



# A Review of Behaviour Practitioners in Post

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# Why ask?





# Research Aims

1. To identify the skills and duties of existing practitioners.
2. To investigate how behaviour support services fit into the overall service structures so effective support structures can be developed
3. To 'future-proof' behaviour services by ensuring appropriate planning and recruitment of future behaviour practitioners to meet service needs.



# Who took part?

- $n = 96$
- Allowed question skipping to ensure anonymity
- Average response rate per question 86%



# Who are we?

- Female (74%)
- Psychologist (47%) and / or ABA (23%)
- Working between 1-6 years (54%)
- Children (71%) and/or Adults (40%)
- Working in a special school (55%)

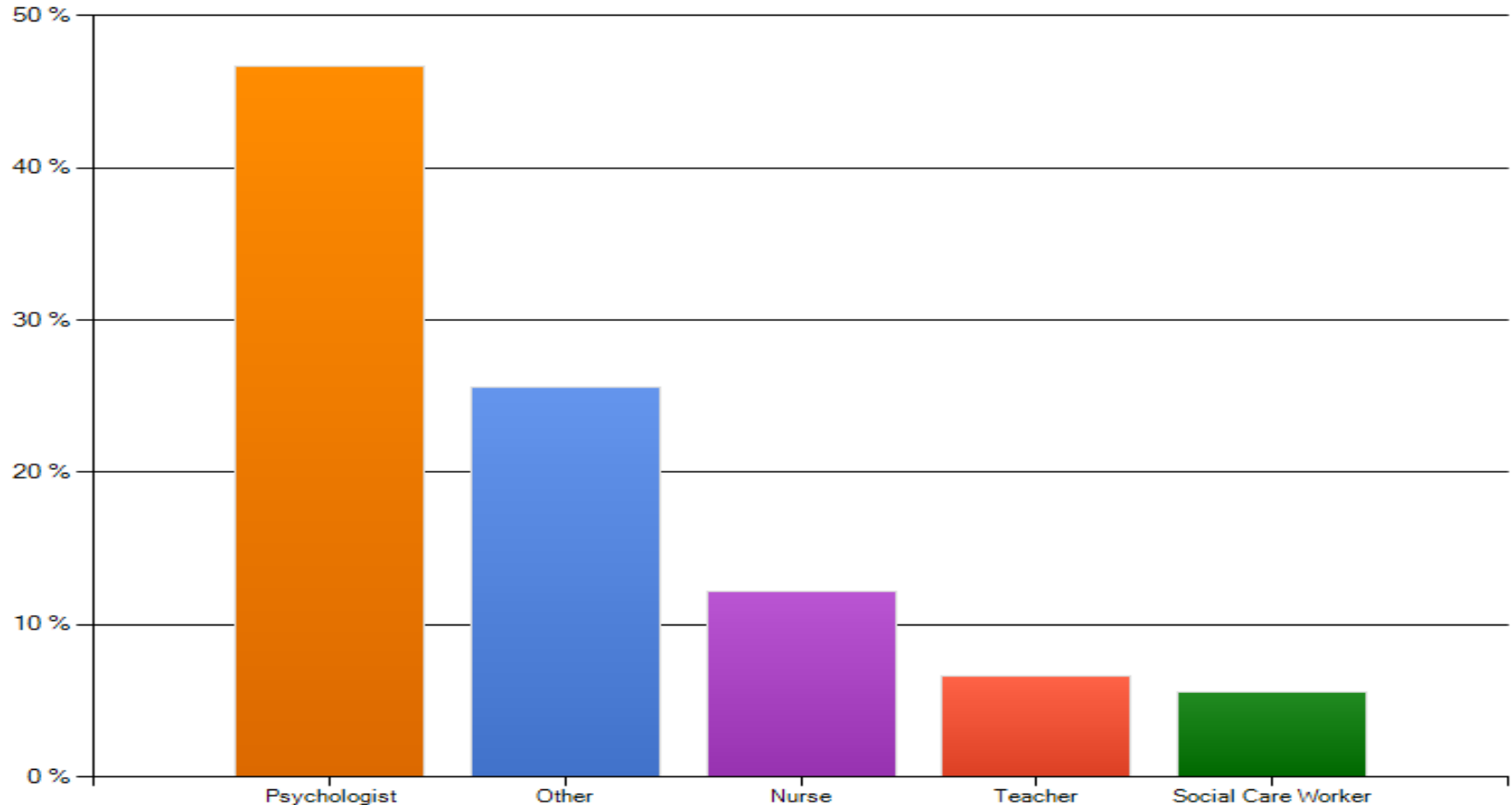
Home (38%)

