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Introduction

The Department has developed the Local Authority Interactive Tool (LAIT) to provide easy access to a wide range of data related to children and young people sourced from various departments across government. It acts as a single central evidence base that helps support the Accountability Framework and Transparency Agenda.

The Tool provides the functionality to ‘benchmark’ an authority nationally and against either its Region or Statistical Neighbours. The data items are presented largely in the form of tables and charts, which can be varied and ‘exported’ from the system for use elsewhere.

System Settings

The LAIT has been designed to work in Microsoft Office and is authored in Excel version 2016 (although Excel 2007 user should still be able to use the tool). If you experience viewing or visual basic issues please ask your technical team to upgrade your version of Excel.

Opening the Interactive Tool

Before opening the Interactive Tool it is essential to close all other Excel documents as there is a small chance that other open documents will become password protected with an unknown password.

Also – it is essential that you download the tool from the web-site (rather than running it from the browser window) for the functionality to work (right click > save target as…).
On opening the Interactive Tool the following dialogue box may appear (figure 3):

**Figure 1: Enable Content dialogue box**

Please click the “Enable Content” button.

If macros are disabled the functionality of the Tool is impaired and navigation links to more detailed levels of data will not operate. The workbook should always be opened as read-only. Any changes made to the workbook will not be saved.

Please Note: due to the Excel workbook file size, opening the workbook may take a few moments. These opening times will vary depending on the specification of the machine being used, network connections or local area broadband speed.

**Navigation**

The customised menu bar that launches with the Tool (figure 2) allows for quick navigation using the indicated menu items.

**Figure 2: Navigation Menu**

Note that the ‘Back’ menu item will always take the Tool back to the previous screen viewed.
**LAIT Contents**

The LAIT has a Contents page which appears on first opening the tool (figure 3).

**Figure 3: Contents**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>File</th>
<th>Navigation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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**Welcome to the Local Authority Interactive Tool**

**12 June 2017**

**LATEST NEWS**
- New Data: Level 2 and 3 2018
- Number of Children's Centres
- SEN and EHC plans 2018

**Current News**
- Ofsted Inspection Judgements
- Inter and Outer London data added
- % 147 enquiries to IPC by location
- Schools special measures/senior weaknesses
- U 10 Hospital Admissions (non-school related) 2011/12 - 2015/16
- % failures from Schools, Police & Health Service

**Contents**
- Click the first button to view the latest Ofsted inspection ratings and other historical judgements from CAAAs, AFAAs and JRAAs.
- The second button provides a direct link to Ofsted's new Data View service, which is a digital tool enabling users to compare regional and local performance of schools, further education and childcare providers.
- Click to view the list of data items available within tool and links to other related information.

The main sections of the tool can be accessed, at all times, from the navigation toolbar at the top of the screen.

- **Local Authority Level Data:** includes general information about the number and type of schools, social control (FSG), level and historical performance assessments.
- **Regional Level Data:** the 500+ data items are also available at Regional level. Shown in performance of all the LAIs within their region, together with figures for all regions. Again, this is presented in table and chart form over time.
- **All LAIs:** lists all data for all Local Authorities for any indicator over the whole time period available.
- **Statistical Neighbours:** to check the performance of your chosen Local Authority against its set of Statistical Neighbours. Again, this is presented in table and chart form over time.
- **Create Your Own:** you can even use the data within the tool to create charts and tables of your own making.
The aim of this section is to give background information about the chosen authority. The page gives information from the latest school data, deprivation and independent performance assessments (Inspections, Comprehensive Area Assessment, CPA, APA, JAR, Primary Care Trust etc).

The authority being viewed can be changed by using the drop down list provided at the top of the page/screen.
Local Authority Detail Page

The menu item LA Level changes the view to the chosen authority’s detail page (figure 5).

There are various elements to this page. It begins with a header detailing the chosen topic and indicator from the drop down box at the centre/top right of the page. There is also an option to change the target authority at the top left of the page.

**Figure 5: LA Detail Page**

As this is an interactive system, the table and chart (and relevant titling) change automatically depending on the indicator chosen.

Having chosen the data item, there is a table beneath this which will show time series data for the indicator in respect of the authority, its Region and Statistical Neighbours and England - for comparison/benchmarking purposes (figure 6).

**Figure 6: Data Table for Chosen Authority/Data Item**

Beneath this is a sub-table showing trends and placing the authority in a quartile banding for the measure. Formatting will flag up As and Ds for clarity.

These tables are followed by a chart, which plots the authority and regional data over the same time period as the table, providing a visual representation of the data (figure 7).
Figure 7: Charting the Data

The Tool provides an option to toggle between a bar chart and a line chart for this data, depending on preference.

Beneath the chart are two boxes, one describes the data item in more detail whilst the other provides the methodology behind its calculation (figure 8).

Also given is the date last published and next due publication date.

Should the user wish for further information, the source of the latest data is given and the ‘Go to source’ button will launch the relevant website.
Figure 8: Data Methodology and Description

Note: If Key Stage 2 or Key Stage 4 (GCSE) is selected, a button will appear on the LA Level view called ‘View performance at school level’ (figure 9). Clicking on this button will launch the School Performance Table for the selected Key Stage and chosen Local Authority. This will allow a ‘drill-down’ into school level data.

