**Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Knowledge translation strategies to improve the use of evidence in public health decision-making in local government: a logic model for intervention design.

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 9 February 2013

**Reviewer:** Jo Rycroft-Malone

**Reviewer's report:**

Given the increasing interest in understanding how interventions work, including their mechanisms of action, and the growing interest in using logic models to help explicate these, the topic of this manuscript is potentially timely.

I suggest the following, which may enhance its potential contribution as a methodology paper.

**Major Compulsory Revision**

It would be helpful to clarify the characteristics of the public health system in relation to evidence informed decision making (Page 6) e.g. the reference made to the institutionalisation of evidence informed decision making processes.

The reader needs a little more information about the study/trial before introducing the focus of this paper on the development of a logic model.

A rationale for why a logic model approach was chosen as the most appropriate way to identify mechanisms and outcomes of interventions- given the recent interest and flurry of publications about unpacking complex interventions, and the nod to realist inquiry at the end of the manuscript.

The manuscript offers quite a high level description of the evidence that informed the development of a logic model, and the contents of the logic model. To enhance the potential contribution of the manuscript as a methodology paper I think it might benefit from a re-focus on the development process (as the abstract and intro suggest -'The purpose of this paper is to describe the design of a logic model to underpin a knowledge translation intervention for public health decision-making in local government). A clearer exposition of how the sources of evidence etc. were synthesised to reach the content is needed - which could be linked to 'the putative pathways between intervention inputs, processes, and outcomes operating between individual, organisational and system-level strategies.' This refocus could also include an in depth critique of how logic models could be helpful in designing, implementing, and evaluating (public) health interventions.

**Minor revisions**

Reference to to LG's on the bottom of page 5- in full at first time of mention.
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 no competing demands