

**I still need to play, especially  
when I'm sick**

**Community Play Specialist Pilot Project**



**Amy Joss**  
**Project Officer**



*“You can discover more about a person in  
an hour of play than in a year of  
conversation.”*

Plato



# The Right to Play

United Nations Convention on the Rights of  
the Child (UNCRC)

The right to play:

Article 31 (Leisure, play and culture)

And within the spirit of:

Article 23    Article 24    Article 27

EACH Charter: Article 7

Manifesto Point 7



# Why Provide Specialised Play Services?

- Reduce stress and anxiety
- Help regain confidence and self esteem
- Provide outlet for feelings of anger, frustration
- Help child understand treatment and illness
- Aid in assessment and diagnosis
- Speed recovery and rehabilitation

Copyright © 2000 National Association of Hospital Play Staff.



# National Delivery Plan: Specialist services

- Changes to local services model of healthcare
- Hospital play support in the community
- National Framework for Service Change in the NHS in Scotland: Child Healthcare Services In Scotland (March, 2005)
- Subsequent proposals in Delivering a Healthy Future: An Action Framework for Children and Young People's Health in Scotland, (2007)



# Community Play Specialist Project 2008 – 2010

Part time registered Hospital Play Specialist  
Funded by Action for Sick Children (Scotland)  
with support from the Agnes Hunter Trust

NHS Forth Valley: based within Community  
Outreach Paediatric Nursing Team, Stirling  
Royal Infirmary

