Reviewer's report

Title: What is known about the cost effectiveness of interventions to promote the physical health of people with mental health problems? A systematic review

Version: 1 Date: 30 April 2013

Reviewer: Glyn Lewis

Reviewer's report:

I think the authors should consider the types of outcome in the review. There seems a bit of inconsistency about the outcomes but they appear to have concentrated on QALYs. I wondered if this were appropriate? For example, an intervention that increased physical activity might not have an immediate influence on quality of life but might have long term benefits from reducing mortality. Therefore some intermediate outcomes such as risk factors for disease could also be a legitimate outcome of interest, even though in the end we will be interested in the impact on QALYs.

I also think they should consider treating different mental health problems as separate issues. For example, the interventions needed for those with severe mental illness pose different challenges from people with depression in primary care who may well be functioning well for much of the time. This distinction also applies to the literature on poor health that was cited in the introduction. Much of the data on mortality is concerned with people with severe mental illness who are often taking drugs that impair glucose tolerance. I think it would help if they distinguished between these conditions if at all possible, though I concede this area could be thought as a continuum rather than in two distinct categories.

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 have declared that I have no competing interests