Reviewer's report

Title: Developing a checklist for research proposals to help describe health service interventions in UK research programme: a mixed methods study

Version: 2 Date: 14 February 2014

Reviewer: Simon Bishop

Reviewer's report:

Thanks to the authors for addressing all comments and suggestions from myself and the other reviewer. I feel that the changes made have improved the paper and it can now be published.

Given the variety and complexity as well as theoretical differences between different applications to the HS&DR programme, no checklist will provide a complete tool for judging applications or replace the role expert reviewers. However, as I understand it, the check-list will not be used dogmatically to judge the quality of applications in itself, but is intended as a guide to help applicants structure their proposals and consider including particular information. As the paper clearly states "This is not expected to solely answer the problem, but begin to improve the situation". If used in this way I feel the checklist can indeed be a helpful guide to potential applicants to the programme and I look forward to seeing it published.

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 have previously been granted research funding from the NIHR HS&DR Programme.