Reviewer's report

Title: Meeting the challenges of recruitment to multicentre, community-based, lifestyle-change trials: a case study of the BeWEL trial.

Version: 1 Date: 27 September 2013

Reviewer: Ranjit Manchanda

Reviewer's report:

This is a descriptive study in which the authors describe recruitment to a multicentre 2 arm RCT assessing the impact of a bodyweight and physical activity intervention on adults at risk of developing colorectal adenomas.

Recruitment to RCTs is challenging and published data on this is limited. The authors describe their recruitment strategy and highlight the need for realistic assumptions and some important steps undertaken to improve recruitment and meet unmet targets.

I completely agree on the importance of having a flexible and pro-active approach to introduce changes/interventions to achieve recruitment targets.

Questions-
How were the 997 invitees to the trial selected? Please give details
What are the characteristics of the 42 (9%) decliners - are there differences from the acceptors recruited?
Is there anything that stands as different amongst the non responders?
Did the authors use/develop a customised database/trial management system.

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'