Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 04 May 2018

Reviewer: Karen Kobayashi

Reviewer’s report:

Given the recognized importance of social isolation and loneliness as critical determinants of health, the proposed study is interesting and timely. There are, however, a number of issues that must be addressed before it is considered for publication.

1. In the introduction, the authors need to provide a much-needed rationale as to why they have chosen urban dwelling older adults AND why they have selected economically disadvantaged older adults for this study. The linkages between SES and urban residence (place of residence) and social isolation and loneliness need to be established.

2. Similarly, there needs to be a stronger rationale made for the multi-method approach they are using. As presented, the qualitative component is simply a qualitative evaluation of the intervention only. It should be more central to the interrogation of the experience of social isolation and loneliness among older adults, rather than just used to support/supplement the evaluation of the assessment. Further, the description of the qualitative analysis lacks depth and detail. What about the proposed analysis of the qualitative analysis -- are the codes/tags being developed inductively or deductively or a combination of both and why?

3. The authors need to be consistent with their terms -- use "older adult" or "older person/people" throughout. "Elderly people/persons" is no longer used by researchers who are publishing in core gerontology journals.

4. On page 4, line 31 -- use addressing social isolation instead of :treating". Social isolation is not treated (as an illness), rather it is a multidimensional social construct whose dimensions/aspects are addressed through research.

5. On page 5, line 10 -- what is "intentional opinatic sampling" -- describe the sampling method and provide a reference for it.

6. Overall, there are few language issues in the paper; however, there are grammatical issues in the "added text" (response to the previous reviewer).

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

No
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.

No

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.

I am able to assess the statistics

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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