Reviewer’s report

Title: The Feasibility and Acceptability of a Primary School-Based Programme Targeting Diet and Physical Activity: The PhunkyFoods Programme

Version: 1 Date: 06 Jun 2019

Reviewer: Maxine Sharps

Reviewer's report:

This paper evaluates the feasibility and acceptability the PhunkyFoods program. The data showed that the delivery of the intervention was feasible within schools and that most of the resources were acceptable to the teachers. While the study is underpowered, some trends between attitudes and knowledge of the intervention group compared to the control group are shown. I think it is an interesting intervention, and is necessary to evaluate programmes such as this, however, I have some concerns.

1. Can you provide more information about how often the programme was implemented in the schools? In line 316 you state that the interviews and resource checklists revealed substantial evidence that lesson plans had been implemented. Did the checklist and the interviews ask them how frequently they used them and which ones were used? It seems there could be a lot of variability in how the program was delivered. Can you provide information about how often on average the schools used the lesson plans? I appreciate that the program is designed to be flexible in delivery, however, at the moment it seems like the schools can deliver none, one or all of them and you're treating the intervention schools as a group vs. the control group.

2. In line 324 you state that one school delivered a weekly PhunkyFoods after school club, does that mean that this school didn't deliver the intervention to the year 4 pupils or was it in addition to the classroom intervention? If it's just at an afterschool club to years 1 and 2 then I assume that no year 4s took part in this school.

3. In the last paragraph of the introduction you state that the aim of the paper is to evaluate the PhunkyFoods programme, but no mention has been made of the programme before this, so I'd be tempted to say to evaluate a school based healthy eating and physical activity intervention (phunky foods)....

4. Resources checklists line 348. Here you discuss the year 5 and year 3 teachers, but previously you state that it is year 4 and year 2 taking part. Is this a typo?

5. Provide your ethics reference number in line 114

6. Did the control schools also take place for 2 years? Why were they given vouchers at the end of year 1 instead of the end of the intervention?

7. Why were the focus groups single sex? Were there equal numbers of males and females taking part in the focus groups? And why were the focus groups only conducted at 18 months? It seems it would have been useful to have an idea of the
pupil's knowledge and attitudes towards healthy eating and exercise at the start of the intervention as well.

8. Why did the questionnaire only contain attitude questions for the year 4 pupils?

9. Part of your discussion reads more like a results section. Line 516 onwards you have p values and confidence intervals which I feel belong in the results section.

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

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