Figure 9: View School Level Attainment Data

Note: If under 18 conception rates is the chosen data item, then an extra option appears on the LA Level view. This provides a direct link to the latest Teenage Pregnancy Guidance.
Regional Level Data Page

The menu item Regional Level changes the view to the Regional Level detail page (figure 10). This shows the selected authority’s Regional data against the other Local Authority Regional data (and England) in the top part of the table, and the selected authority against its Regional neighbours in the bottom part of the table. Note that each of these tables is sorted by the latest data.

Figure 10: Regional Level Detail Page

Following the pattern of the Local Authority page, beneath this table is a chart of the data in the table (figure 11) together with the option to change to a line chart.

LA level data for all LA’s in the chosen region (target LA in ‘teal’)

Regional level data (with the chosen/target region in ‘teal’ and others in blue).

Following the pattern of the Local Authority page, beneath this table is a chart of the data in the table (figure 11) together with the option to change to a line chart.
Again, like the Local Authority page, the description, methodology, last and next update dates, and a link to the latest source (from which you can launch directly into the source of the data by clicking on the ‘Go to source…’ button) is given.

**All Local Authorities Detail Page**

The menu item All LAs Level changes the view to show all 152 Local Authorities on one screen, (figure 12). This page can be exported to allow users to build up a more detailed analysis across all LAs themselves.

**Figure 12: The view of all England’s upper tier Local Authorities**

The data item drop down operates in the usual way, of course, but the authorities are just listed alphabetically, not in order of the latest data item.
Statistical Neighbour Detail Page

Statistical neighbours provide a method for benchmarking progress. For each local authority (LA), these models designate a number of other LAs deemed to have similar characteristics. These designated LAs are known as statistical neighbours. The National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) was commissioned in 2007 by the Department to identify and group similar LAs in terms of the socio-economic characteristics, each LA was assigned 10 such neighbours. See Appendix A for further details.

These neighbour groupings have been used in this tool to allow comparison of the target/chosen authority with the authorities in its Statistical Neighbour group.

The menu item SN Level changes the view to the chosen authority’s statistical neighbour’s page where, again, time series information is shown, the spread of which depends on the data item (figure 13).

Figure 13: Statistical Neighbour View

Under this is a chart of the data for the chosen/target authority and the Statistical Neighbour average (figure 14). The usual description, methodology and link to source are given beneath the chart.
Create Your Own Table and Chart

The Tool allows you to use the data within it to create your own data tables and associated charts. The menu item Create opens a screen with 4 user selectable drop down boxes (figure 15). This allows for a choice of data item, local authority and regional level.

To create a table and chart combination, select a choice from these 4 boxes and select the ‘Add’ button to populate the table (figure 16). The chart will populate automatically.
As up to 10 items can be chosen using these drop down combinations, a second table lists the actual items selected. There are also buttons provided to allow for the deletion of individual rows or to clear the whole selection of data, as well as to allow the addition of a chart title (figure 17).

As these data items are added, the chart will build automatically and there is the same option to change between line and bar chart (figure 18).
‘Exporting’ a Report/Fixed View

On the navigation bar there is an option to export ‘fixed views’ of the page being displayed. This means that, once an authority and data item is chosen, the sheet in the Excel workbook tool can be exported into another Excel workbook and saved to a PC or network drive.

Choose ‘Export’ from the Navigation bar and, once the sheet has exported, a message appears (figure 19).

The ‘Save As’ dialogue box will then appear to allow for a local copy to be saved.

Ofsted Judgements

Details of results of Ofsted inspections can be viewed from the contents page by clicking on the Ofsted judgements button (figure 20). This will show the ratings of the current Unannounced Inspections as well as other historical judgements from CAAs, APAs and JARs (figure 21).

Double clicking on an LA name will open the relevant page on the Ofsted Inspection website to aid navigation.
The second button on the contents page (figure 20) provides a direct link to Ofsted’s new Data View service. This is a digital tool to enable users to compare regional and local performance of schools, further education and childcare providers (figure 22).
Data Items included in the LAIT

An indicator list (figure 23) is provided for all data provided in the LAIT; this can be accessed via the contents page.

Figure 23: Indicator List
Useful Links to Other Websites/Information

A useful links button (figure 24) is located on the contents screen, to provide the user with signposting (figure 25) to further useful information and websites.

Figure 24: Useful Links

Selecting the “GO” buttons within signposting (figure 25) will take the user to the particular information/website associated with that button, e.g. “Basic Need Scorecards” (figure 26).

Figure 25: Signposting
Selecting the “England Averages – State Funded Schools” button (figure 27) on the contents page will take the user to the England Average data for the Key Stage 2, GCSE and A Level covering a number of years for state funded schools only (figure 28).

England Averages for State Funded Schools

Statistics from May 2010 onwards are available on GOV.UK. You can find our archived statistics on the National Archives. Note: the search function is not available on archived content so please use the filters on the left of each page.

