Reviewer’s report

Title: Effectiveness of a Community Program for Older Adults with Type 2 Diabetes and Multimorbidity: A Pragmatic Randomized Controlled Trial

Version: 2 Date: 11 Mar 2020

Reviewer: Malcolm Battersby

Reviewer's report:

The authors have addressed most of the issues raised and improved the manuscript, but a few points are outstanding. The issue of GP involvement and lack of clinical measures has not been acknowledged adequately ie simply saying that PROMS are better is disingenuous. In a diabetes targeted trial although QOL was the main outcome measure, acknowledging that HbA1C is a (the) key indicator of the underlying disease which has major life threatening consequences if not managed adequately, would add to the discussion and limitations as well as potential future research directions not just as a key outcome measure but also as a motivator for both the GP and the patient. Similarly the thoughtful comments about other trials including exercise could be added to additional components to future interventions and research. Both of these comments are pertinent to this trial and reflections on what could improve the outcomes because there was no positive impact of the intervention.

Regarding statistical analysis, more information on the randomization procedure should be reported in accordance with CONSORT guidelines. What were the stratification variables? Did the imbalance between groups result from stratification? What were the block sizes? How was concealment of allocation sequence guaranteed?

The abstract could be revised to more accurately reflect the results ie the section - 'hwever, the results suggest that the intervention may improve mental functioning for people with lower baseline mental functioning' could be removed as it is secondary analysis. Similarly, the conclusion could more accurately reflect the results and not overstate the potential mental health findings and perhaps add something in relation to future research and implications of the research by adding clinical outcome measures and exercise

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.

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:

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