Author's response to reviews

Title: Developing stepped care treatment for depression (STEPS): protocol for a mixed methods study involving a pilot randomised controlled trial and qualitative interviews

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Author's response to reviews:

The following formatting changes have been made.

1. The study title has been revised to conform to the format “___________: study protocol for a randomized controlled trial.”

2. We have included the reference number given with our ethical approval in our ethics statement in the Methods section.

3. A list of abbreviations and their meanings has been added after the Trial Status section.

4. A Competing Interests section has been added after the list of abbreviations.

5. An Authors’ Contributions section has been added at the end of the manuscript, before the reference list. Each author is listed individually. The statement has been written to be consistent with the format suggested by Trials.

6. The title for Figure One has been deleted from the Figure One document and included in the main manuscript under Figures.