

## Researching Children Joint LARIA/LGA/LEARG/SSRG Seminars

Wednesday 17 May 2006: Local Government Association Offices, London

Tuesday 13 June 2006: Crewe Alexandra Football Club, Crewe

### What Is It All About?

Local Area Agreements now devote an entire block to 'Children and Young People's Services'. Children's services are a major component of local government activity – yet researching children's needs and their views on services is no simple matter. Questionnaires which might suit an adult audience will rarely be of value; specialist approaches are required and novel techniques are employed. And increasingly these services are provided in partnership with other agencies. So – how can we ensure that research is appropriate, ethical and of the highest quality?

These joint seminars, organised by LARIA (Local Authorities Research & Intelligence Association), the LGA (Local Government Association), LEARG (Local Education Authorities Research Group) and SSRG (Social Services Research Group) are designed to help answer these questions. They draw on the experiences of experts in the field who will share their knowledge of what works well – and what doesn't. They also cover the critical issue of the all-important ethical framework and how this can be applied to research involving children. The two seminars will be almost identical in content, although the order of presentations may be slightly different.

### Programme

- 9.30 Registration and coffee
- 10.00 **Welcome And Introduction From The Chair:**  
Jill Tuffnell (Vice-Chair, LARIA) – London  
Gerallt Evans-Hughes (Chair of LARIA Events Group) – Crewe
- 10.10 **Quantitative Methods for Researching Children – Developing and Designing Questionnaires:** Clare Tait (National Centre for Social Research)
- 10.55 Coffee/Tea
- 11.15 **The Ethical Challenges of Researching with Children and Young People – Moving Beyond Doing As You're Told:** David Allan (Warwickshire County Council)
- 12.00 **Children's Fund Consultation – Young People as Researchers:** Clare Burrell & Zoe Williams (Essex County Council)
- 12.45 Lunch  
Chair for afternoon: Martin Stevens (Chair of SSRG) – London  
John Wiseman (Chair of LEARG) – Crewe
- 13.45 **Voice Platform Action – Pushing The Boundaries of Participation:** Michael Elsy (Sunderland Council)
- 14.30 **Listening to Children – the 5-11 Age Group and the Children and Young People's Plan:** Adrian Woodthorpe (NFER)
- 15.15 Tea/Coffee
- 15.35 **Participation of Looked-After Children:** Liz Woolford & Gabrielle O'Donovan (Surrey County Council)
- 16.20 Summing Up
- 16.30 **Close**

*LARIA/LGA/LEARG/SSRG reserve the right to alter the programme if necessary.*

*Views expressed by the speakers are not necessarily those of LARIA, the LGA, LEARG, or SSRG.*

**Cost:** £125 per delegate (including lunch). £105 for Corporate Members of LARIA and members of the Social Services Research Group.

**Venue:** The seminars will be held at the offices of the Local Government Association at Local Government House, Smith Square, London, and Crewe Alexandra Football Club, a three minute walk from Crewe station

**Booking:** Please complete the booking form overleaf

# Laria

LOCAL  
AUTHORITIES  
RESEARCH +  
INTELLIGENCE  
ASSOCIATION



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### BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

*Please use a photocopy of this form if you wish.*

Name: (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr) \_\_\_\_\_

Position held: \_\_\_\_\_ Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No : \_\_\_\_\_ Email : \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation of booking will be emailed (if you have not received confirmation within ten days of submitting your booking, please contact Graham Smith – contact details below)  
Delegates will receive final details about a week before the event

### IMPORTANT: Please indicate with a tick which seminar you would like to attend:

London 17 May

Crewe 13 June

Do you require a vegetarian meal?.....YES/NO

Please let us know if you have any other needs (eg mobility) \_\_\_\_\_

**Fee: £105.00 per delegate – LARIA Corporate Members and SSRG Members**  
**£125.00 per delegate – Others**

*[If you are not sure if your organisation is a Corporate Member of LARIA, please contact the LARIA Office – see below, or consult the membership page of the LARIA Website (www.laria.gov.uk)]*

I enclose a cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_ payable to LARIA

Or, please send invoice to \_\_\_\_\_ (name)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Ref/Order No: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Please post or e-mail to:**

**Graham Smith,  
LARIA Administrator,  
9 Cortland Road, Nunthorpe, Middlesbrough, TS7 0JX**

**Tel: (01642) 316576**

**Fax: (01642) 314892** (Please confirm transmission of fax by telephone or email to check it has been received)

**Email: [lariaoffice@aol.com](mailto:lariaoffice@aol.com)**

**Cancellations:** To cancel a place, contact Graham Smith as soon as possible. If you cancel more than 20 working days before the seminar, a full refund will be given. Between 11 and 20 working days, half will be refunded. For notice of up to 10 working days, no refund will be given. Substitutions will be accepted at any time.