Reviewer’s report

Title: Recruitment of caregivers into health services research: Lessons from a user-centred design study

Version: 0 Date: 09 Mar 2019

Reviewer: Gary Hickey

Reviewer's report:

This article is a really valuable contribution to some of the challenges of co-designing. And it is very well written. Just a couple of suggestions that I would like to see the authors give some consideration:

1. I wonder if the authors sell themselves a little short by making 'recruitment' the main focus. I would like them to consider a change in emphasis (or perhaps bring more to the fore) so that the key focus is something like 'how to develop the relationships that are a necessary part of creating the conditions that enable co-design' - (the authors do raise this in the discussion and it's the key issue for me).

2. The authors make some suggestions for tackling the issues they raise, for example seed funding to help with recruitment - could they also consider including something about research organisations reaching out and establishing ongoing relationships with the communities in which they are located? If they look at the co-production literature there are many references to the importance of developing relationships - this helps with the sharing of power and enables partnerships and co-design rather than consultation.

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