Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Exploring the views of being a proxy from the perspective of unpaid carers and paid carers: developing a proxy version of the Adult Social Care Outcomes Toolkit (ASCOT)

**Version:** 0  **Date:** 10 Jan 2018

**Reviewer:** Deirdre Fetherstonhaugh

**Reviewer's report:**

This well written paper explores the views of being a proxy from the perspective of carers and care workers and then provides useful recommendations for the development of a proxy version of the ASCOT. It was pleasure to read and provides many insights about how to improve the process of using proxies to complete questionnaires and surveys for other people (in this case people who are receiving care).

The only criticism (apart from a few edits) is a little confusion for the reader in some places as to who the authors are referring to when they use the terms participants, respondents, carers etc. Given that there were two groups of participants - unpaid carers and care workers - it would be better if these two 'names' were used consistently to ensure clarity. Technically it could be argued that both participant groups are carers - one is paid and the other is not. For example, on Page 11 Line 32 does all carers refer to just the unpaid carers or the unpaid carers and the paid care workers. Page 11 Line 42 'some carers' - who is this referring to? Page 15 Line 51 'Participants' - is this referring to all participants? The authors need to go through the paper and check that they use consistent language.

Suggested minor edits
- Page 2 Line 5 'for the value……..' rather than 'of the value…………
- Page 5 Line 10 'Many of these challenges are shared by the use………………. - this reads a little clumsily - suggest re-wording.
- Page 6 Line 26 - should 'a' be inserted i.e. '……..completed by a proxy…………'
- Page 6 Line 50 ' ….what makes responses differ, and why.'
- Page 8 Line 19 It might read better to say that advertisements were placed with a University Adult Mailing Unit mailing list and on the University staff intranet.
- Page 11 Line 5 'arise' rather than 'stem'
- Page 11 Line 12 reflect on what had been their personal preferences………………
- Page 15 Line 20 '……….and this view was not shared by all carers.

**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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