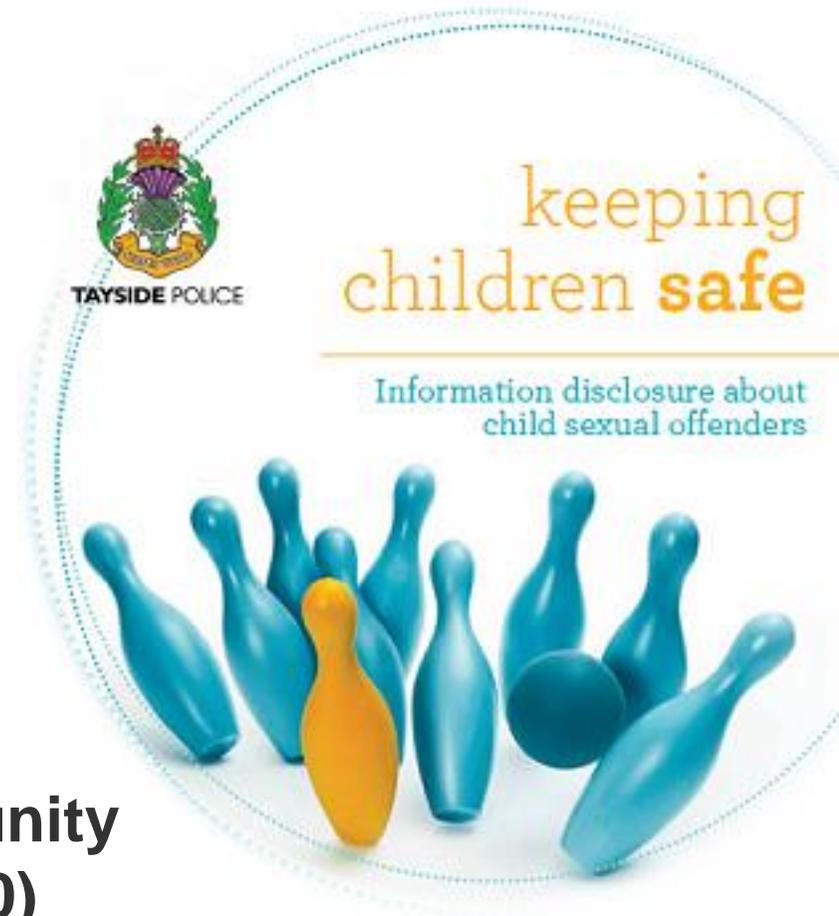
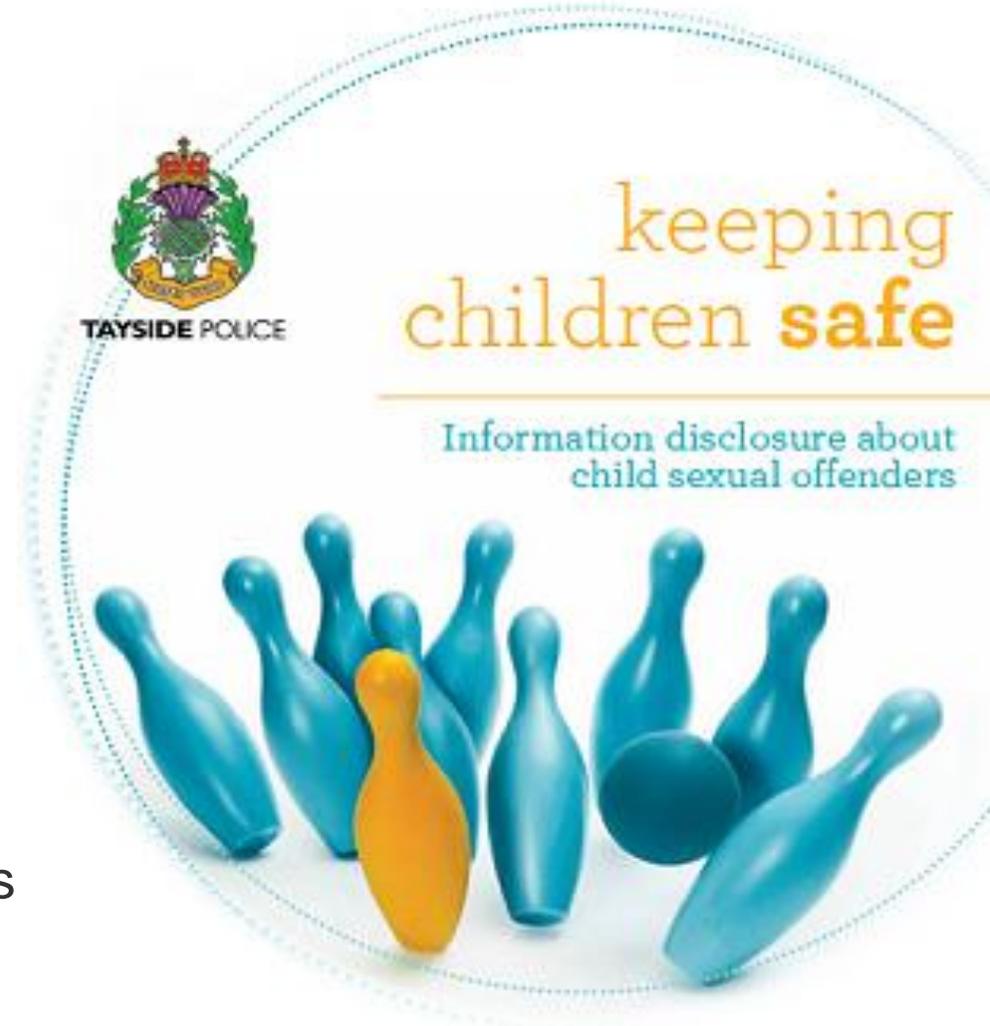