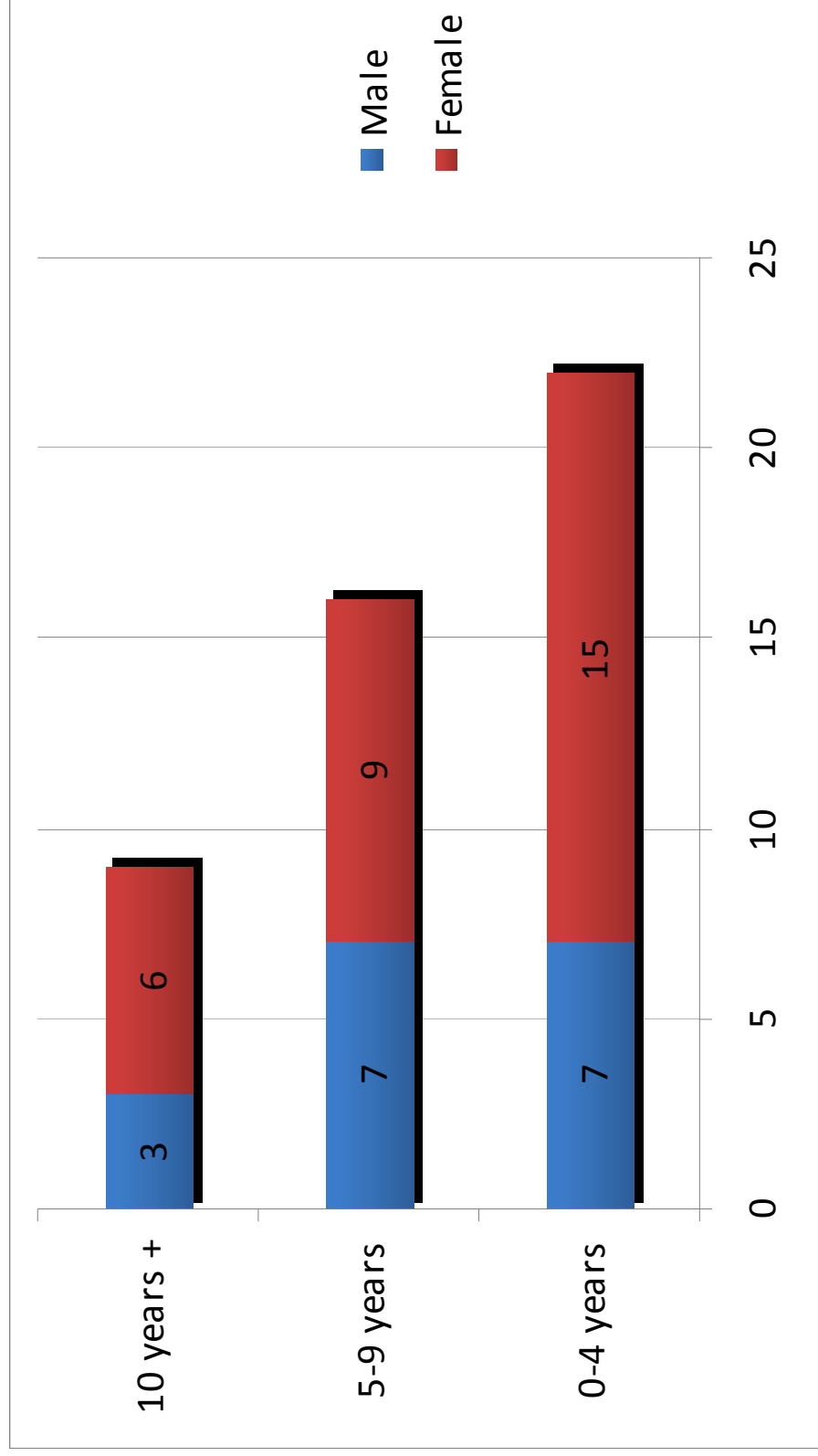


# Project Aim

Action for Sick Children (Scotland) aims to provide a pilot Play Specialist project in NHS Forth Valley to offer support to children and families requiring specialist health services or who have had healthcare experiences that require the input of a trained (hospital) play specialist in a community setting.

