Reviewer's report

Title: Parents' perceptions on offspring risk and prevention of anxiety and depression: A Qualitative Study

Version: 1 Date: 4 April 2014

Reviewer: Cathy Creswell

Reviewer's report:

Many thanks for inviting me to review this paper. It was well written, thoughtfully executed and I found the results very interesting and useful. I am not an expert in qualitative methods however this appears to have been conducted to a high standard- notable strengths include the inclusion of patient interviewers and validation, and the inclusion of multiple raters. The discussion provides useful reflection on implications for preventative efforts aimed at children at risk by virtue of parental psychopathology.

I have no recommendations for major revisions.

Minor revisions:
1. I was surprised that no further ethical permissions were required to conduct the qualitative interviews with participants, especially given that some of the participants had not consented to the prior RCT. It will be important to know that this decision was ratified by the ethical approval body.

2. It is stated that schizophrenia or other psychotic disorder was an exclusion criteria for the trial- but one participant refers to their experience of psychosis. Can this be clarified?

3. It would be helpful to add some brief information on the nature of the intervention offered in the RCT, particularly as a central issue in parent's reluctance to participate was the inclusion of their children (so making the level of child/parent involvement clear from the start would be useful).

Discretionary revisions
1. The fact that parents typically did express concerns about their offspring's mental health presumably reflects the fact that the families were selected on the basis of children having elevated symptoms. It might be helpful to acknowledge this, so it does not suggest that this concern is a general function of high levels of parental anxiety or depression.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests: I declare that I have no competing interests