Local authority and school finance

Local authority-maintained school and local authority spending on education, children and young people’s services and social care functions.

LA and school expenditure: 2015 to 2016 financial year
10 May 2017 Official Statistics
Printing the Tool

The current view/screen can be printed from within the Tool by choosing the Print option from the Navigation bar. This will bring up the print dialogue box in the usual way.

Closing the Tool

The correct way out is via the ‘EXIT’ menu item in the navigation tool bar.

Troubleshooting

If at any point you receive a ‘run-time error’ warning, it means that the action you were attempting has failed and it is likely that other functionality within the Tool may be compromised. It has been found that by saving a local copy of the Tool once downloaded (Ctrl + S), rather than using the Tool as it arrives from the web-page, many of the issues may resolve themselves.
Appendix A - 2014 Update to the Children's Services Statistical Neighbour Benchmarking Tool (CSSNBT)

Background

Statistical neighbour models provide one method for benchmarking progress. For each local authority (LA), these models designate a number of other LAs deemed to have similar characteristics. These designated LAs are known as statistical neighbours. Any LA may compare its performance (as measured by various indicators) against its statistical neighbours to provide an initial guide as to whether their performance is above or below the level that might be expected.

The CSSNBT was originally produced by the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) in 2007. There is an accompanying practitioner user guide and final report which explain the tool and its development in more detail.

The background variables used in the tool are listed in table 1 below. These are the variables used to define each LA's statistical neighbours.

We have updated the background variables derived from Census data using more recent information from the 2011 Census.

No other aspect of the original CSSNBT methodology used to derive sets of statistical neighbours has been updated.

Table 1: Background Variables used in the Models

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Source for old model¹</th>
<th>Source for update²</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean Weekly pay - gross</td>
<td>Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2005</td>
<td>No update</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of pupils known to be eligible for FSM</td>
<td>DfES (NPD 2005)</td>
<td>No update</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of vehicles that are three years old or less</td>
<td>DVLA 2004</td>
<td>No update</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% dependent children in household with occupancy rating of +2 or more</td>
<td>Census 2001</td>
<td>Bespoke³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% dependent children in overcrowded household</td>
<td>Census 2001</td>
<td>Bespoke³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% dependent children in households with 2 or more cars</td>
<td>Census 2001</td>
<td>Bespoke⁴</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ CAS theme tables/advanced query
² Nomis Official Labour Market Statistics 2011 Census Tables
³ ONS 2011 Census Occupancy Rating Bedrooms
⁴ ONS 2011 Census Number of Cars/Vans in Household
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Source for old model</th>
<th>Source for update</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% dependent children in one adult household</td>
<td>Census 2001</td>
<td>Bespoke&lt;sup&gt;5&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% dependent children in household where HRP is in any managerial or professional occupation</td>
<td>Census 2001</td>
<td>Bespoke&lt;sup&gt;6&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% dependent children in household where HRP is in any routine occupation</td>
<td>Census 2001</td>
<td>Bespoke&lt;sup&gt;6&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% people with mixed ethnicity</td>
<td>Census 2001</td>
<td>Table: Ethnic Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% people with Indian ethnicity</td>
<td>Census 2001</td>
<td>Table: Ethnic Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% people with Pakistani ethnicity</td>
<td>Census 2001</td>
<td>Table: Ethnic Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% people with Bangladeshi ethnicity</td>
<td>Census 2001</td>
<td>Table: Ethnic Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% people with Other Asian ethnicity</td>
<td>Census 2001</td>
<td>Table: Ethnic Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% people with Black Caribbean ethnicity</td>
<td>Census 2001</td>
<td>Table: Ethnic Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% people with Black African ethnicity</td>
<td>Census 2001</td>
<td>Table: Ethnic Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% people with Other Black ethnicity</td>
<td>Census 2001</td>
<td>Table: Ethnic Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of working age people with higher qualifications</td>
<td>Census 2001</td>
<td>Table: Highest level of qualification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% people in good health</td>
<td>Census 2001</td>
<td>Table: General Health&lt;sup&gt;7&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% households owned outright or owned with mortgage</td>
<td>Census 2001</td>
<td>Table: Tenure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% households with 3 or more dependent children</td>
<td>Census 2001</td>
<td>Bespoke&lt;sup&gt;8&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of the population living in villages, hamlets or isolated settlements</td>
<td>Census 2001</td>
<td>Table: Usual resident population&lt;sup&gt;9&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>5</sup> ONS 2011 Census All Dependent Children living in One Adult Household  
<sup>6</sup> ONS 2011 Census National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification  
<sup>7</sup> The health classification changed in 2011. Figures used in 2011 refer to the percentage of people in good or very good health.  
<sup>8</sup> ONS 2011 Census Number of Dependent Children in Household  
<sup>9</sup> Nomis Official Labour Market Statistics 2011 Census Key Statistics
Impact of the update

Table 2 below summarises the number of LAs that have new neighbours. On average, Local Authorities have two new statistical neighbours.

Table 2: Number of new statistical neighbours by number of Local Authorities as a result of the Census 2011 update

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of new statistical neighbours</th>
<th>Number of local authorities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>