Reviewer's report

Title: What works with men? A systematic review of health promoting interventions targeting men

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Reviewer: Lesley Doyal

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting review of what the authors rightly identify as a sparse evidence base. It is well worth publishing. However I would like to make two comments. The first is that I think the use of the term 'gender' must be carefully reviewed and revised. It seems to be used here to describe both biological and social characteristics when they actually need to be distinguished (even though they are interconnected). On page 1 for example, I think prostate cancer must be described as a sex-specific rather than gender-specific and so on...

My other comments are more discretionary perhaps. I feel slightly anxious about the limited discussion of the distinction between interventions directed at sex-specific problems, those targetted at men, and those that were gender-sensitive (ie designed to take the broader aspects of masculinity into account). Of course some might fit into all three categories but I think the disinction is important from a policy perspective. I think it is hinted at in the last para on p. 10 but needs to be clearer.

In the last para 'men's health' is referred to as a 'specialty' but I wonder if that it is true and if so what the boundaries are. I think many readers would see this as a contested concept. Perhaps 'area of interest' might be a better term.

Finally I found the suggestion that women should be targetted to promote men's health somewhat unsettling! Of course it does seem to follow from some of the studies reviewed but the authors might want to acknowledge the controversial nature of such a proposal in this day and age....

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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