Reviewer’s report

Title: "Recruitment, recruitment, recruitment" - the need for more focus on retention: A qualitative study of five trials

Version: 1 Date: 31 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Webster Mavhu

Reviewer’s report:

This well-written paper explores an important area of enquiry. I have a few comments.

1. Discussion could briefly discuss how findings can be generalised to settings other than the UK or other well-resourced settings.

2. It is unclear whether or not sample of 5 trials was due to chance or predetermination. Pages 4 (lines 56-59) and 6 (lines 19-25) seem to suggest both predetermination and chance?

3. Were there any disagreements/discrepancies during coding? If so, how were these resolved?

4. Authors mention 'methods of constant comparison' but these are not described in detail. They could either simply say they used thematic analysis or give more detail on how constant comparison was done.

5. Page 4 line 47, delete comma after were ...The identified trials were discussed...?

6. Page 15 line 35, delete punctuation (apostrophe) after interviewees

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