Reviewer's report

Title: A partnership between Health Psychology and Public Health - a review of a novel training project

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Reviewer: Susan Hrisos

Reviewer's report:

This is a very interesting manuscript, well written and well structured. Given the format it has presumably been submitted as a Debate paper. It is a debate that is of significance and relevance to the public health community so is suitable for the readership of BMC Public Health.

The authors support a good case for the integration and applicability of Health Psychology theory to public health research and the implementation of evidence into practice. They also describe a novel training project that places trainee health psychologists within NHS contexts and present detail of two projects undertaken by trainees to illustrate the potential benefits of them being involved in this way.

The manuscript could be improved by stating more clearly in the background section what the aim of the paper/discussion is and what the authors are arguing for.

On page 6, end of second paragraph, and end of final paragraph, page 7, the authors suggest that the project has had a “positive impact to public health services in Scotland” and that their evaluation “reflects the significant contribution of THPs to local health improvement targets”. Can the authors elaborate this positive impact/significant contribution? Do they mean that THPs contribution was positively received by those they were working with or that their contribution had an actual impact on targets/services – or both? Looking at the evaluation report there is clearly a recognition among respondents that THPs had a valuable part to play but less certainty about whether or not this contributed to achieving health improvement targets? The limitations of these early evaluations should be acknowledged.

I was unable to access reference 46 and since successfully locating reference 47 a few days ago have had difficulty in reconnecting to this report today.

Page 8 – minor comment, repetition of aim of LAYP needs assessment.

Page 9 – it would be interesting to include here more detail about the behaviour change support to LAYPs – what does this comprise? What actually happens when someone uses this service? What are the key behaviour change techniques used and how are these decided upon/what determinants are they targeting?
Page 9 - final paragraph, can the authors provided more detail about the behaviour change outcomes analysis – what was done in the workshop that is referenced, what behaviours were examined and what was found?

References: I had difficulty locating a couple of the reports referenced using url links – refs 46, 47 and 68 (could not find this last reference).

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**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 interest