Community based residential service (37%)

Community based day programme (32%)



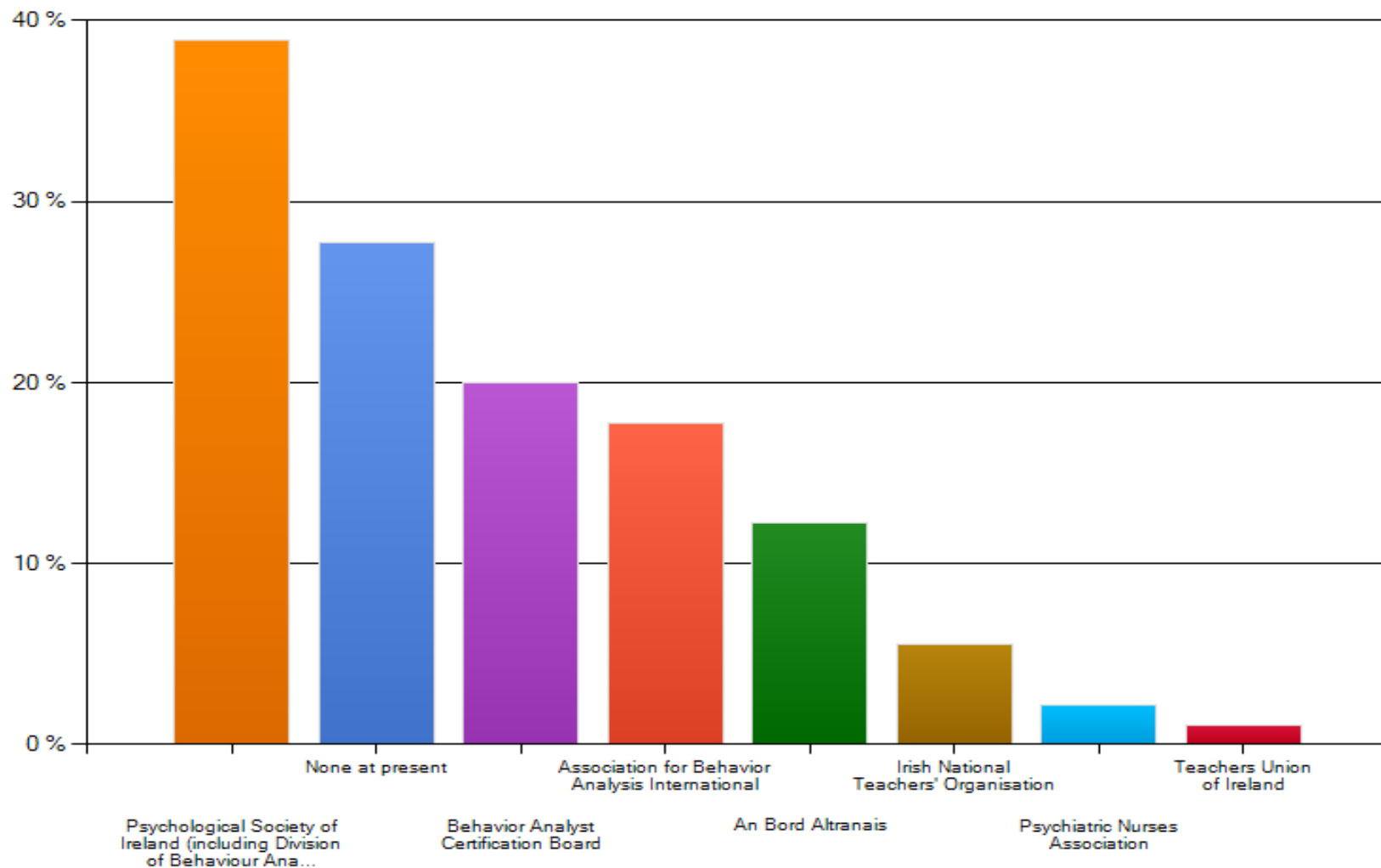
# Professional Backgrounds



*'Others' included Social Studies, Counselling, Early Education and Applied Behaviour Analysis*



