Reviewer’s report

Title: Motivations and experiences of volunteers and patients in mental health befriending: A thematic analysis

Version: 1 Date: 17 Mar 2019

Reviewer: Janhavi Vaingankar

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for addressing my comments. I see that lack of information on befriendees motivations has been added to the limitations and suggested as a future research area. Thank you for renumbering the participant numbers as well to ensure confidentiality. It would have been good if the duration of the volunteer-befriendee relationship and further background data were collected. I understand that defining the research question and scope of a study is important, but I believe if the research explores impact and experiences of a relationship, it might have been worthwhile to consider how the length of this relationship could have influenced these experiences. Authors could state these as limitations or why these were not deemed relevant for this research and discuss briefly (in 2-3 sentences) how availability of these could have had some bearing on the findings.

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.

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
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Acceptable

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