Reviewer’s report

Title: Learning as an outcome of involvement in research: What are the implications for practice, reporting and evaluation?

Version: 1 Date: 22 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Hazel Thornton

Reviewer’s report:

The paper has benefited from the re-write. There is less repetition; the language flows better; it is more confident. The variety and range of reviewers’ comments have evidently been carefully considered, resulting in a more focused and coherent approach to the topic.

It was good to see that the opening of the paper, especially, had been rethought, omitting the ‘history’ element, apart from referring to ‘20+ years’, which I would prefer to see expressed without numerals, as it is something difficult to pinpoint or accurately date. The tightening up of the paper and its language, with a summary box, makes for a much more authoritative presentation. I was pleased, in particular to see the matter of representativeness tackled emphatically.

My mention of Sigerist and Cochrane was not to do with ‘history’ but to illustrate that, from the beginnings of the evidence based medicine era and patient and public involvement in research, there has been an important moral/ethical aspect to inclusion of citizens in these activities; that it is - or should be - ‘everyone’s business’: a moral imperative. This would also render some of the heavily persuasive ‘arguments’ at the end of the paper, if not redundant, then at least less strident.

It is good to see the care and thoroughness with which the authors have tackled this important subject. Let us hope it will lead to discussion and progress

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Quality of written English
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