# Professional Accreditation





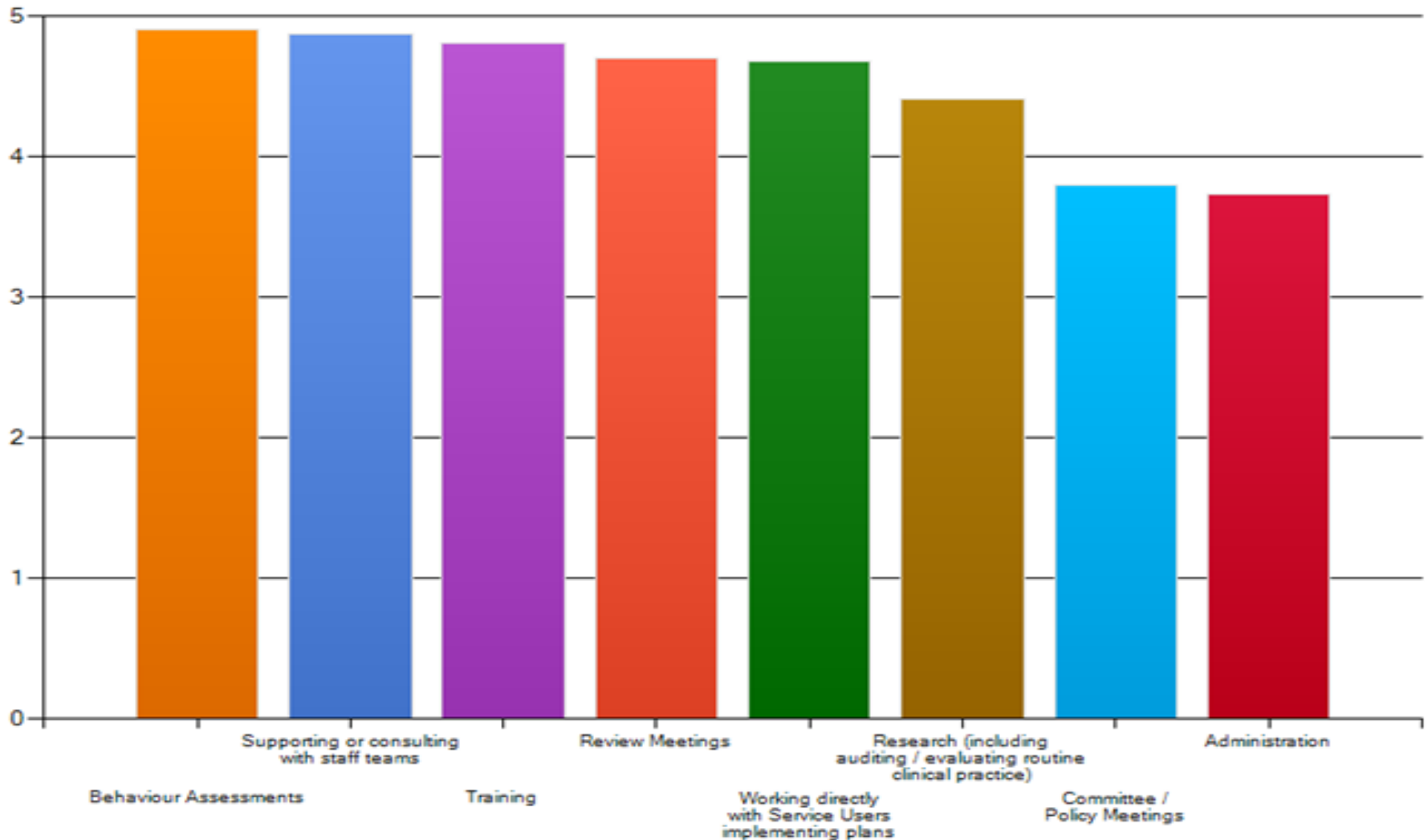
# What do we do all day?

- Number of assessments completed - 12
- Number of consultations completed - 38
- What are our duties?
- How does this match up to what we *feel* we should be doing?



