Reviewer’s report

Title: Advancing Care for Family Caregivers of Persons with Dementia through Caregiver and Community Partnerships

Version: 0 Date: 05 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Matt Murray

Reviewer’s report:

I found this article to be a thoughtful and interesting description of a valuable project which had a high level of engagement of caregivers. Overall, I feel the length of description of the data is not so relevant for a journal of this type but of more valuable to a journal more widely read by those in the dementia field. I have some questions/suggestions for the authors to help them refocus this article.

1) did the team consider involving people with a diagnosis in these discussions? Caregivers are commonly involved in projects regarding care of people with dementia and in the spirit of caregiving partnerships and coproduction a perspective of what a person with dementia feels a caregiver would benefit from might be interesting.

2) given that those with a diagnosis were not involved in the project I suggest altering the description at the bottom of p2 from 'people who are affected with dementia' to something more accurate.

3) how diverse were the caregivers you involved? Some demographic information would be helpful along with discussion of thought placed in this.

4) in the first para of the background I suggest changing 'affected individual' to 'person with a diagnosis'. Caregivers are affected by the diagnosis so this should be clearer. I feel this background can be shortened also.

5) typing error at bottom of p9 penultimate word of para. 'About caregiving fro families'

6) top of p10 it should be made clear that at least one caregiver has end of life experience as a former caregiver as this strengthens the disease trajectory representation. I didn't think there was such a participant until I read it later on.

7) consider shortening the quotation middle p13

8) I'd like to see more methodological discussion and reference to where this project's methods sit within PPI im dementia research. Eg how was disagreement between stakeholders recorded and discussed and dealt with? Any challenges or strategies which helped?
9) suggest starting new para p15 for JLA reference as the discussion para feels long and slightly muddled. Also, reference to work ongoing on transitions I'm dementia care, eg murna downs?

10) in description of challenges it's unclear why need to learn about strengths in regards to family caregiving. Do you mean the value and depth of their caregiving experiences?

11) it would be good to know more about how the relationships built in this project developed to funding applications.

12) repetitive sentence in conclusion p16 quoting 80% figure. Not necessary.

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