# Sex Offender Public Disclosure: Learning from the UK pilots & international research

Overview of the Sex Offender Community Disclosure Pilot in Tayside (2009-2010)



- Background and timeline
- Aims
- Methods
- Findings
  - Process
  - Overview of enquiries
  - Impact on child protection
  - Impact on applicants
  - Impact on RSOs
  - Conclusions and recommendations

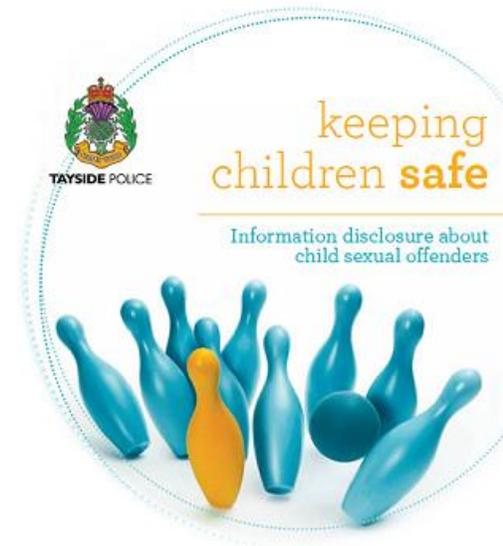


# Background and timeline

- **June 2007** Home Office published *Review of the Protection of Children from Sex Offenders* – committed govt to a disclosure pilot
- **September 2008 - September 2009** Pilots in 4 English police force areas
- **September 2009 – May 2010** Pilot in Tayside police force area
- **March 2010** publication of evaluation of English pilots by Hazel Kemshall and Jason Wood *et al.* and announcement of roll out across England and Wales (completed by **April 2011**)
- **October 2009 – July 2010** evaluation of Tayside pilot by Ipsos MORI Scotland in collaboration with Beth Weaver
- **May 2010** announcement of roll out across Scottish forces (completed by **March 2011**)

# Aims of the evaluation

- Overall aim: to explore the extent to which the pilot enhanced child protection beyond what would happen anyway under existing child protection measures and MAPPA
- How it might be refined and improved before being rolled out



