Reviewer's report

Title: The needs of people with dementia living at home: user, carer and professional perspectives

Version: 2 Date: 30 January 2012

Reviewer: Jill Manthorpe

Reviewer's report:

The needs of people with dementia living at home

Thank you for sending me this interesting article to review. I think it is suitable for publications with some minor amendments.

1. Add carer to key words.

2. The opening sentence seems not too backed up by evidence. The references are not to policy and in fact do not refer to older people’s or dementia services. They are also rather dated.

3. In referring to Hancock’s study and others where participants live in care homes, it might be better to refer to them as residents.

4. I think there needs to be some re-thinking of the term professionals. It is not clear that the psychiatrists and psychologists were acting in professional roles, or if they were interviewers who had these professional backgrounds (and why these and not others) and, in addition, these are very atypical professionals working with people with dementia. Some discussion of why these professionals were engaged on this task, the potential bias of this approach and the implications of their perspectives would be helpful.

5. What is the date of this study? (This needs to be in the text and abstract.)

6. I think there should be a reference for the claim that in the UK there is often a member of a CMHT for each person with dementia (and possibly a modification of this claim). Does the CMHT provide help and organise care? Only in some instances in my experience as there are eligibility criteria in many cases.

7. I think the discussion could say more about the phrase ‘daytime activities’. This is an interesting umbrella term and might be further interrogated in terms of whether this means social interaction, physical activity, activities of daily living and so on. It also has subjective and objective overlaps with perception of isolation, loneliness and normalisation.

In summary, I think that this is an interesting paper in terms of the literature on unmet need and different perception of such. Some further development of the discussion would make this valuable to deliberations about commissioning, e.g. the cuts in resources such as social groups, day centres, and so on that will
possibly reduce the option of daytime activities in localities. The paper could also reflect on the advantages of using clinical professionals to assess need and debate whether staff such as community nurses, OTs or social care workers might make other observations.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'