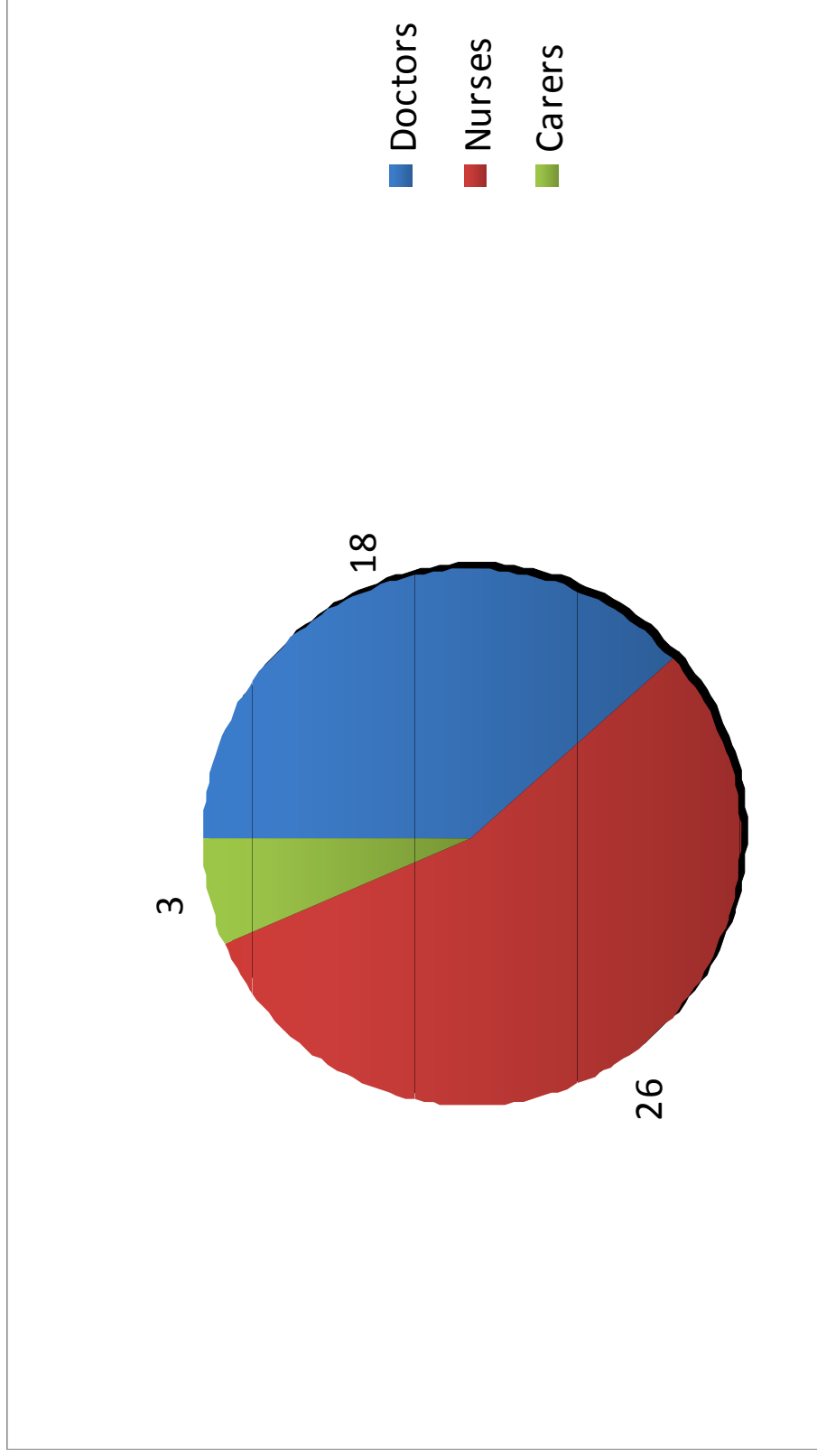


# Total formal referrals: 47

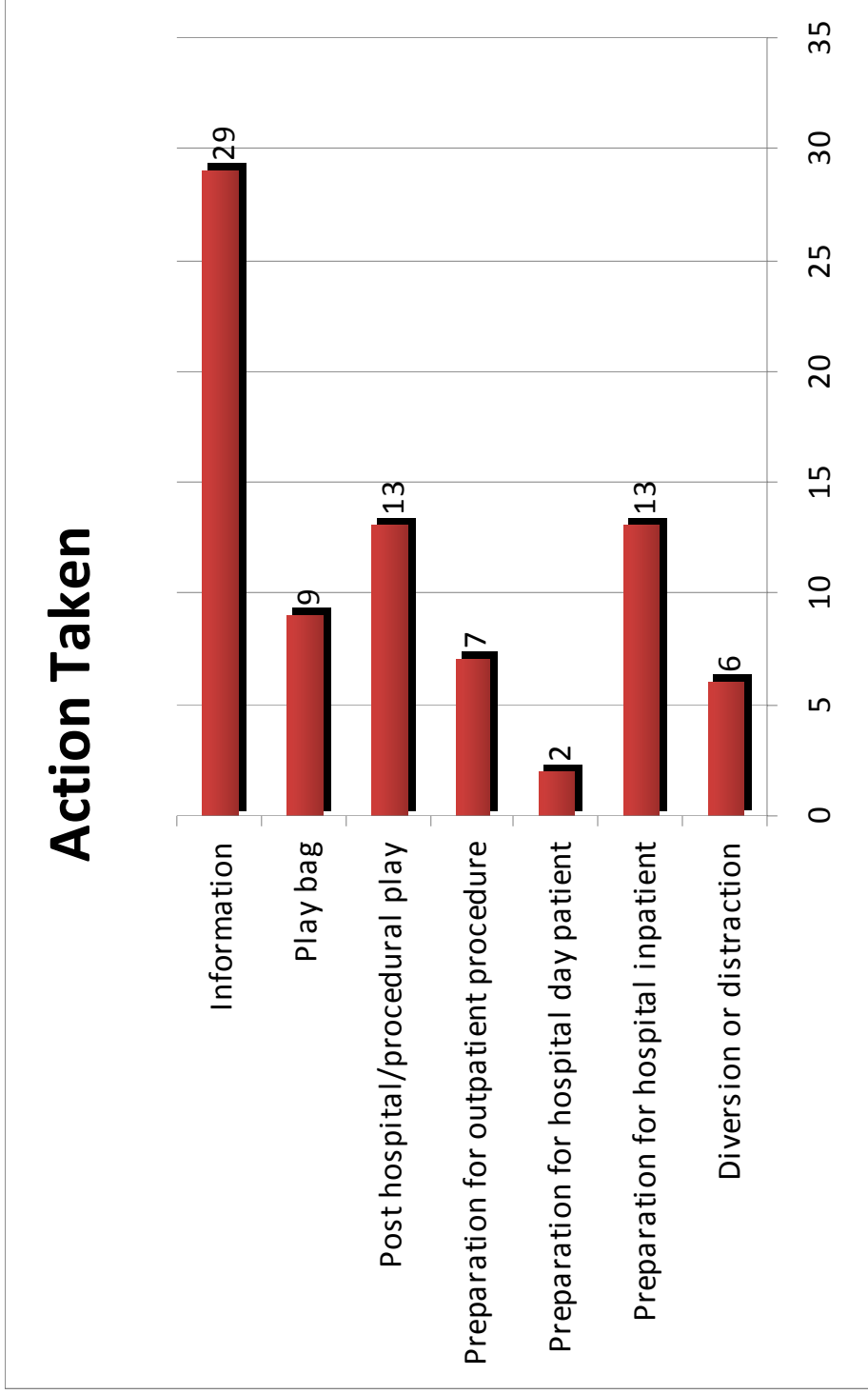




# Who made referrals?



# Play work



## Quotes: Play Preparation

...one wee girl in particular doesn't like having injections so [the CPS] came a couple of times and we just talked about different ways of trying to get her to do a bit of role play as well and that worked quite well... (health professional)

‘Well you wereny nearly as frightened were you, after seeing (the CPS) and that, when you went into hospital.’ (parent)



## Quotes: Post hospital play

‘Even after the operation (child) was home, she came and she saw her and gave her things to actually take her mind off of...what was going on in her head...sort of thing.’ (parent)

‘Maybe a bit more contact, it would have been nice to see <CPS> more often.’ (parent)

*What did you like best about seeing [the CPS]?*

She tells you what happens when and what they do. (child)



# Project Report

After the end of September 2010, report will be circulated extensively via email and will be available to download from

[www.ascscotland.org.uk](http://www.ascscotland.org.uk)

The project evaluations will also be available via the ASC(S) website, after October, 2010.

Special thanks...

to the children, young people and families

Susan, Mel, Colette, Caroline, Liz,

Una, Frances, Cate, Ishbel