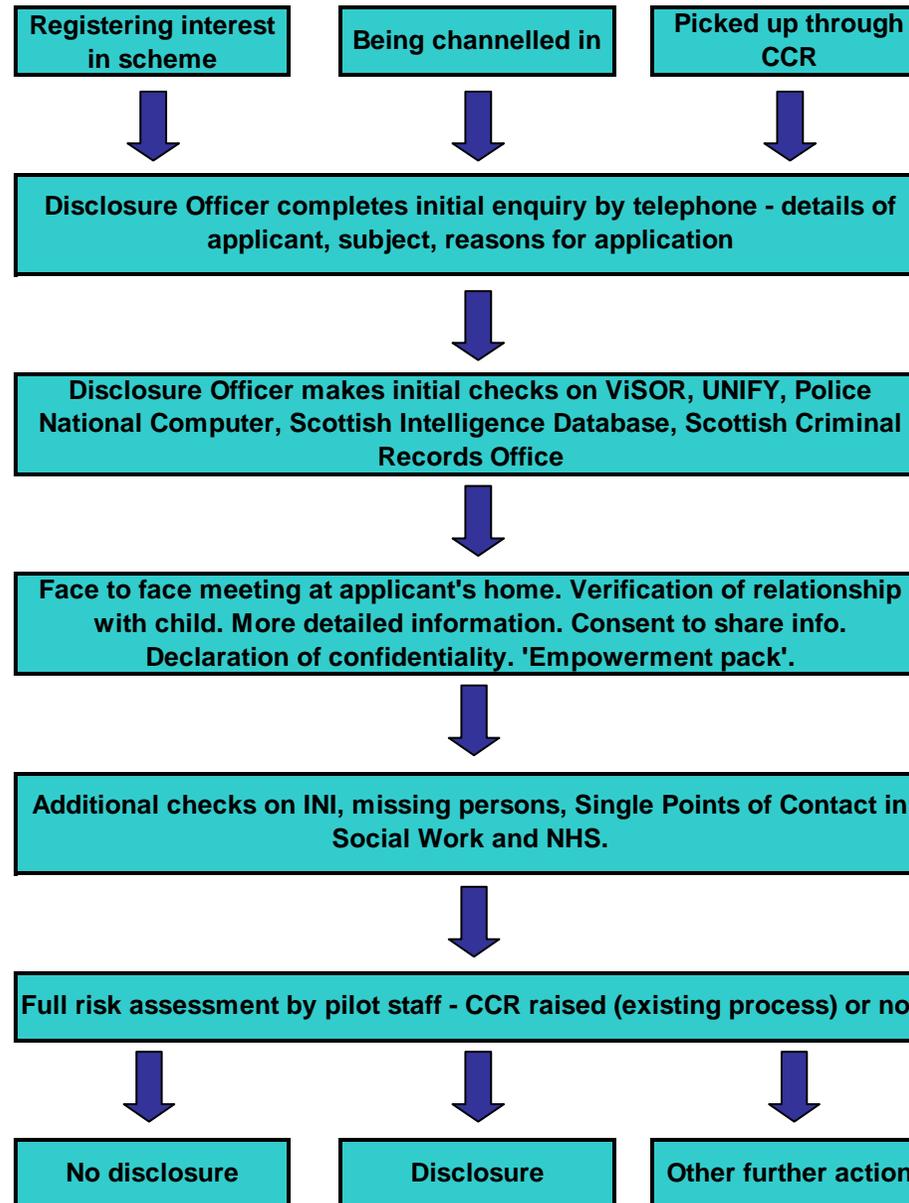
# Methods

- In-depth interviews with:
  - 20 applicants
  - 24 practitioners (pilot staff, police offender managers, senior police, social work, LA single points of contact, pilot board members, MAPPA staff, NHS staff)
  - 8 RSOs (none subject to an enquiry)
  - 9 national stakeholders – bodies representing child protection, management of RSOs, policing and public protection, social work, criminal justice
- Analysis of monitoring data
- Analysis of the movement of RSOs (ViSOR data)

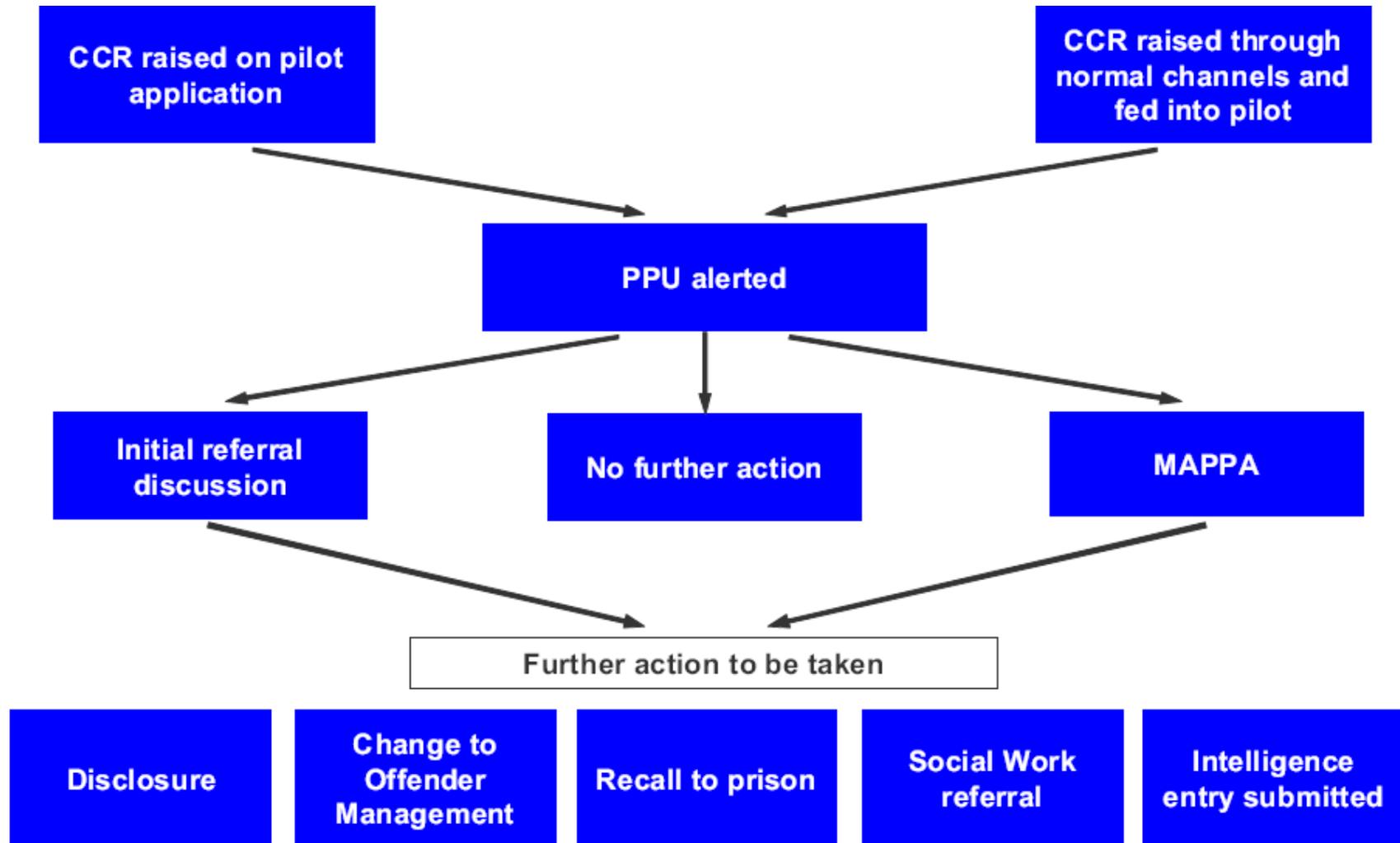
# Tayside pilot and process

- Dedicated Disclosure Team: Project Manager (Chief Inspector), Full-time Disclosure Officer, Part-time Disclosure Officer (first 7 months)
- Marketing
  - Leaflets and posters in Police and Social Work offices, GP surgeries and Third Sector orgs
  - Radio advertising - 2 months
  - Posters on outside of buses – 3 months

# Pilot process



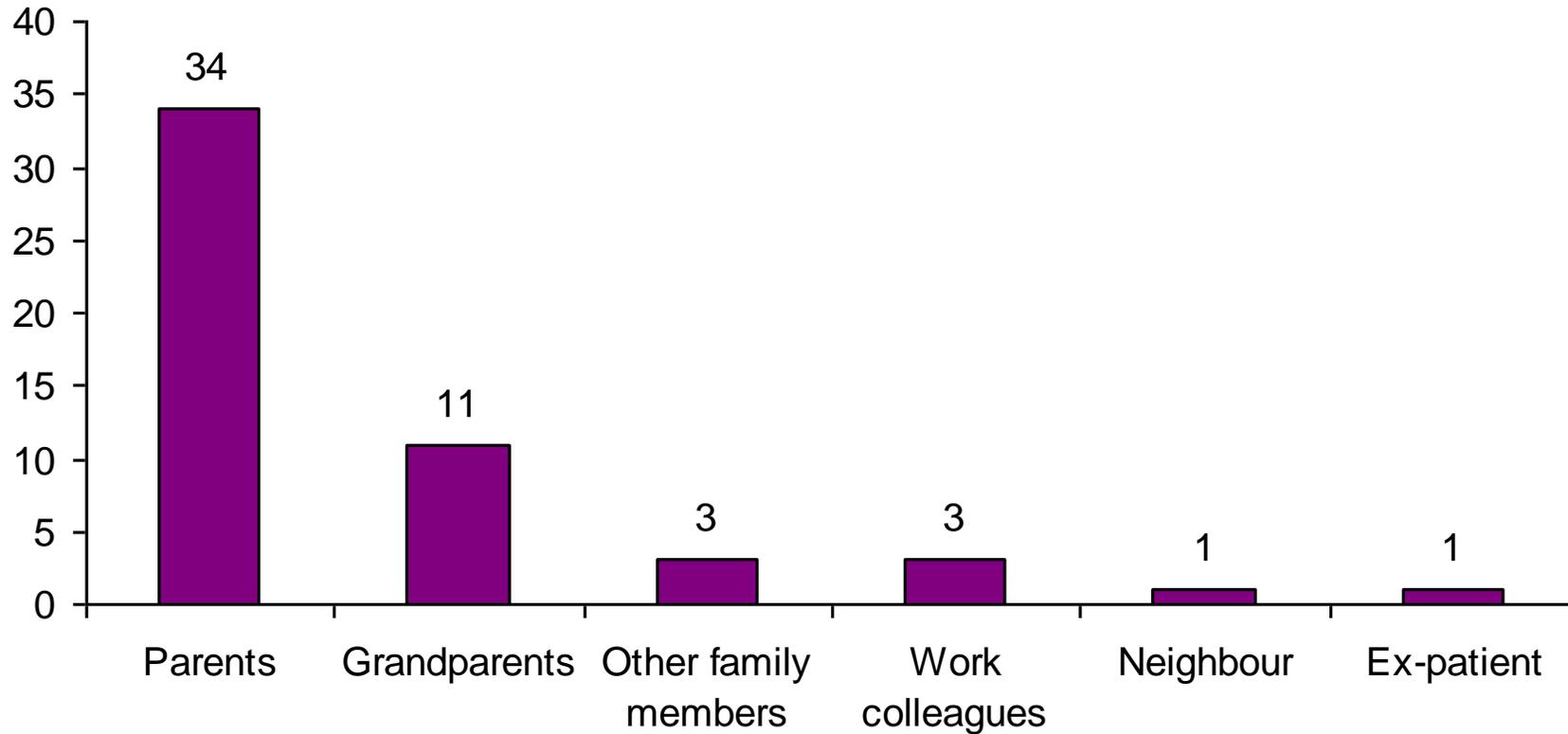
# How pilot fitted into existing child protection arrangements



