Reviewer's report

Title: Involving people with diabetes and the wider community in diabetes research: a realist review protocol

Version: 3 Date: 24 August 2015

Reviewer: Lise Estcourt

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Abstract - "patients and communities a lack of research knowledge," additional unnecessary "a"

2. Methods " If the context is supportive, various mechanisms may be triggered such as participants experiencing increased confidence in interacting with researchers, researchers being more willing to allow projects to be co-designed." Only mention two things so should be an and linking the two mechanisms

Discretionary revision

Although this protocol is much clearer and more readable than it once was I am still concerned that the overall style of writing (very long sentences and unusual words) makes it difficult for the lay reader to comprehend. Please consider simplifying some of the language and shortening some of the very long sentences. I entered the background for this protocol in to some readability scores (see attached document) that demonstrates that it would be difficult for the average lay person.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests