Reviewer's report

Title: Physical activity promotion as a policy problem: Applying a concept from policy analysis to a public health issue

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Reviewer: Nana Anokye

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting paper that addresses an important issue—how physical activity might be seen as a policy issue. However, this paper can improve by becoming explicit in the following areas (Major Compulsory Revisions):

1. Justify the use of Peters' recommended set of seven variables that characterises policy problems. Why not other tool(s) that might exist?
2. Clarify a particular national context(s) within which the authors are speaking into. This is particularly important given that contextual factors impact the characterisation of a policy problem.
3. Extensive examples, where feasible, to substantiate the characterisation of physical activity as a policy problem
4. Comment on the timeliness of this debate into formally structuring physical activity as a policy problem - e.g. Is it particularly pertinent given that policy targets are not being achieved in certain countries?

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'