Reviewer’s report

Title: Move the North: Evaluation of a regional stakeholder engagement initiative to support the development of a community-partnered physical activity research agenda

Version: 0 Date: 12 Jul 2019

Reviewer: Irene Soulsby

Reviewer's report:

I am writing my review as a member of the public.

The topic of evaluation is of interest to me and also that this particular research centred on lack of physical activity which is of concern and affecting health. The paper is well-written and raises many important points.

I feel that a lot of thought has been given to setting up the study: survey beforehand, how to engage with the various groups, ensure a good mix of people. It is good to read that there were positive impressions of the event. I note that certain populations were limited in numbers in the study, which seems to be a common theme in research. The paper highlighted important points including establishing authentic relationships, the need for ongoing support and follow-up.

It was good to see that the workshops took place over two days and that participants' comments have been noted about sessions being heavy with content and suggestions for improvement "more movement breaks" and reminder to avoid acronyms and jargon, the importance to balance the sessions and include networking and social time.

I was pleased to read about plans for biannual events and to ask delegates to say something about their experience, I feel that this is important.

It was also good to read that advice to others for their research are that they should consider finance and admin support (payment upfront and reimbursement due to Institute policies created barriers for participants). A website might be useful to consider, rather than emails. A higher need of facilitation at small groups, aided with a template. There was also the comment that the study should have included a community member/patient on team at the start, which I feel is an important point.

The researchers have taken on-board comments about need to strive for greater inclusion, more movement breaks, clarify expectations for smaller breakout groups.

The tables were very good, I was interested to see the agenda for both days. I also found Figures 1 - 3 very useful.
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