Reviewer’s report

Title: A study protocol for testing the feasibility of a randomized stepped wedge cluster design to investigate a Community Health Intervention through Musical Engagement (CHIME) for perinatal mental health in The Gambia

Version: 0 Date: 02 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Tatjana Ewais

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for asking me to review the manuscript titled "Testing the feasibility of randomised stepped wedge design to investigate a community singing-based intervention for perinatal mental health in Gambia".

The article is well written and it describes an area of unmet need in perinatal mental health in Gambia.

The abstract describes the topic of interest and its relevance and methodology well.

The outcome measures are written in abbreviated form in the abstract and I'd suggest to write them in full and use abbreviated name versions later.

In the background, it may be useful to add a few references specific to perinatal music therapy and perinatal music-based interventions as these are increasingly used in the perinatal period.

In addition to using EPDS and SRQ-20, it would be helpful to consider adding a brief quality of life measure to outcome measures.

Under methodology, it may be beneficial to add a sentence explaining stepped wedge design so that the readers can better understand the recruitment and intervention allocation.

Overall, it is a well written article and I would recommend its publication with minor revisions.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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