Reviewer’s report

Title: Improving communication and practical skills in working with inpatients who self-harm: a pre-test/post-test study of the effects of a training programme.

Version: 4 Date: 12 February 2014

Reviewer: Jo Robinson

Reviewer’s report:

I thank the authors for their revised manuscript. I have a couple of very minor suggestions remaining.

Discretionary revisions:

1. Page 4: The sentence 'They in turn recruited the participating wards and participants' might benefit from the word 'individual' inserted before participants, just for the purpose of clarity.

2. Under the heading Data Collection. The authors begin this section with 'The variables in the current study were…' I still think that the word 'variables' would be better replaced by 'outcomes of interest'.

3. Finally, in the Discussion section the authors describe the art objects as a 'powerful tool'. I'm not sure that they can really justify this statement given that no formal evaluation of the perceptions of the art objects was conducted. I think this needs to re-worded carefully.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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