Reviewer's report

Title: Improving Adolescent Emotional Health in Schools: A qualitative study of student and staff views in England

Version: 1 Date: 18 May 2009

Reviewer: Andrew Hunter

Reviewer's report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
The authors set the scene well on both a national and international level. They utilise appropriate literature to highlight the potential challenges and benefits inherent in addressing MH needs in secondary schools.

Major Compulsory Revisions

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
   It is not clear to the reader if the questionnaire was the questionnaire part of a separate study? In any event the randomisation of schools is not explained and appears and seems at odds with the later purposive sampling for the qualitative element. Constant comparison and emergent themes are talked about but no more detail on the analysis and the actual qualitative method is required.

Discretionary Revisions

3. Are the data sound?
The response rate for the questionnaire was 75 out of 296 this low response rate is not explained or discussed in enough detail which would be useful given that the study being described stems directly from it. Under results there is reference to the questionnaire finding and statistical tests should the title be mixed methods rather than qualitative?

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
   Pages 7-24 make for interesting reading but the lack of methodological detail make it difficult to see how significant these quotations are.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
The conclusions are congruent with the data, but in keeping the lack of methodological clarity are broad and given the amount of data do not greatly add to the field.

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
   yes
8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found? This paper is more of a broad discussion on EHWB teaching quality, format and focus. This is not reflected in the title/abstract.

9. Is the writing acceptable? Yes

**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 declare that I have no competing interests'