Reviewer's report

Title: Parental knowledge of alcohol consumption: a cross sectional survey of 11-17 year old schoolchildren and their parents

Version: 1 Date: 11 February 2013

Reviewer: John Foster

Reviewer's report:

- Major Compulsory Revisions

Currently I cannot recommend publication of this manuscript. The main difficulty is that the discussion is not consistent with the abstract. I think the way the discussion is structured and some of your results you may be accused of over claiming on your data. I think you should think what are the main messages from your study which you have robust evidence for. I suggest your main findings are a comparison of children 11-14 v 15-17. Much of the beginning of the discussion compares 11 year olds to older children. I think your sample size of 11 year olds is too small to justify this

Therefore I suggest that you remove all reference to anything beyond 11-14 v 15-15 from both your results and discussion. The other main findings that need to be stressed are the variables reported by parents to prevent/reduce consumption.

Other Points:

At some point in the introduction you need to introduce the findings re the trends for drinking of young people in the UK have been on a downward trend for a number of years. A short discussion of Fiona Measham’s work around university students being “new puritans” would also be beneficial.

Page 8: Third paragraph- Data were “inputed”

Ethnicity- small numbers of what?

- Minor Essential Revisions

None

- Discretionary Revisions

None

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

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