Author’s response to reviews

Title: Evaluation of The Promising Neighbourhoods community program to reduce health inequalities in youth: A protocol of a mixed-methods study

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear editors,

Please find attached the revised manuscript entitled: Evaluation of The Promising Neighbourhoods community program to reduce health inequalities in youth: A protocol of a mixed methods study (PUB-D-19-00709). We thank the editors for thoroughly assessing our manuscript.

Each comment made by the editor is addressed in the response letter, which is added below. As instructed we provide a detailed response to each editorial comment in point-by-point fashion. The responses are directly below each editorial comment. Revised text is directly below the responses and mentioned as revised text.

All authors have read and approved the revised manuscript accompanying this letter. We hope this revision adequately addresses the editorial comments, but are very much willing to answer any additional questions you may have. We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Wilma Jansen, PhD

On behalf of all authors
Editorial request:

Comment 1:

Please note that all manuscripts must contain all the following sections under the heading 'Declarations': Ethics approval and consent to participate, Consent for publication, Availability of data and material, Competing interests, Funding, Authors' contributions, Acknowledgements. It came to our attention that the section Consent for publication is missing. And the consent to participate section should be grouped with Ethics Approval. If consent to publish is not applicable to your manuscript please write ‘Not Applicable’ in this section. Go to https://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/submission-guidelines/preparing-your-manuscript/study-protocol for more information on each section.

Response 1 of the authors:

We have added the section Consent for publication and stated Not Applicable below since we do not report personal data (Declarations section, line 505-506, page 23). We also grouped the section Consent to participate with the section Ethics Approval (Declarations section, line 488 and lines 496-503, pages 22-23).

Comment 2:

Please place the figure and table caption(s)/title(s) as text within the manuscript file (usually after the references) under the heading ‘Figure and table legends’ only

Response 2 of the authors:

We have removed the titles and legend from figure 1 (methods/Design section, lines 204-207, page 10), figure 2 (Methods/Design section, line 239, page 11) and table 1 (Methods/Design section, line 315, page 14). We have included a header called Figure and table legends followed by the title and legends of figure 1, figure 2 and table 1 after the references (Figure and table legends section, lines 664-676, pages 30-31).

Comment 3:

Please confirm whether informed consent, written or verbal, was obtained from all participants and clearly state this in your manuscript. If verbal, please state the reason and whether the ethics committee approved this procedure. If the need for consent was waived by an IRB or is deemed unnecessary according to national regulations, please clearly state this, including the name of the IRB or a reference to the relevant legislation.
Response 3 of the authors:

We confirm that we will obtain informed consent. We extended the information in the manuscript to describe what type of informed consent is obtained. See below the information we have added in the revision (Declarations section, lines 496-503, pages 22-23). If you have any additional questions regarding this important topic, please do not hesitate. We are very much willing to answer them.

revised text in the manuscript:

Written informed consent will be asked from community stakeholders and youngsters for participation in the focus groups that are part of the process and implementation evaluation. For youngsters aged 12≤16 years old the parents will also be asked to additionally give written informed consent before participating in the focus groups. Verbal informed consent will be asked from the key-leaders for the key-informant questionnaire, that is part of the process and implementation evaluation. Verbal informed consent is used among key-leaders as the questionnaire is administered by telephone. For the questionnaires among community stakeholders and all effect evaluation questionnaires informed consent is assumed by returning a completed anonymous questionnaire.

Comment 4:

Thank you for providing us with Funding and Ethical Documentation. Could you please provide a translated version of the approval #2018-1506 given by the Erasmus MC. You can email this translated proof directly to Marie-Victoire Cossen.

Response 4 of the authors:

We provided a translated version of the approval letter #2018-1506 given by the Erasmus MC. In the approval letter the first pages consists of a Dutch version of the decision and general text on ethics rules and regulations to adhere to in research. The last page of the document includes the translated version of the decision. We will resend the letter including all pages directly to Marie-Victoire Cossen on 04-18-2019.