Author’s response to reviews

Title: Mums 4 Mums: structured telephone peer-support for women experiencing postnatal depression. Pilot and exploratory RCT of its clinical and cost effectiveness

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Author’s response to reviews:

Editors - Trials Journal

Dear Editors

Re: Re-submission of Study Protocol Paper entitled: Mums 4 Mums; structured telephone peer-support for women experiencing postnatal depression. Pilot and exploratory RCT of its clinical and cost effectiveness

We would like to submit our study protocol paper for consideration for publication to the Trials Journal. The study aims to evaluate the effectiveness of telephone based peer support for women currently experiencing postnatal depression (PND). The proposed study will develop current innovative work in peer-led support interventions and telecare by applying existing expertise to a new domain (i.e. PND), to help reduce the depressive symptomology experienced by the mother and improve the relationship with the child.

We consider Trials Journal to be the appropriate journal for its dissemination because of its open access facility, and its focus on high quality reporting on randomised control trials and its attention to detail. The study uses a unique approach to PND, aiming to reduce the negative effect on the interaction between the parent and child, in turn improving the child's later capacity for affect regulation, we believe the protocol should be shared with others, and Trials Journal is one of the few journals which encourage the communication of study protocols.

The following format changes have been made:

• The ISRCTN is included in the application
• A list of abbreviations used in the study has been provided
• Scanned copies of the original funding and ethics documentations have been
We hope that you consider it to be a timely submission with regard to public health concern about childhood mental health.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Sukhdev Sembi