Reviewer’s report

Title: Using a Community-Engaged Research (CEnR) Approach to Develop and Pilot a Photo Grid Method to Gain Insights into Early Child Health and Development in a Socio-economic Disadvantaged Community

Version: 0 Date: 24 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Gary Hickey

Reviewer's report:

Very interesting and there is a paper here. My key point is that much more information is required on various parts of methods/process - comments set out below. Other key points are that it would be worth explaining why the public were not involved in phase 1 of the study - at least in the development of the identification of the original 'factors'. Finally, it might be useful (if you haven't already) to consider the literature on 'co-production' - there are some similarities here - involving public and professionals in developing solutions.

Plain English section

1. Need further explanation of Photo Grid tool. Many readers will be unfamiliar.

2. Begin with something like 'This paper reports on the development of a tool that could be used to gain insights etc. A CEnR approach was used etc'

3. 'hard to access' - the phrase 'seldom heard voices' is better

Background

4. p3 First line. Perhaps add in 'usually' after 'early years'

Design

5. Table 1. I found the third column quite confusing. I would lose.

6. Column 2. Should that be 'principles' rather than 'definition' in the column heading?
7. More information is needed on where these principles came from. Did you review various CEnR approaches?

8. p6 Perhaps put the phases in bullet points or a further table - I think this would make this para clearer.

9. In the third line on p6 you mention 'local professionals' but don't tell us who they are until we reach 'participants' - perhaps let us know that further information will be provided in the following section.

10. You tell us that 'AN initial list of factors... was drawn up' - how? I first read this as being part of the literature review but think it was developed by the 'professional workers' in phase 1.

Participants

11. Which 'health professionals'?

12. More information is required on how people were recruited in phase 2.

13. An explanation needs to be given somewhere about 'venue-based time-space sampling' - how did this proceed, how were people recruited?

14. p 7 You refer to 'sessions' - do you mean 'opportunities to pilot the tool'?

15. Did you have a particular number of participants in mind re recruiting to the pilot study? 208 out of how many?

Results

16. p8 You make reference to an 'informal meeting' (and on p9 'informal discussions') of the professional workers. I'm not sure what this means. Just say 'meeting'.
17. I'd like to see a short explanation of each of the three 'traditional research methods' that were discussed.

18. p10 Reference is made to 'A recording sheet'. I would like more information on this - some explanation of the questions. eg how many, open or closed, some examples etc

**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:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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