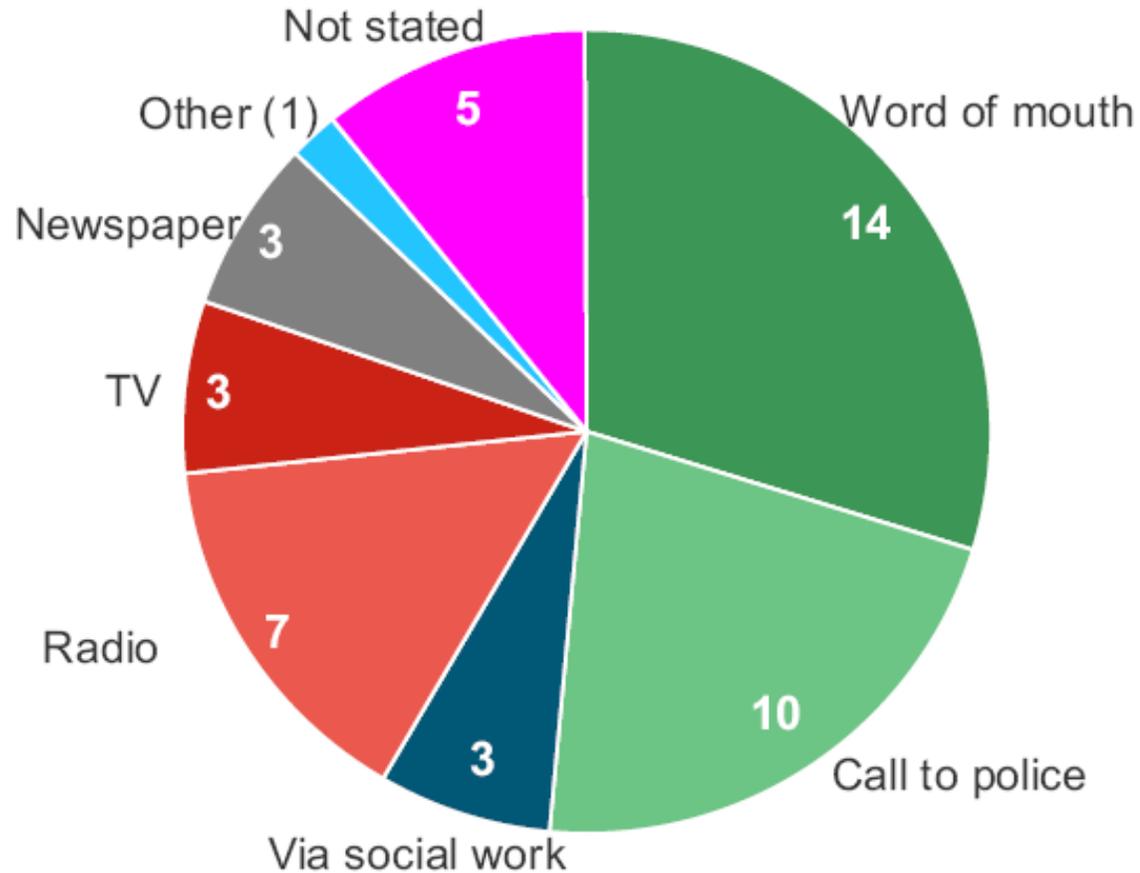
# What happened?

- 53 enquiries → 52 initial call backs → 45 face to face interviews with Disclosure Officer (4 withdrew, 1 could not be recontacted, 2 outwith remit)
- 1.5 enquiries a week on average, highest was 5
- No evidence of malicious enquiries
- Dealt with quickly. Median time between enquiry and:
  - initial call back – less than 1 day
  - face to face interview – 3 days
  - decision – 21 days

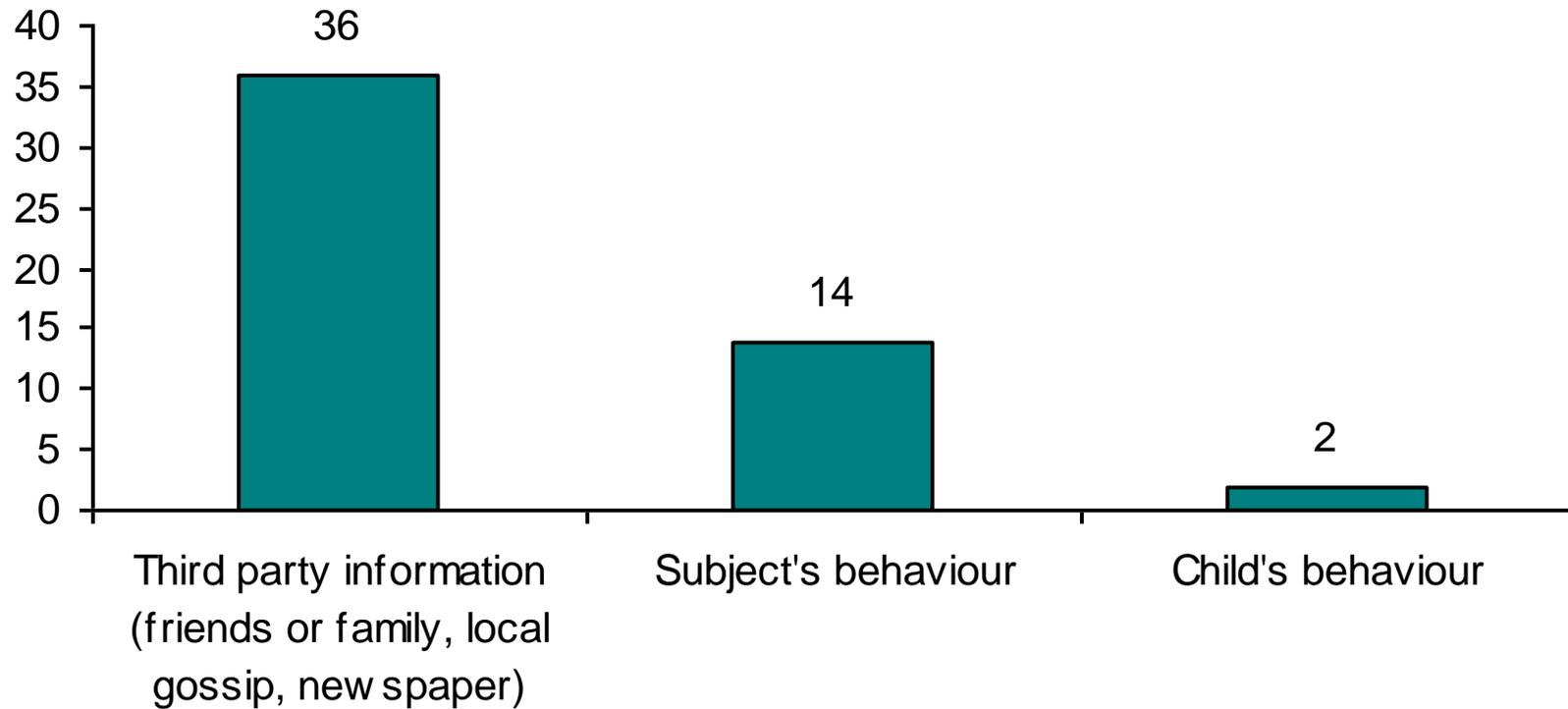
# Who were the applicants?



