

LARIA North East 31 May 2018 Networking Event

The second LARIA North East Networking event was well-attended, with 18 attendees and three presenters. Held on a sunny day at Durham County Hall (thanks to Matthew Peart, Dawn Barron and Durham County Council for providing the venue), we enjoyed a mixture of presentations on information management and networking, and the chance to meet other North East researchers.



We first heard from Rachel Crossley at Kirklees Council on the topic “Online and redefined: Refreshing our approach to the JSNA”. Kirklees have redesigned their Joint Strategic Needs Assessment to give them greater flexibility to update the sections separately and distribute the work needed to support it more evenly, resulting in receiving over 10,000 page views, around 1,700 users, and a Highly Commended award at the LARIA 2017 Research Impact Award. For more information please contact Rachel here:



Rachel.Crossley@kirklees.gov.uk

Next, Laura Cole (Valuation Office Agency) gave a talk on “Introducing Analyst Network North East (ANNE)”. ANNE is sponsored by the Operational Research society and has a broad focus; where LARIA focusses on local area research and information, ANNE aims to bridge the gap between public and private sector analysts in all areas of interest. It provides networking opportunities and a mentoring scheme, and their next event will be in Durham on 3 October 2018. For more information about ANNE please contact them here:

AnalystNetNE@gmail.com

Following a tea and coffee break, Kimberley Anscombe from OSCI presented on “Introducing Local Insight”. This is “a lightweight community mapping and reporting tool for local authorities and community organisations, providing up-to-date open data and analysis matched to the areas the user works in”.



For an example of how this works, you can download this report: [Brighton and Hove Local Insight](#). For more information, including a 20% discount for LARIA North East members, contact Kimberley Anscombe here: kimberley.anscombe@ocsi.co.uk

In the second part of the event, we moved onto networking and the “Three things I’m working on…” forms. These aim to capture information three projects each of us is working on, three issues we think will be important in the future, and three things we are interested in learning more about in future.



Everyone took the chance to network and discuss these issues with fellow researchers, and the information on the forms will be used to plan future LARIA North East networking events (in future I’ll be taking photos of them so that people can keep their forms for reference).

Finally, Louise Reeve, the LARIA North East Regional Organiser (me!) presented on “What’s happening with LARIA nationally?” This included feedback from the recent LARIA Awayday, to plan the future of the organisation including whether to focus more on training and professional development options for members, and from the recent LARIA National Conference, including the recipients of the LARIA Research Impact Awards.



Thanks to everyone who attended for making it such an amazing event! The next one will be in September 2018. Watch this space!

Louise Reeve