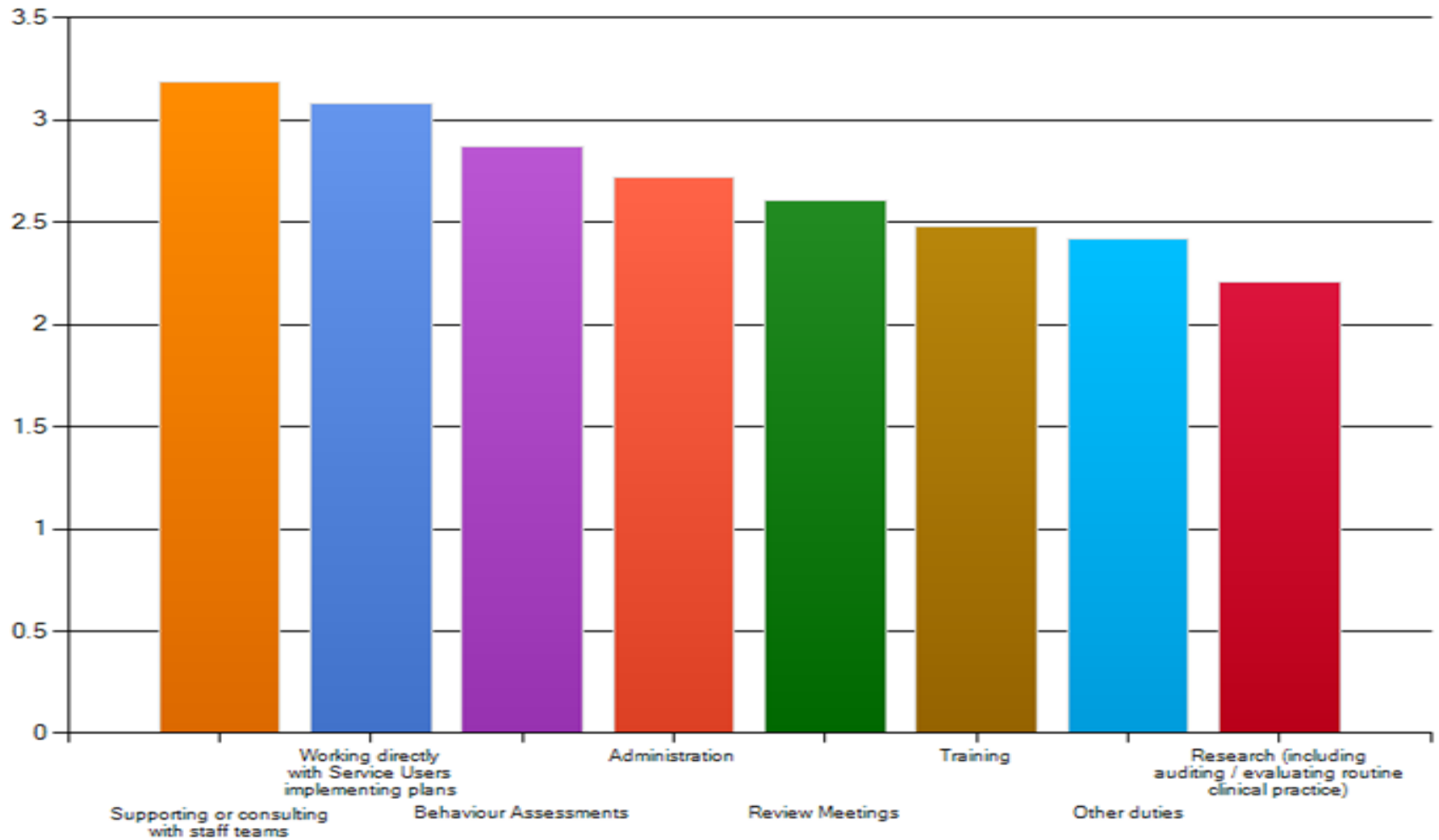


# Duties & Responsibilities - Ideal



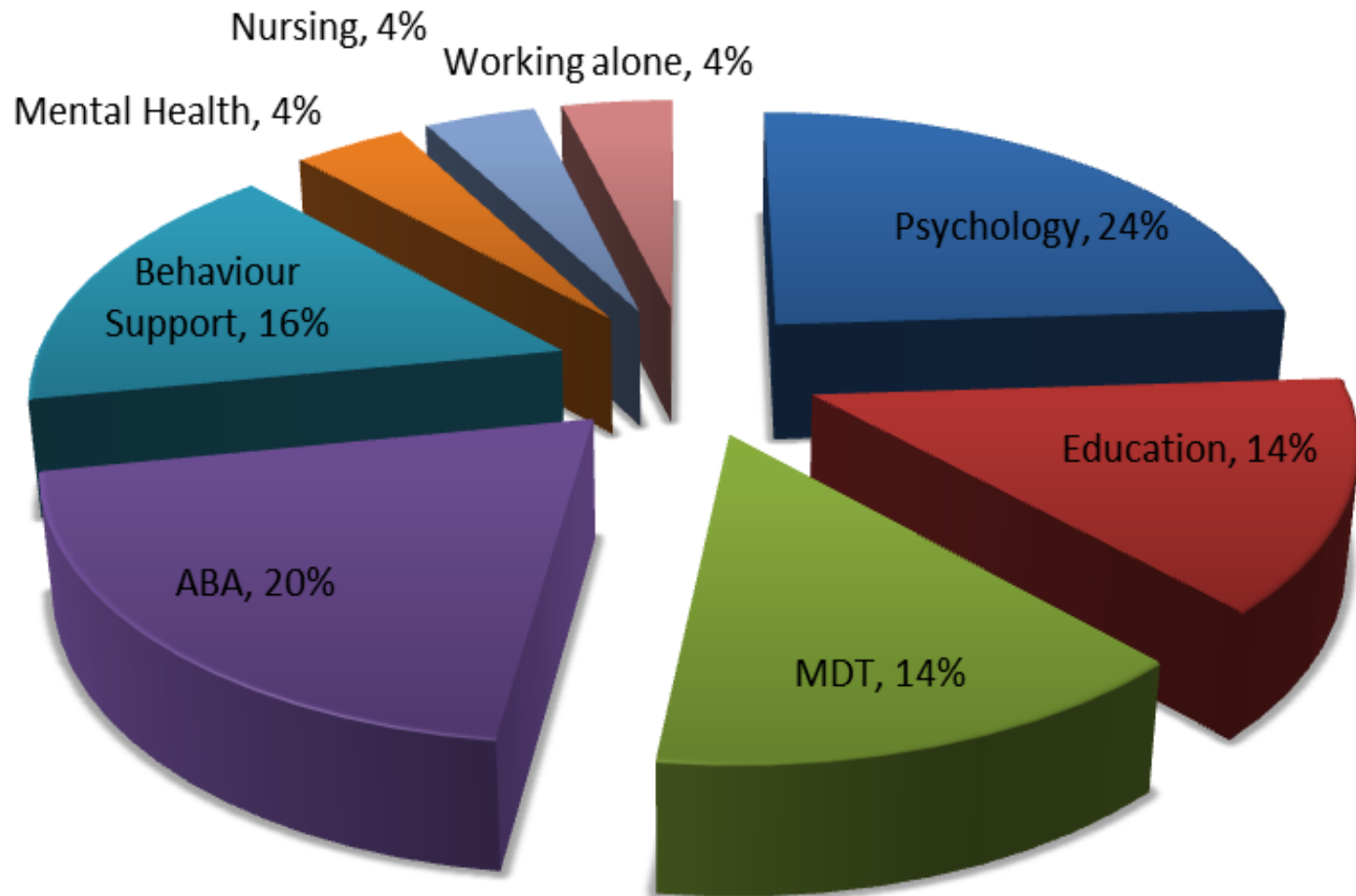


# Actual Duties





# Where do we fit into Service Structures?



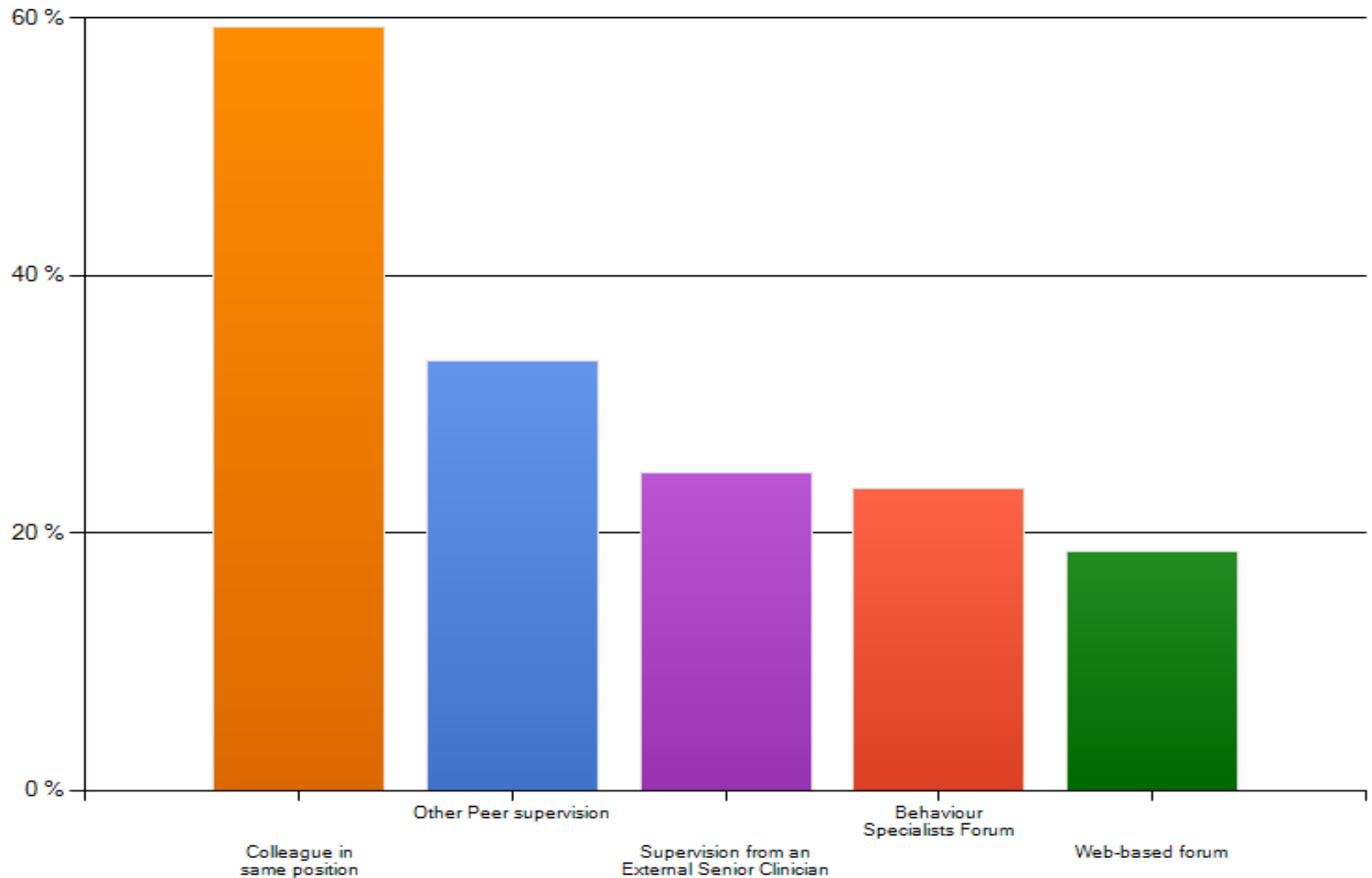


# Who do we report to?

- Line management – 88%
- Clinical Supervisor – 58%
  - With specialist training in behaviour – 72%
- So only 42% receiving behaviour specific supervision



# What additional support do we get?





# What other support do we need?

- 71% want further training
  - D.Clin.Psych, CBT, ABA
  - Sexuality, Education, Autism, PECS, Feeding programmes, Play Therapy, Marte Meo Autism
- 67% feel they have other needs in order to fulfil their role professionally
  - Team Supports
  - Professional Recognition & Links
  - MDT's
  - Admin & resources

