Reviewer’s report

Title: Can a ‘consent to contact’ community help research teams overcome barriers to recruitment? The development and impact of the ‘Research for the Future’ community

Version: 0 Date: 12 Mar 2019

Reviewer: Clare Relton

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript discusses an important and timely topic - can consent to contact communities help overcome barriers to recruitment? It describes a project which began in 2012 in NW England which created a consent to contact register. Interesting information about how the register (community) developed and the profile of the 5000 individuals on the register.

General comments
In what sense is this a 'community' - do they interact with each other? would this be better described as a registry or register or database?
There is also quite alot of jargon - terms that are used in recruitment to health studies.
I am not sure how well this manuscript fits into the Intro/ Methods/ Results/ Discussion framework - I wonder if it would better as a Database article see https://bmcmedresmethodol.biomedcentral.com/submission-guidelines/preparing-your-manuscript/database-article

Introduction
I think White Papers are policy documents produced by the Government that set out their proposals for future legislation - rather than actual commitments
References 5 and 6 are from 2006 - suggest more recent reference to demonstrate that recruitment is still a challenge

Methods
Suggest the aims and methods are revised and written as a short narrative and the bullet points removed 'the ' missing on line 47

Results
Assume people know nothing - start at the beginning and provide some context - who what when and why and how funded - did it all start with Help BEAT diabetes campaign? who led this initiative? where did it come from?
Line 51 page 8 - who are the project team
Explain what NHS Spine data is
Line 56 page 9 "with the launch of various disease areas" sounds odd... suggest revise
Page 14 lines 4-15 - simplify this paragraph.
Page 14 lines 34- 39 - this is not relevant to the recruitment function - maybe it should go in the discussion
Page 17 lines 34 - 51 - are you talking about recruitment to the research for the future community or to research?

Page 18 line 4-5 - I don't understand this sentence - bias?

Page 18 line 19 - “recruitment of patients to patient and public involvement - suggest you avoid PPI jargon - and is this sentence really true? do we want the involvement of patients who are not representative of the population being under study

Page 19 lines 27 -37 - what sort of engagement are you referring to here?

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

Unable to assess

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

Unable to assess

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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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