Reviewer's report

Title: Negotiating policy in practice: Child and Family Health Nurses approach to the process of postnatal psychosocial assessment

Version: 1 Date: 20 January 2013

Reviewer: Jane Appleton

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for submitting this paper – it is an interesting topic of importance to child and family public health nurses and health visitors. I enjoyed the topic of this paper which is well referenced, however I did find it rather long and felt the paper could be improved and more consistently readable if it was more succinct throughout.

Minor Essential Revisions

I have highlighted some minor comments and small typographical errors on the attached marked up copy of your pdf. Please be careful in your use of either CFHN or CFHNS throughout the paper.

In the Methods Section it would be helpful to:
• Consider including a Table indicating the number of observations undertaken in each site and whether they were conducted in the home or clinic.
• Explain that the CFHNs from both sites were involved in the discussion groups.
• Discuss issues of rigour briefly.

Results

Table 3 on the frequency of psychosocial assessments is missing from the submission, but it would be very useful to include this for the reader.

Discussion

You might want to have a look at the original work of Karen Chalmers and Karen Luker where they discussed entry level work – See Luker and Chalmers (1990) paper - Gaining access to clients: the case of health visiting in the JAN and also Karen Chalmers work on 'entry level' work.

Referencing

There are one or two referencing omissions in the main text.

Overall an interesting and useful study which should be published.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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'