Reviewer’s report

Title: Transition to parenthood: the needs of parents in pregnancy and early parenthood.

Version: 1 Date: 29 November 2007

Reviewer: Linda Bloomfield

Reviewer’s report:

General

As the authors suggest the findings are not new but do highlight some important issues. The title clearly conveys what has been found and the paper is interesting and well written.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

The sampling strategy is unclear. If the aim is to recruit two different groups, it should be to look at differences between groups but this is not made clear. Only a small number of single parents were recruited and their views did not differ from the supported women. Were there differences in views based on age, culture or education level? A more detailed description of the sample should be provided.

‘It was important that RM knew if there were complications with the delivery...’ why? Were these mother’s excluded?

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

The sample is described in the abstract as primiparous and in the main text as both nulliparous and first-time mothers. This might be confusing for the reader.

The aim suggests that an exploration of first time father’s needs was also under investigation but this is not referred to in the background. A reference to the unpreparedness of fathers would be useful.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
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 I have no competing interests