Reviewer's report

Title: Enabling research in care homes: an evaluation of a national network of research ready care homes.

Version: 3 Date: 19 February 2014

Reviewer: Carmel Hughes

Reviewer's report:

Major compulsory revisions

Abstract

For non-UK readers, the abbreviation NIHR in the Methods section needs to be explained. There also needs to be a clear demarcation between DeNDRoN as a network and what is described as ‘their respective care home networks’. Does the latter refer to a care home network embedded within DeNDRoN? In the results section, there is reference to a care home research network. Again, I am just trying to ensure that the reader is clear about the various initiatives and structures being described in this paper. In relation to the Conclusion and to ensure alignment between the results and the discussion, there should be some recognition in the latter about the need for training for those who have not participated in care home research before. It is clearer in the Introduction to the paper, so again, it’s just about consistency and clarity throughout the paper.

Introduction: Sets the scene well and explains the context and background to the ENRICH network.

Method: One of the data sources for the baseline review was interviews with care home managers/staff who had participated or expressed an interest in research. How were these individuals identified? There is some mention of recruitment later in this section on phase 1 but this is not the same as initial identification. When later reading the Results, it seemed that potential participants were identified from the studies revealed by the searches. And this also applies to the approach taken with the identification and recruitment of residents and families-how did this happen?

Results: On page 9, under Phase 1, reference is made to ‘four DeNDRoN pilot sites’ but this isn’t really explained until later in the Phase 2 text, so there would need to be some explanation in Phase 1 or sign-posting to Phase 2 to explain what this means.

On page 9, the authors refer to interviews being undertaken with care home managers recruited through the thee pilot sites, but the Method had indicated that there were four pilot sites. Did one site drop out? This seems to be the case as later described on page 11 under Phase 2.

Page 9-there is a comment from a manager about some of the benefits of
becoming involved in ENRICH. I wondered if this was in the right section as this seemed more appropriate to the text related to Phase 2 which is about the network.

Discussion: No further comments

Table 2- typo under first box in ‘Barriers’. ‘…from care home staff.’

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**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'