Author’s response to reviews

Title: Community intervention to reduce social isolation in elderly people in disadvantaged urban areas: study protocol for a mixed methods multi-approach evaluation

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear editor,

Thank you very much for the review of the manuscript. Please, find the response to all your comments and the new version of the manuscript (with the changes marked in grey).

- Please forward copies of all ethical approval and funding approval for our records. These documents should be sent as email attachments to the following email addresses: BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com and priences.ducot@biomedcentral.com Please DO NOT upload these documents as additional files in the submission system. If your documents are not in English, please could you provide translated versions of the relevant parts. These should be endorsed and signed by a contactable person at the institution. Please also include the original documents. Can you please confirm in your cover letter that you have forwarded the requested documentation to BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com and priences.ducot@biomedcentral.com

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- A study is considered to be externally funded if the authors have been awarded a grant for the study by a major funding body (e.g. governmental funding/award from a charitable foundation). If a study has not received external funding, then the study protocol will be sent for peer-review with a member of our Editorial Board. If a study has received funding/assistance from a commercial organization, this should be clearly stated in the 'competing interests' section of your manuscript, and the study protocol will be sent for peer-review by a member of our Editorial
Board. Please confirm whether your study protocol has undergone peer-review by the funding body.

I confirm that the study has been awarded a grant after a peer-review by the funding body. (Details about the funding body and the grant can be found in the Funding section of the manuscript and in the documentation sent to BMCSeriesEditorial@biomedcentral.com and priences.ducot@biomedcentral.com)

- Please include in your manuscript a timeline of what portions of the study were/will be done when.

As requested, we have included a timeline in the manuscript. This is the paragraph included (page XX):

“The participants are contacted by telephone to arrange an appointment, in which the person will be informed individually about the study. After agreement, he/she will sign the informed consent form and complete a questionnaire. Those participants not able to arrange an appointment, will receive the consent form and complete the baseline questionnaire during the first session of the intervention (just before starting). The intervention will last 22 weeks. At the end of the last session the participants will complete the follow-up questionnaire. Regarding the qualitative analysis, the in-depth interviews and focus groups will be carried out between 6 to 9 months after the intervention.”

- Please include a summary of consent procedures in the Ethics approval and consent to participate statement in the Declarations.

We have included this information in the Declarations. This is the paragraph included:

“This protocol was approved by the Comité Ético de Investigación Clínica Parc de Salut Mar (code nº 2015/6500/I). Participants will be informed both verbally and in writing about the aims, methods, procedures and measures performed during the study. They will be also informed about ethics issues such as confidentiality, their right to ask any questions during the study, and their right to withdraw at any time without penalty. To ensure that all participants have received proper information about the study and have agreed to participate, all participants will be asked to sign a written consent form.”

- Please remove the figure titles and legends from the figure files and list them at the end of the main manuscript file. Full guidelines for figures are here: https://bmcgeriatr.biomedcentral.com/submission-guidelines/preparing-your-manuscript#preparing+figures

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