Reviewer’s report

Title: An Exploratory Randomised Controlled Trial of a Premises-Level Intervention to Reduce Alcohol-Related Harm Including Violence in the United Kingdom

Version: 1 Date: 13 October 2011

Reviewer: Lisa Jones

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
None

Minor Essential Revisions

General
1. Although the writing is generally acceptable there are a number of errors including misspellings and missing punctuation throughout the paper that makes some parts of the paper difficult to follow. For example, the following sentence is not clear: “However, risks may be cyclical, particularly as premises are subject to high staff turnover rates and numerous external factors that could be assessed analytically might influence premises-level failure rates, such as local sporting events and temporary closure.”

2. The authors need to check the use of abbreviations. Some terms are abbreviated early in the document but the abbreviation is used inconsistently later in the text, e.g. premises level is abbreviated to PL in the second paragraph of the Introduction but is used in full throughout the rest of the Introduction. Other abbreviations used in the paper (e.g. DPS, NTE, ED) are not written out in full.

Methods
3. Details of the methods used to generate the random allocation sequence are missing from the description of randomisation.

Results
4. “Approximate cost of the intervention developed here was £600”. The authors do not report what costs were measured or over what period (e.g. are only the costs of implementation considered?). I understand that the estimates are provisional but it would be useful to have more information about how the £600 figure was determined.

5. Could the authors provide references for the systematic review and Traffic Light scheme mentioned in the fourth paragraph of the Discussion.
Discretionary Revisions

1. A clear description of the premises level intervention is not provided in the Methods section of the paper. It is not until the section on Process Evaluation in the Results that a sufficient level of detail is reported. I would suggest moving the text describing the intervention from the Results to section in the Methods.

2. Within the Statistical Analysis section the use of the failure rate as the measure of violence should be more clearly reported.

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

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests