994 to 1997 the survey questions were asked on an annual basis and then every third year up until 2003. For more information visit: [http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod\\_consum\\_dh/groups/dh\\_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh\\_114902.pdf](http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_114902.pdf)

## **Population and migration**

### **Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Research Centre for Population Change**

The ESRC Centre for Population Change is the UK's first research centre on population change. Based jointly at the University of Southampton and the General Register Office Scotland, the Centre brings together expertise from the Universities of Southampton, St. Andrews, Edinburgh, Strathclyde, Stirling and Dundee as well as the General Register Office for Scotland and The Office for National Statistics.

The centre undertakes research based around four themes:

- dynamics of fertility and family formation past, present and future;
- household dynamics and living arrangements across the life course;
- the demographic and socio-economic implications of national and transnational migration;
- modelling population growth and enhancing the evidence base for policy.

For more information visit: <http://www.cpc.ac.uk/>

### **The Migration Parliamentary Group (MPG) 'myth busting' fact sheets.**

The MPG has produced a series of concise 'myth busting' facts for prospective parliamentary candidates (PPCs), candidates, media commentators and others to help deliver a more balanced and less emotive debate on the benefits of migration in advance of the forthcoming General Election. They focus on housing, the health service, employment and education in the context of the debate on migration. For more information visit:

[http://www.connectpa.co.uk/downloads/mpg\\_mythbusting\\_factsheet\\_3.pdf](http://www.connectpa.co.uk/downloads/mpg_mythbusting_factsheet_3.pdf)

[http://www.connectpa.co.uk/downloads/mpg\\_mythbusting\\_factsheet\\_4.pdf](http://www.connectpa.co.uk/downloads/mpg_mythbusting_factsheet_4.pdf)

[http://www.connectpa.co.uk/downloads/mpg\\_mythbusting\\_factsheet\\_5.pdf](http://www.connectpa.co.uk/downloads/mpg_mythbusting_factsheet_5.pdf)

[http://www.connectpa.co.uk/downloads/mpg\\_mythbusting\\_factsheet\\_6.pdf](http://www.connectpa.co.uk/downloads/mpg_mythbusting_factsheet_6.pdf)

## **Local government**

### **Supporting local authorities to develop their research capacity**

This paper provides useful insights into the views and experiences of a range of 15 local authority front line staff, including locality managers and staff from central children's services recently involved in defining and undertaking research projects with support from the NFER and the Local Authority Research Consortium (LARC). LARC2 (2009) explored the impact of integrated working on improving outcomes for children, young people and families by looking at the Common Assessment Framework (CAF). Around 25 authorities carried out local research on the CAF with the purpose of developing a national picture of progress towards integrated working. This LGA funded project complements the LARC research by examining the views, perceived benefits and challenges of being involved in practitioner-led research with a sample of local authorities from across England involved in LARC. For further information visit: <http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/core/page.do?pageld=9670443>

### **English indices of deprivation: consultation**

Local authorities have been invited to take part in the consultation on the English Indices of Deprivation.

The Indices are widely used to analyse patterns of deprivation in England and are a key tool used by central and local government to target both policy and funding. This consultation is intended to provide stakeholders with an opportunity to influence the structure and timing of the next update to the Indices. In particular the consultation is seeking your views on three main areas:

1. the need for an updated set of indices and the form they should take
2. the suitability of continuing to use the methodology used for the ID 2007
3. current availability of data sources if the ID 2007 methodology is retained.

**This consultation is open until 5pm on 10 May 2010.**

The full consultation document can be accessed via the Communities and Local Government (CLG) website.

The details of how to take part in this consultation can be found in this document.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/englishindicesdeprivationcon>

CLG would also welcome comments you have regarding your use of the current Indices. This information will help develop statistics that are able to best meet the needs of the users.

If you respond to the consultation, LGA Analysis and Research would be grateful if you could copy the LGA in (using the e-mail address: [research@lga.gov.uk](mailto:research@lga.gov.uk)).

### **Place survey 2010**

On 30 March, CLG announced their intention to run the Place Survey 2010. They wrote to chief executives and the primary contacts in authorities.

In addition, CLG announced a short, six-week technical consultation on the survey. This is available at the following

link: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/plans2010placesurvey>

If you respond to the consultation, LGA Analysis and Research would be grateful if you could copy the LGA in (using the e-mail address: [research@lga.gov.uk](mailto:research@lga.gov.uk)).

## European and international

### Education on online safety in schools in Europe

This report from EURYDICE at NFER shows how 30 European countries teach online safety. The risks to children that the ICT curriculum aims to prevent relate to five main areas: giving out personal information, seeing pornography, violent or hateful content online, cyberbullying, receiving unwanted sexual comments and meeting an online contact offline. For more information visit:

[http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurydice/documents/thematic\\_reports/121EN.pdf](http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/eurydice/documents/thematic_reports/121EN.pdf)

### International development and your council survey report

The UK Local Government Alliance for International Development has released a study of UK councils, outlining the range of council activities that support the global fight against poverty. Activities include fair trade procurement, supporting schools, community and business links, as well as direct cooperation with councils overseas to support issues like service delivery, environmental management, and municipal administration. Despite the current economic climate, a majority of respondents (86 per cent), including politicians and officers, indicated that they see a role for councils in this field. For more information visit: [www.lg-alliance.org](http://www.lg-alliance.org)

## Crime and disorder/safer communities

### Police powers and procedures 2008/9

This Home Office report gives statistics on arrests and detentions, stops and searches, motoring offences and breath tests. For more information visit: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb0610.pdf>

## Communities and place shaping

### Painting pictures of place

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) Centre for Regional and Local Statistics have released Local Profiles under the 'Painting Pictures of Place' series.

