Author's response to reviews

Title: Health Beliefs and Carer Burden in First Episode Psychosis

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Professor Korkeila,

Re MS: 5719890321163248 - Health Beliefs and Carer Burden in First Episode Psychosis

Thank you for the opportunity to improve and revise our paper. As highlighted by the reviewers this is an area where there is very little recent research. We hope the improved manuscript will now be accepted by BMC psychiatry and reach a wide audience.

In response to reviewer’s comments we have addressed these in turn. Changes are highlighted in the text.

**Reviewer 1:**

Reviewer 1 was mainly concerned with our hypothesis and model. We have clarified the theoretical hypothesis driving the research on page 2, paragraph 2 and in the first paragraph of the discussion, page 10 paragraph 1. Further points have been addressed as follows;

1. Additional details for the patient sample have been added page 5 paragraphs 1 and 2.
2. Detail and comment on the high rate of refusal added page 7 paragraph 2 and in Limitations page 11
3. We have not controlled for DUP and symptoms in the correlations, however have added detail to table 1 demonstrating no significant difference by ethnic group and symptoms, together with detail in table 2 on differences in carer burden by ethnicity. In keeping with statistical advice we have used a regression model to explore the role of ethnicity, DUP and symptoms in predicting carer burden.
4. Discussion around alternative explanations for the direction of influence has been added to the discussion in line with the reviewer’s suggestion.
5. In addressing points 5-8 from reviewer 1, we have clarified details in the discussion gender differences, locus of control and perceived burden of care; page 10.

**Reviewer 2:**

We have addressed all minor revisions suggested and typographical errors.

The manuscript has been formatted entirely with BMC’s guidelines and all references formatted correctly. Many thanks again for the opportunity to improve our paper, which we do hope will now be accepted.

Yours Sincerely

Dr Rachel Upthegrove MBBS MRCPsych PhD