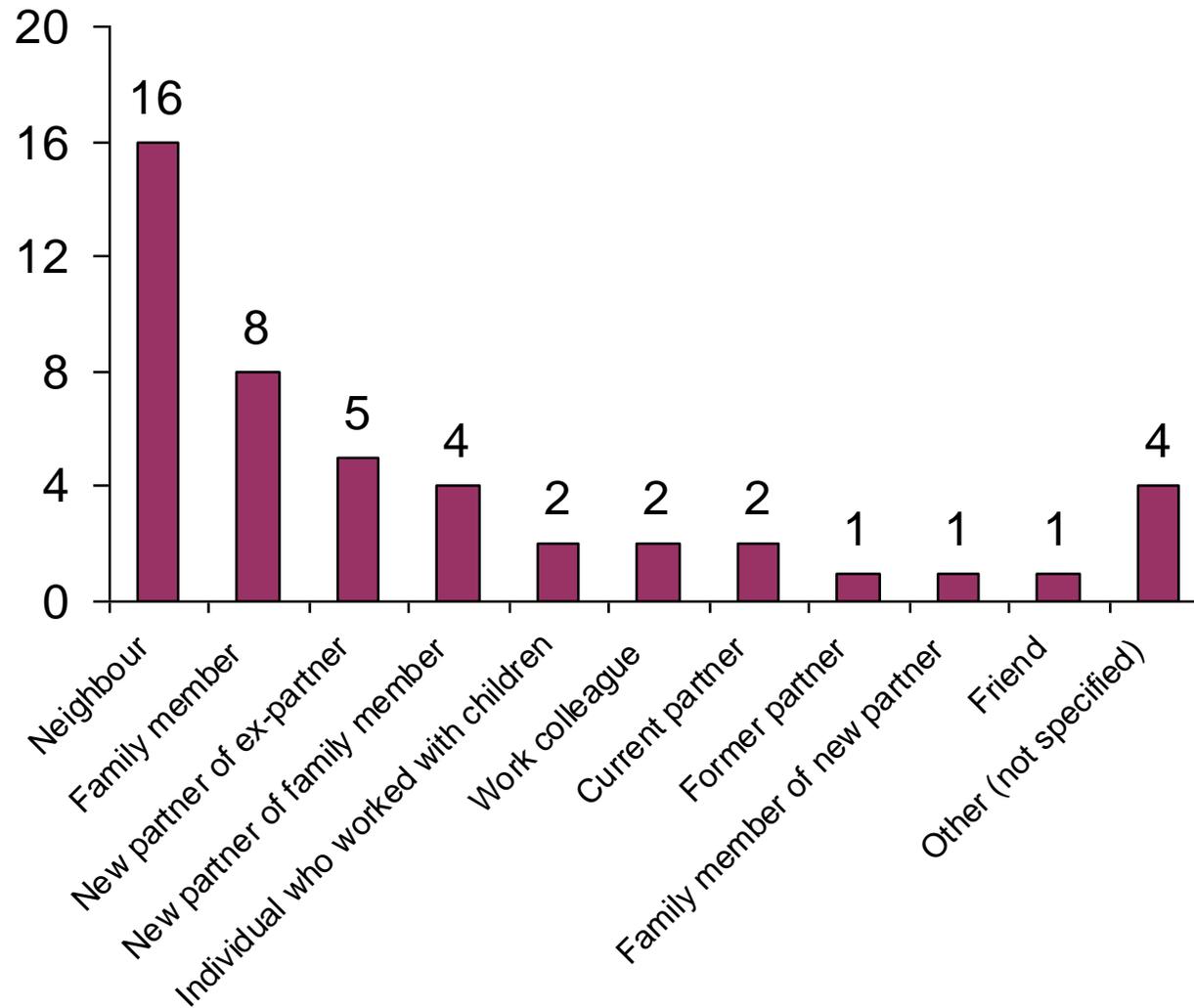
# How did they find out about the scheme?



