Reviewer’s report

Title: Strategies to support engagement and continuity of activity during mealtimes for families living with dementia; a qualitative study.

Version: 3 Date: 5 August 2015

Reviewer: Sarah Barnes

Reviewer’s report:

This is a well-written paper on an under researched topic area. It appears to be embedded within a larger study, ‘Eating Together’ which developed the Life Nourishment Theory. This paper is discussing, as an aspect of this larger study, strategies used by people with dementia and their care partners in supporting the meaning of mealtimes. The methods used are appropriate and well defined and the data is reported appropriately. The discussion and conclusion are well balanced and supported by the data and the limitations of the work are stated.

Just a few minor discretionary revisions/clarifications:-

1. line 166-167 This sentence needs clarifying to state who took part in the individual interviews. Were the PWD and CPs interviewed individually after the initial dyadic interview? If so, why was this considered necessary?
2. Line 289 ‘... run interference ...’ it is unclear what is meant by this term.
3. Line 317-319 the sentence doesn’t make sense and needs revising.
4. The key findings could be restated concisely at the commencement of the discussion chapter.

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 declare that I have no competing interests