Author's response to reviews

Title: A feasibility pilot trial of screening and brief alcohol intervention to prevent hazardous drinking in young people aged 14-15 in a high school setting protocol (SIPS JR-HIGH)

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Version: 3 Date: 18 August 2012

Author's response to reviews: see over
27th March 2012.

Dear Editor,

Re: A feasibility pilot trial of screening and brief alcohol intervention to prevent hazardous drinking in young people aged 14-15 in a high school setting protocol (SIPS JR-HIGH) O’Neil Et al.

Please find attached the above manuscript to be considered for publication in the Journal Trials. This manuscript is a study protocol for a NIHR funded pilot randomised controlled trial of alcohol screening and brief interventions for young people in the school setting. Recruitment for the trial has begun. The robustness of the research and the usefulness of the findings will be greatly enhanced by making its protocol publicly and freely accessible through publication in an open access journal. We recognise the journal ‘Trials’ as the leading forum for the publication of such trial protocols.

We do believe the study protocol is an important step in the field. As we state in our manuscript

“Whilst the overall proportion of young people drinking alcohol in the UK has decreased in recent years, those who do drink appear to drink a larger amount, and more frequently. Early and heavy drinking by younger adolescents is a significant public health problem linked to intellectual impairment, increased risk of injuries, mental health issues, unprotected or regretted sexual experience, violence and sometimes accidental death which leads to high social and economic costs. This pilot trial aims to explore the feasibility of delivering brief alcohol intervention in a school setting with adolescents aged 14-15 and to examine the acceptability of study measures to school staff, young people and parents”.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Dr. Dorothy Newbury-Birch