Reviewer's report

Title: Service user and carer experiences of seeking help for a first episode of psychosis: a UK qualitative study

Version: 1 Date: 30 March 2011

Reviewer: Israel Sykes

Reviewer's report:

I think this is a well performed and well written study of an important issue which provides increased insight into the issues studied. I would like to suggest however that when thinking about what needs to be done, the authors ignore the important potential role of people with mental illness who have become advocates in reducing stigma and increasing understanding and acceptance of the human experiences regarded as psychotic symptoms. I suggest that this be added.

I also wonder why psychosis is studied in isolation, without reference to other illnesses such as depression and bipolar disorder, where there are similar phenomena.

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 that I have no competing interests