Author's response to reviews

Title: Meso level influences on long term condition self-management: stakeholder accounts of commonalities and differences across six European countries

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Professor Pafitis,

Many thanks for sending on the added comments from the editorial board reviewer. We have attended to each of these set out below. You asked for one final editorial change in addition. Thank you for that. I have in line with your request attended to the editorial request in terms of placing the details of the ethics approval details within the main body of the text. Please see below for my detailed response to the comments:

Your sincerely

Anne Rogers
Professor of Health Systems Implementation on behalf of the authors

Reviewer comment: Why is the interface between policy and research important?

Response: The latter question about why the interface between policy and practice is now even more fully elaborated in the background section vis-

Some facets of the influence of the broader socio-economic and policy environment on capacity to self-manage remain relatively under-explored. Thus, the aim here is to extend knowledge and understanding through research of structural and meso level policy and other influences operating in different socio-cultural settings which are likely to influence capacity to self-manage a long term condition. This research focus is relevant to identifying the modifications needed to amend current approaches and policy in relation to self-care support”.

Reviewer comment: More is required on sampling.

Response: There are three paragraphs on sampling. We have added another sentence to the sampling strategy on top of this and refer you to the Table 1 which includes in–depth details of the sample chosen for each country

Details of sampling

We approached individuals in prominent, senior and academic leadership positions who were immersed in inside knowledge. Participants were identified through purposive and snow-balling sampling techniques, drawn from networked contacts and personal knowledge of who was most likely to have the information we required in each of the partner countries. Where necessary we explored the media (for policy statements) and websites of organisations to confirm the profile of the person to interview was relevant to different aspects of SMS for diabetes type 2. We asked respondents we interviewed for names of other potential interviewees to confirm the choice or identify further new respondents. Potential interviewees were directed to the EU-WISE website http://euwise.com and sent an information and consent form explaining the background to the study. Participants were given a list of topic areas we were interested in pursuing. Topics in the interview included:
Reviewer Comment: If the questions are from the realist review, more is needed about this in this paper than the reference. It is not clear which questions in the box were from this work.

Response: The findings informing the questions of the in the box were influenced by the review with regard to the following which has now been inserted into the text

The topics translated into questions from the review included the following: i) the relevance of socio-economic circumstances to the capacity to self-manage and maintain during economic austerity. ii) Success in achieving individual control needs further interpretation within the wider context of a whole systems approach regarding self-care support and chronic illness management. iii) The success of self-management as a policy solution will be affected by interacting influences at three levels: [a] at micro-level by individuals’ dispositions and capabilities; [b] at meso-level by roles, relationships and material conditions within the family in the workplace, school and healthcare organisation; and [c] at macro-level by prevailing economic conditions, cultural norms and expectations, and the underpinning logic of the healthcare system and policy. iv) the need for evidence on broader welfare systems and economies of partner countries along with current initiatives and community services. and austerity policies by the economic crisis.

Reviewer comment: The discussion is better but now messy and containing too many concepts which are under-explained. What is structuration exactly and how does this support the findings? The sentence beginning at 592 ('here our analysis...') is way too long and difficult. The whole of this paragraph needs editing and re-writing for length.

Response: We have re-edited this section and explained further the concepts under discussion. I have removed the word structuration from the text it was a typo and should have been the word ‘relationship’ between.....

Reviewer Comment: Who is Clause Off? Why are his or her views so important and what do they add to the findings in the light of the broader policy analysis literature?

Our response was to integrate the point more into the discussion to illuminate and integrate with the findings

Reviewer comment: There are too many quotes for the findings, such that the findings are being lost. A box with major findings and implications would be useful, as well as losing some of the quotes (sometimes up to three per finding)

Response: Tables 2 present the key findings in the form of key themes. The key findings are clear in the abstract and some more quotes have been removed from the text. There are no longer more than one or two quotes for each findings as the text has been edited and quotes removed