These aim to help local authorities use official statistics to better understand the economic, social and environmental picture for their area, and this first set of profiles has been developed using data that will be of use to analysts, economists and policy makers involved in preparing Local Economic Assessments (LEAs). For more information visit: <http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/Info.do;jessionid=ac1f930d30d8e2f402b39d67440eaa1d8624e2548de6?m=0&s=1270633931799&enc=1&page=analysisandguidance/analysisarticles/localprofilelandingpage.htm&nsjs=true&nsck=true&nssvg=false&nswid=800>

## Economy/economic development

### Surviving the crunch: local finances in the recession and beyond

This Audit Commission report is the third in a series of publications looking at the impact of the credit crunch and subsequent recession on local authorities. For more information visit: <http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/AuditCommissionReports/NationalStudies/20100323survivingthecrunch.pdf>

### From credit crunch to recovery: the impact of the recession in England's rural economies

This report from the Commission for Rural Communities (CRC) profiles the impact of the recession in rural economies in England from mid-2008 to early 2010. For more information visit:

<http://www.ruralcommunities.gov.uk/files/creditcrunchtorecovery.pdf>

## regular publications and events

### **Reflections on the gender agenda**

This conference focuses on gender and achievement in schools and the DCSF's Gender Agenda. The conference takes place at Kings College, London on 14 July 2010 and will investigate:

What are schools doing to improve issues around gender and achievement?

What's the latest research on gender and education?

The Gender Agenda was designed to improve the performance of underperforming boys and girls through action research, sharing good practice in schools and reviewing current gender and attainment research. Delegates will look at what schools and local authorities (LAs) are now doing to address and overcome gender gaps. The conference will also include an update on the latest research on gender and education issues.

The event is free of charge and is aimed at schools, those who support schools, LAs and those who train teachers. You can find out more more by emailing [research.summaries@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:research.summaries@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk).

### **How will the Census count everyone? and how will we know if it does?**

Tuesday 8 June 2010, 2.00 pm to 5.30 pm - Royal Statistical Society, London

The 2011 Census is fast approaching and includes some fundamental changes to the way the Census will contact, and therefore count, the population.

This meeting will give users of the data the opportunity to gain insight into the plans that have been put in place to support an accurate estimate of the population. It will cover the main innovations in the organisation of the Census data collection as well as the developments to coverage assessment building on the 2001 experience.

Attendance is free and open to all, but pre-registration is recommended. You can register by email: [meetings@rss.org.uk](mailto:meetings@rss.org.uk) or by phone (020) 7638 8998. For further information contact James Brown ([J.Brown@ioe.ac.uk](mailto:J.Brown@ioe.ac.uk))

### **The British Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (BURISA) Conference 2010 - In conjunction with the Royal Statistical Society**

Tomorrow's World Forecasting and Projections

Royal Statistical Society, 12 Errol Street, London EC1Y 8LX

14 May 2010, 10.00 am – 4.30 pm (Registration from 9.15 a.m.)

Senior colleagues may recall the 60s and 70s boom in forecasting, mathematical models and systems methods, about the time BURISA was formed. Computing power has increased immensely since then but forecasting techniques seem much less in evidence today. Policymakers and public service planners still have to consider the needs of tomorrow and assess the effects of alternative strategies, of course. So what is happening in the world of forecasting and projections today? This year's BURISA conference will examine forecasting sources and methods; the results, their uses and limitations. What is the future for forecasting, we might ask?

For more information visit: <http://www.burisa.org/BURISA%20Conf%202010.pdf>

**UK Co-Production Roadshow**

This half-day workshop will give councillors and officers a clear idea of what co-production is and how innovative local authorities have used it to make savings and improve service quality. The facilitators, Tony Bovaird and Elke Loeffler, will show how the co-production approach can be tailored to fit different public services. All participants will have the opportunity to do a brief assessment of their own organisation's strengths and weaknesses in co-production, using the Governance International Co-Production Toolkit. For more information, please contact [ellie.rance@govint.org](mailto:ellie.rance@govint.org) or visit:

<http://www.govint.org/english/main-menu/events/training-courses/uk-training-programme.html>

The venues and dates for the seminars are:

Birmingham – 15 June 2010

Manchester – 22 June 2010

Newcastle – 2 July 2010

London – 7 July 2010



*Local Government Association*

The Local Government Association is the national voice for more than 400 local authorities in England and Wales. The LGA group comprises the LGA and five partner organisations which work together to support, promote and improve local government.



### **Tell us what you think**

We hope to provide information which is useful and accessible. Please contact Michelle Pickford ([michelle.pickford@lga.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.pickford@lga.gov.uk)) with your comments and feedback on LGAARB.

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

Or telephone LGconnect for all your  
local government queries on 020 7664 3131  
Fax 020 7664 3030  
Email [info@lga.gov.uk](mailto:info@lga.gov.uk)