# Reasons for applying



# Who were they concerned about?

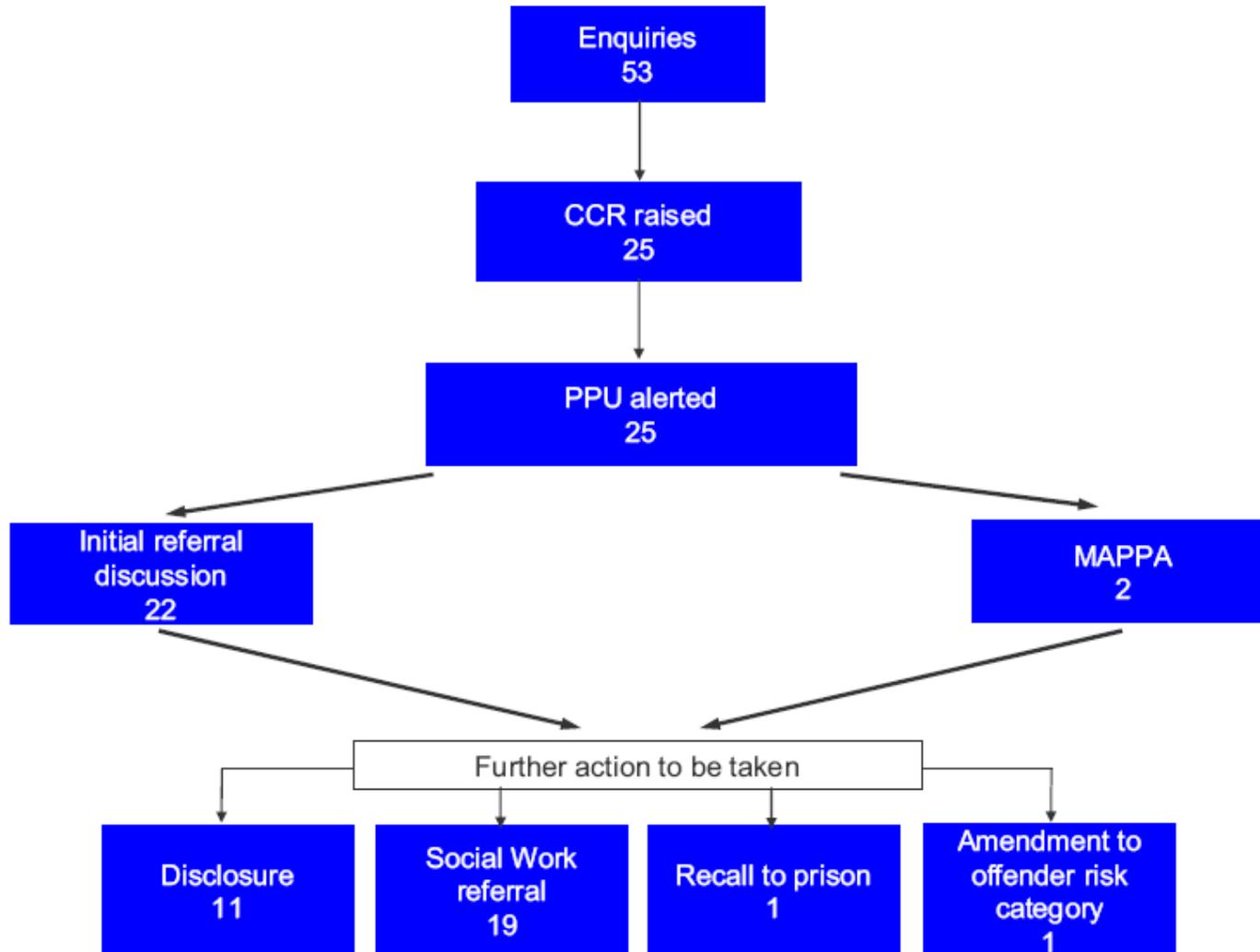


# Who were they concerned about?

Of the 53 subjects:

- 10 RSOs
- 16 previous sexual convictions
- 27 neither an RSO nor previous sexual convictions

# Outcomes



# Direct impact on child protection – perceptions

- Practitioners and national stakeholders felt pilot was a good addition to existing practices:
  - Gave the public a formal route to raise concerns – so more likely to come forward, additional intelligence and earlier intervention
  - Dedicated team – higher level of service
  - Ensuring information does not slip through the net
  - Checks conducted faster – earlier intervention

*Not long ago, sort of a few months back... there was nothing, we have tried through the doctors before, we've tried the Police before, we've tried Social Work, just everything seemed a dead end. (Applicant)*

*The other stuff that's been fed in, it may have come in, but it wouldn't have been dealt with the way we are dealing with it, because we're taking the information in and immediately doing so many checks...to find out if there is anything there. Officers on the street probably wouldn't have the time to do that and do it in much detail. (Police)*

# Direct impact on child protection – estimating the impact

- What would have happened in the absence of the pilot?
- 25 Child Concern Reports raised
- Depth interviews with 13 of these 25 applicants
- 9 of the 13 would probably have gone to the Police or Social Work anyway (either hadn't known about the pilot and channelled in or were confident that they would have gone anyway)
- 4 of the 13 would probably not have contacted anyway – but most would have kept their child away from the subject

*I would have just kept the bairn away, which I have done anyway, but I would have just kept the bairn away and kept watching and that's what I've been doing for the past couple of years.  
(Applicant)*

# Impact on applicants

- Most applicants were very positive about the process and satisfied with the outcome. Many spoke of the peace of mind it had given them
- Satisfaction framed by:
  - Initial expectations – when already know about convictions and/or want someone moved out of the area
  - Level of knowledge of actions taken – where not eligible to receive disclosure (e.g. grandparents) and don't know outcome/actions can be just as concerned as at the start
- Need for aftercare – signposting to sources of advice and support

