Reviewer’s report

Title: ‘What can I do that will most help researchers?’ A different approach to training the public at the start of their involvement in research.

Version: 0 Date: 10 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Alan Brown

Reviewer’s report:

This study focuses on an important area of research and the opinions of the authors are expressed in a clear and concise manner.

I do have some concerns.

In a paper looking at training I do not see an adequate body of training qualifications and experience in the author body. This means that some of the set up and discussions are not approached in a rigorous manner. For instance the theoretical concept of 'active listening' would be an acceptable alternative to discuss behaviour using a well studied alternative.

There is no consideration in the paper that sometimes members of the patient/public group have more experience and knowledge of the subject matter than the professionals. This leads to an unhelpful parental approach to the study.

From a subjective viewpoint I do not accept the reasoning for keeping the professionals apart from the patient/public group. All study should focus on the bridging between the two groups and not on reinforcing the barriers between the groups. If the study had been performed on the two groups together any conclusions would have been more worthwhile

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