Author’s response to reviews

Title: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Randomised Controlled Trials of Peer Support for People with Severe Mental Illness

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Version: 4
Date: 6 February 2014

Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Randomised Controlled Trials of Peer Support for People with Severe Mental Illness

We are grateful for the reviewers’ comments on our revised manuscript and are pleased that the reviewers felt we had adequately addressed their comments. We have addressed Reviewer 3’s remaining concern that the manuscript still contains some typos as follows.

1. We have revised the written English in the results section p13-16 to improve clarity and avoid ambiguities. When reporting results from the first meta-analysis, we now explain (P14, first sentence) that “confidence in this evidence was graded very low using the GRADE system” After this, we refer to “very low-graded evidence” or “low-graded evidence” when reporting results of meta-analyses. This avoids potentially confusing sentences like the one highlighted by Reviewer 3 “there was very low confidence in evidence of no effect…”.

2. We have made minor grammatical or linguistic changes elsewhere in the paper to improve clarity:
P7: “Types of Intervention” paragraph amended. The first sentence now reads “Included interventions were…” Third sentence now reads “We excluded residential or inpatient peer-run programmes…”
P8: “Search strategy” paragraph now reads “The search was updated in July” not “on July”
P9: “Data Management” paragraph – The first sentence now reads “We extracted
data regarding.. “ nor “We extracted data for..”

P11: “Study characteristics” paragraph – The first sentence now reads “Trials involved..” not “Trials assigned”

P12: Final paragraph, last sentence – now reads “supervision was reported as being provided” not “supervision was reported as provided”

P19: Second paragraph, first sentence – now reads “Previous reviews” not “Previous review”

Thank you for considering our revised paper for publication in BMC Psychiatry. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

Brynmor Lloyd-Evans