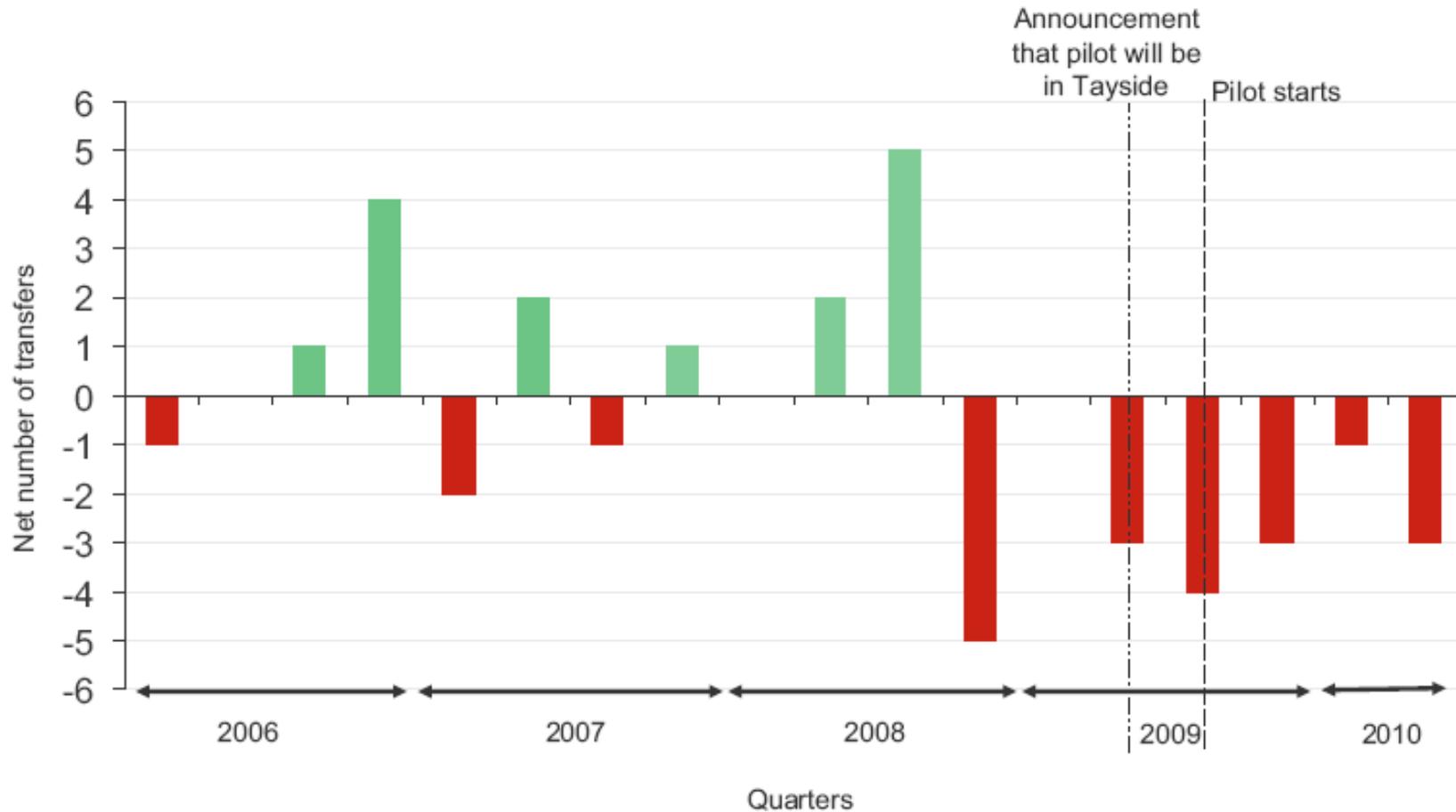
# Impact on RSOs

- Informed by Offender Managers and given a letter
- Offender managers felt it was important to tell them in person and explain/reassure
- RSOs interviewed (8) had some understanding of scheme – knew had to be good reason for any disclosure
- But little understanding of process and what would happen if there was disclosure – speculation about vigilante attacks
- ‘a good idea’ but largely indifferent – wouldn’t affect them (offences unrelated to children or no contact with children)

# Impact on RSOs

- Felt it had not affected their way of life
- One (offences related to adults) said he might be more wary of developing friendships – especially with those who have children – speculated that it could ostracise people and lead to re-offending
- Speculation by RSOs that others would ‘go underground’
- Dominant view among practitioners that it would not affect compliance
- Offender managers did not think any effect
- Not aware of any problems as a result of information disclosed by the scheme

# Movement of RSOs



Source: Tayside Police

# Conclusions

- Overall, scheme fits in well with existing arrangements and has enhanced them
  - a number of CCRs raised and subsequent action taken to protect children as a direct result of the scheme
  - police received additional intelligence (on RSOs and other individuals) which may help protect children in the future
  - chances of cases falling through the net are reduced
  - checks conducted faster
  - applicants received higher level of service and felt more reassured that appropriate action being taken

# Recommendations

- Disclosure through Social Work – tighten procedures to ensure need for confidentiality understood and adhered to
- Need for more aftercare for applicants – signposting to advice and support – what to do if uncomfortable about not being able to share information
- More support and reassurance to applicants not eligible to receive disclosure themselves
- Emphasising that applicants should get back in touch if any concerns in future (about subject or anyone else)

# Recommendations

- Terminology and marketing should encourage public to get in touch to provide information as well as obtain it
- Emphasise the anonymity of applicants to encourage enquiries
- Further research on impact on the reintegration of RSOs
- Research with public:
  - awareness of scheme
  - impact on awareness and understanding of child sexual abuse
  - impact on reassurance

# Thank you

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**Ipsos MORI**