Reviewer's report

Title: Involving seldom-heard groups in a PPI process to inform the design of a proposed trial on the use of probiotics to prevent preterm birth: a case study

Version: 0 Date: 10 Feb 2017

Reviewer: Sandra Paget

Reviewer's report:

In my view this is an interesting article and I was particularly interested to read that the researchers had decided to outreach and 'go to where the service users are'. Often this is not considered.

The Plain Language Summary is good. I appreciate these can be difficult to write and with that in mind I have a few suggestions. After the first sentence I suggest an explanation that this is known as Public Patient Involvement in research (PPI). I do think that 'socio-economically deprived should be changed to something like, 'low income groups or backgrounds. I suggest 'pilot trial' should be explained. Line 35, sentence beginning ...pre-term birth means economic costs to health services.. Suggest change to ..preterm birth means extra costs to health services. Also, instead of the phrase 'feasibility and effectiveness' something like 'workable and beneficial to women'.

I think this article will be useful to researchers considering their approaches to achieving inclusion an diversity in their research.

Level of interest

Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English

Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable
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