Author’s response to reviews

Title: Social prescribing for people with mental health needs living in disadvantaged communities: The Life Rooms model

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Version: 2 Date: 19 Dec 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Dr Wei Du

Thank you for giving us a second opportunity to address the reviewers' comments for the research article entitled ‘Social prescribing for people with mental health needs living in disadvantaged communities: The Life Rooms model’. We have now addressed the comments and believe to have produced a much stronger paper.

Please see below for detailed changes made to the reviewers' comments:
Reviewer 3:
- Abstract- regarding ‘that attribute toward’ page 2 line 34, this was rephrased to ‘Participants reported on different elements of the Life Rooms which they found as an effective approach to care’. Also recommended word edit – paged 2 line ‘benefit from’ has been changed to ‘benefit’
Background- recommended word edit- page 3 line 30 ‘addresses’ has been changed to ‘addressing’ and line 36 ‘need for an integrated’ has been changed to ‘need for integrated’; also page 4 line 11 ‘it is also highlights’ has been changed to ‘it also highlights’. The suggestion to revise the sentence on page 4 line 15-20 has been revised to ‘The approaches vary from signposting to facilitate access of support without formal referrals, to a more comprehensive referral approach from primary care settings to a specific community-based programme. These approaches provide the potential to respond effectively to the impact of the social determinants of health [19]’.

Method- recommended word edit- page 5 line 56 ‘services users’ has been changed to ‘service users’ also page 6 line 6 ‘Five focus groups were initial scheduled’ changed to ‘Five focus groups were initially scheduled’.

Method - In regards to the further explanation of purposeful sampling in section participants and recruitment page 6-7, this explanation was included ‘Purposeful sampling was used in this study to identify and select individuals that have accessed and experienced the Life Rooms. Therefore, the study identified a pool of 187 Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust service users, who had accessed services at the Life Rooms between September 2017 and April 2018. Using purposeful random sampling, all 187 Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust service users were invited via email or letter. Potential participants who responded to the invite were contacted via telephone to answer potential questions about the study and confirm their interest in taking part. Focus group details were discussed and potential participants were able to decide if they would like to attend one of the scheduled focus groups’.

Result- in regards to the suggestion for line 54-59 page 7 to perhaps move to the method section. We appreciate this suggestion but we believe that is best fits here as they are important characteristics of the study’s participants and when moved to the method section it can often not be as apparent to the reader.

Result- page 9 line 46-48 regarding the quote to be in ‘italic’, this has been changed to italic.

Discussion- recommended word edit- page 13 line 43 ‘really’ is changed to ‘real’

Conclusion- page 14 lines 4-7 revisit sentence, this has been amended to ‘It provided a range of in-house services within a local remit, involved public members as Life Room champions and ensured social inclusion by creating a space that enabled people share their lived experiences.’

We have addressed all the comments to the best of our ability, please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further edits.

Kind regards

Dr Shaima M Hassan