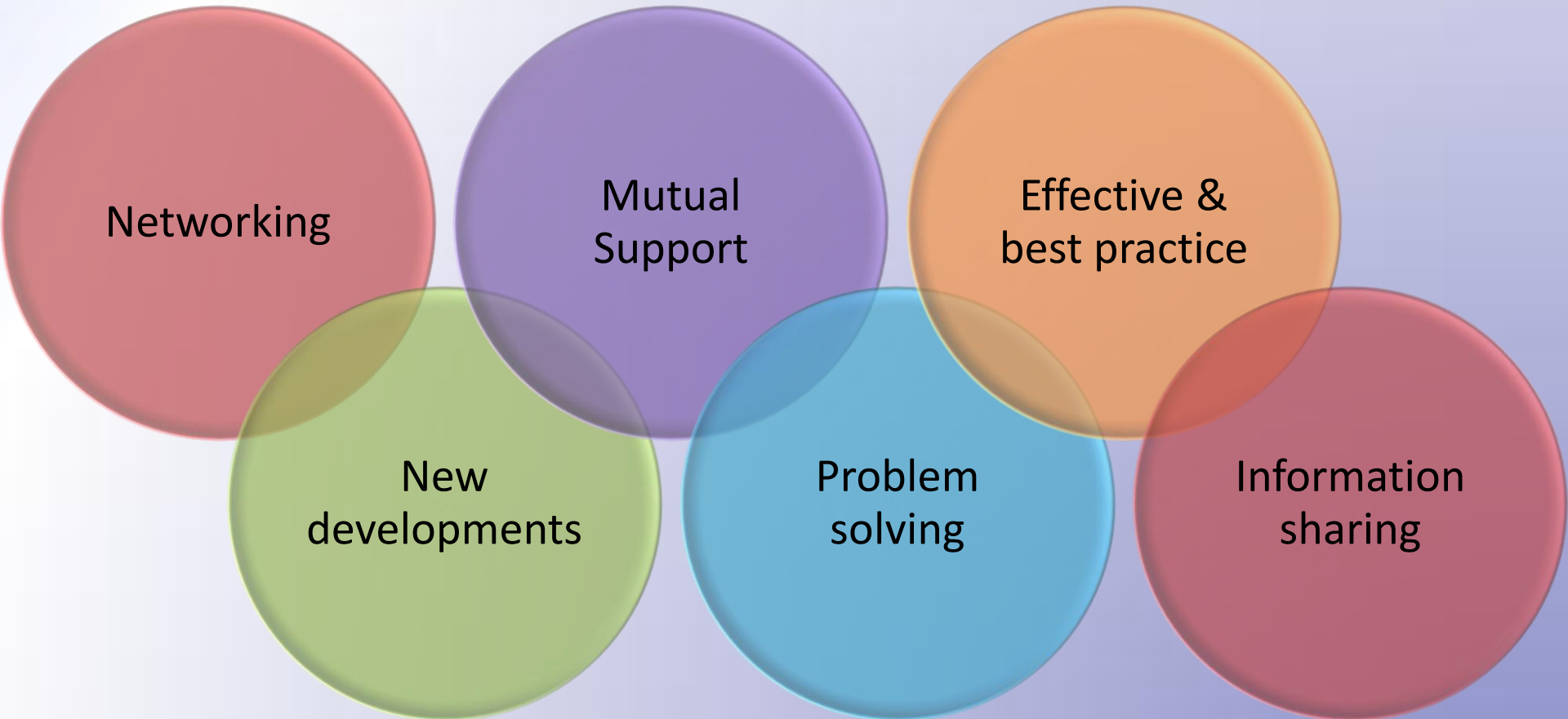


# So what do we do with this information?





# Peer Support



*But restrictions make it difficult to meet face-to-face*





# Internet resources

- Facebook

ABA Ireland; PBS Ireland; PBS Chat; Callan Institute

- Linked In

Managing Challenging Behaviour, The Behaviour Analysis Network;  
Board Certified Behaviour Analysts

- Behaviour Analysis in Ireland

[www.behaviouranalysisinireland.wordpress.com](http://www.behaviouranalysisinireland.wordpress.com)

- Irish Association of Behaviour Support

[www.iabs.ie](http://www.iabs.ie)

- PBS Ireland on Dropbox



# Best practice guidelines

- Own professional Guidelines & Ethical Codes
- Ball & Bush - Psychological Interventions for severely behaviour that challenges shown by people with learning disabilities
- PSI - Responding to Behaviour that Challenges
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Journals – Journal of PBS, JIDR, JABA, etc.
- Professional groups (DBA, BACB, IABA, etc.)



# Future Development of Teams

- Are we ready for a national accrediting body?
- Service commitment to core behavioural values
- Building a team to match



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