Reviewer's report

Title: 'Is it worth doing?' Measuring the impact of patient and public involvement on research.

Version: 1 Date: 21 May 2015

Reviewer: Karen Inns

Reviewer's report:

Discretionary revisions
1. In the plain English summary p3:
   They do not tell us whether the same impact will occur in the same way in other projects, and therefore have limited value

   This may read as having no value. Is it worth adding a link sentence ...however there may be value in the researcher having undertaken the study by enhancing their knowledge in context/insight.

2. In the plain English summary p3:
   because at the start of any project researchers ‘don’t know what they don’t know’ – they don’t know what problems they might anticipate, until the patients/public tell them.

   This might read as researchers being empty vessels as opposed to individuals able to draw upon previous personal and professional experience to make reasonable assertions about what may happen.

3. on p6 (see Table 1)
   Does this refer to Box 1?

4. p7 2nd para
   Consider revision in last sentence:
   A weakness of the current evidence is that the detail of the of 'why', 'when' and 'how' is often missing, which limits our understanding of the context and therefore its impact.

5. p10 Patient and public involvement would have had no impact on recruitment where there was no pre-existing problem.

   Can we say this? Even where there is considered to be no pre-existing problem there may still be the potential to enhance recruitment. It may depend on who defines recruitment as a problem in the first instance?

6. same as point 3
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:
No competing interests