Reviewer's report

Title: Sustainable practice change: Professionals' experiences with a child health intervention programme in Sweden

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Reviewer: Carolyn Briggs

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TITLE OF PAPER: Sustainable practice change: Professionals’ experience with a child health intervention programme in Sweden.

Thank you for asking me to review this article as I found the article both interesting and informative. I agree with the authors’ assertion about the necessity to ensure the sustainability of health promotion initiatives. Such programs are often costly in monetary terms and require substantial effort from health personnel to instigate. In this respect the article contributes to the growing body of research on program sustainability and assists health promoters to appreciate the nuances of implementing health promotion programs.

This article was clearly written in plain English and the quality of the writing was of a high standard. The research question is well defined and the chosen methodology validated. Consideration is given to the requirements of data analysis in qualitative research and clearly documented.

The results section appears very long, but the use of the framework modelled on Grol and Wensing was useful as it gave structure and clarity to the description of the study’s results.

The discussion of the findings summarised the main findings and offered further insights linked to the literature. I agree with the authors that the findings from this study replicates and supports similar findings from other research, but there were further interesting and informative insights that would offer guides to other health promoters seeking to optimise their success. The methodological discussion identifies the limitations of the study and other factors impacting on the research.

The study identified child health nurses as the sector of the workforce that was apparently less engaged and subsequently less likely to comply with the program over time. There was little attention given to this in the discussion. This may be because the evaluation of the study has not yet been reported, so I would hope when it is published that report would offer further insights into why this occurred, as child health nurses are a key professional group in health promotion programs aimed at child rearing families.

In conclusion, this is a well written article that I consider is suitable for publication without major revisions. The authors could consider whether the results section should be reduced in length, but this is at their discretion.
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.