Reviewer’s report

Title: Ethical aspects of diagnosis and interventions for children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and their families

Version: 0 Date: 26 May 2017

Reviewer: Joe Brierley

Reviewer’s report:

Interesting paper with relatively comprehensive review of the ethical aspects of identifying/labelling alcohol induced fetopathy vs not - i.e. FASD

Nicely written, no major criticisms/issues

Only a couple of comments

(I) Re: ‘ethical analyses relating to FASD had been carried out during the time period relevant to our literature search, then our search would have identified them’ I think there are a couple of papers/reports missing, one highlights something barely touched on in this this review - the role of state in prevention of FASD, and the corollary - what is the role of professionals in surveillance/state notification/policing things:

(1) Larcher V, Brierley J. Fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) and fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD)-diagnosis and moral policing; an ethical dilemma for paediatricians. Arch Dis Child. 2014 Nov;99(11):969-70

(2) https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2014/mar/04/drinking-pregnant-crime-court


(II) Given the importance given here to the benefits/risks of identifying the ‘social’ aetiology of the problem and the impact if this on care provision and negative connotations I wonder whether the authors ought to acknowledge the wealth of literature in similar but distinct areas - stigma in neonatal abstinence syndrome due to heroin addiction, congenital HIV etc and very speculative IVF

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.

Unable to assess

**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**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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