Author's response to reviews

Title: Teenage drinking, alcohol availability and pricing: a study of risk and protective factors for alcohol related harms in school children

Authors:

Mark A Bellis (m.a.bellis@ljmu.ac.uk)
Penelope A Phillips-Howard (p.phillips-howard@ljmu.ac.uk)
Karen Hughes (k.e.hughes@ljmu.ac.uk)
Sara Hughes (s.k.hughes@ljmu.ac.uk)
Penny A Cook (p.a.cook@ljmu.ac.uk)
Michela Morleo (m.j.morleo@ljmu.ac.uk)
Kerin Hannon (k.hannon@ljmu.ac.uk)
Linda Smallthwaite (Linda.Smallthwaite@halton.gov.uk)
Lisa Jones (l.jones1@ljmu.ac.uk)

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Editor,

We are pleased to submit our revised manuscript for publication in BMC Public Health:

Teenage drinking, alcohol availability and pricing: a study of risk and protective factors for alcohol related harms in school children.

We are delighted that the referees found this an article of importance in the field and that they provided detailed comments which have helped us improve the manuscript. In your email you also ask for clarification regarding ethical approval. This is an bi-annual survey established by Local Authority Trading Standards within the North West (TSNW), has been scrutinised and passed by the TSNW Executive, supported by Government Office North West and distributed through local schools. We have now addressed this issue in the revised manuscript which also explains how the protocols abide by the Helsinki Declaration. In addition, we have attached a document outlining how each of the referees’ comments has been addressed. However, if you require anything further on this or any other matters addressed in the paper, please do not hesitate to contact me.

We feel, like the referees, that this paper addresses a very topical issue affecting the health and well-being of youths, not just in the UK, but in many other countries and hope it merits publication in BMC Public Health.

Yours faithfully,
Professor Mark A. Bellis