Author’s response to reviews

Title: How do adolescents talk about self-harm? A qualitative study of disclosure in an ethnically diverse urban population in England

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

Re: How do young people talk about self-harm? A qualitative study of disclosure in an ethnically diverse urban population in England

The authors would like to extend their thanks to the reviewers for the considerate and helpful reviews of this manuscript, and are delighted that BMC Public Health will be happy to accept this manuscript for publication. Changes have been addressed from the review of the second version of the paper. In response to reviewer MM's report, there were similarities and differences in the accounts relative to the frequency and repetition of self-harm in this sample, adding another layer of variation in addition to the range of attitudes, methods, intentions and experiences of disclosure explored in this manuscript. The following comments and direct quotes have been added to the results section from participants who had self-harmed once.

Most participants who had self-harmed once described a distance from their experience of self-harm, depicting it as something they had done once in a moment of extreme distress, or something they had experimented with or tried out.

“Well, when I was doing it, I felt OK, it doesn’t matter; other people have tried it, so I might as well, but afterwards it hurts”

(Female, 15, Asian, self-harmed once)

“I just find it stupid and just, dumb… I just can’t believe I done that!”

(Female, 15, Black Somali, self-harmed once)

In response to reviewer JR's comments, the discussion has been restructured, to aid the flow of the argument for the reader. Work on the help-negation effect was already referenced within the paper, and an additional reference to that effect (naming it specifically) has been added to the discussion.

We hope the reviewers will find our revisions satisfactory, as we would very much welcome being published in BMC Public Health. We look forward to hearing from you further.

Best wishes,

Emily Klineberg

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