Reviewer’s report

Title: Measuring capacity building in communities: a review of the literature

Version: 1 Date: 16 July 2011

Reviewer: Jennie Popay

Reviewer’s report:

Major compulsory revisions:
1. clarify the relationship between the various terms relating to community
2. provide more details on the review process including in particular the inclusion criteria used, the types of studies included (e.g. design/methods)included; the relationship between, rationale for and application of two appraisal frameworks described as: (i) methodological quality and (ii) quality
3. Elaborate and further justify the domains and sub-domains extracted from the literature which currently include apparently overlapping and confusing array of concepts relating to the capacity building process, potential outcomes of this process, related but different processes (e.g. participatory decision making), etc
4. Refine the synthesis product - currently this is simply a list of domains and sub-domains with little in the way of critical engagement, no rationale for their selection and no attempt to theorise the linkages between these as would be the case in a realist synthesis - the methods the authors claim to be using.

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 interests