Reviewer's report

Title: Brokered Dialogue: A new research method for addressing controversial health and social issues

Version: 2 Date: 21 March 2012

Reviewer: Geraldine M Leydon

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- Major Compulsory Revisions

This is an interesting paper, but I'm afraid as it is currently configured there is need for a substantial rewrite.

The paper is not set up in a clear fashion. It is rather vague and meandering and could be much clearer in its objectives. The authors only mention their 'test case/project' right at the end of the manuscript and yet it would have provided a brilliant concrete vehicle/example and demonstrate in a grounded way what their methodology can deliver. Without this as an exemplar it is rather vague I'm afraid. I felt myself wondering what the authors learnt from their application of the method (perhaps this has already been published?). I also wondered how feasible this would be as a methodology in practical terms and cost terms. The real benefits of their methodology were also rather unclear and this would need to be specified much more clearly.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests’ GM LEYDON