Reviewer's report

Title: The impact of the social environment on children's mental health in a prosperous city: an analysis with data from the city of Munich

Version: 1 Date: 14 December 2009

Reviewer: Eric Emerson

Reviewer's report:

This paper makes a very modest contribution to the existing literature relating to social gradients in the emotional and behavioural difficulties of children. The value of the paper is that it replicates the results of previous studies in what we are led to believe to be a particularly affluent and advantaged urban setting (Munich).

For the paper to be considered acceptable it would be important to provide more evidence to substantiate this assertion (e.g., by providing data on child poverty rates or population income inequality for Munich and other urban settings, both nationally and internationally). Even if such information is provided, the present manuscript is over long for the contribution it makes to the literature.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'