Reviewer’s report

Title: Which Older People Decline Participation in a Primary Care Trial of Physical Activity and Why? Insights from a Mixed Methods Approach

Version: 1 Date: 27 January 2014

Reviewer: Nanette Mutrie

Reviewer’s report:

1) I have no major required revisions
   This manuscript is very well written. The background and references are up to date and appropriate. A clear and important question about who is recruited to primary care physical activity trials is posed. This research question is an aspect of an ongoing study from this team. A mixed method approach is used and is appropriate. The collecting of the data and analyses are both clearly described and sound. The discussion is well written and notes both strengths and limitations.

2) Minor revision: I have only one area that I feel could be improved in this manuscript. The first line of the Discussion section is this: ‘The study achieved a good recruitment rate for a primary care PA trial, in a relatively affluent white population.’ Appropriate references for achieving a good recruitment rate are needed here at this first mention. The authors provide several supporting references later, but what they do not do later is provide evidence for the ‘relatively affluent’ section of this sentence. Discussion and evidence about the level of affluence of the three practices used is needed to defend this part of the sentence. I found no other minor revision issues.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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