Reviewer’s report

Title: The key therapeutic factors needed to deliver behavioural change interventions to decrease risky substance use (drug and alcohol) for looked after children and care leavers: a qualitative exploration with young people, carers and front line workers

Version: 1 Date: 29 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Reviewer 2

Reviewer's report:

REVISION ASSESSMENT FROM THE ACADEMIC PEER REVIEWER:

Has the author addressed your concerns sufficiently for you to now recommend the work as a technically sound contribution? Yes

Reviewer comments: Thank you for the opportunity to review the revised manuscript. The main revisions that I requested to strengthen the authors goals of using qualitative methods to make adaptations to two psychosocial interventions had to do with 1) Providing more details about the sample and sample recruitment, 2) describing the analysis of data more clearly, and 3) placing the changes into more of a context that influences LAC. The authors do a terrific job of providing details about the sample, recruitment, and the steps to analysis. The authors also do a terrific job of placing the changes made into a context of LAC. These changes ring true from my own research with this population and practice experiences, and I appreciate being able to follow the methodological decision-making throughout. This manuscript will make an important contribution to the field's ability to adapt interventions for this vulnerable group.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?  
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?  
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?  
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review? If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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