Author's response to reviews

Title: Don't turn your back on the symptoms of psychosis: a proof-of-principle, quasi-experimental public health trial to reduce the duration of untreated psychosis in Birmingham, UK.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Dear Editor,

Re: MS: 9668166978628882, Study protocol
Don’t turn your back on the symptoms of psychosis: a proof-of-principle, quasi-experimental public health trial to reduce the duration of untreated psychosis in Birmingham, UK.

Thank you for requesting a revision of this protocol manuscript. In relation to the points you raise:

1. This is a public health trial so the sample is based on expected incident cases over the 18 months of the trial; we have provided estimates of the likely number of new cases based on data from the previous 12 months and any increase as a result of the trial, in table 2 and in the text.
2. We include a letter from the trial sponsor indicating that on the advice of the UK Clinical Ethics Network, the trial does not require ethics approval as patients are not required to consent and only routine anonymised data are used. We make this clear in the manuscript.
3. The trial is funded by the UK National Institute of Healthcare Research within the mental health theme of the ‘Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care’ (CLAHRC) programme for Birmingham and the Black Country. The total funding envelope is specified in the award letter attached.
4. There are no other publications linked to this protocol at this time.
5. The trial is registered with Current Controlled trials ISRCTN45058713. [www.controlled-trials.com/ISRCTN45058713]

We trust this paper now meets with your approval,

Your sincerely,

Professor Max Birchwood, D.Sc
Professor of Mental Health
and Clinical Director