

## Quality issue / initial problem

The Stroke Unit at the WGH is a 24 bedded unit. Patients can be on the ward for a protracted period being rehabilitated and often waiting for support in the community on discharge. Some patients can become isolated.

## Specific aim

Reduce social isolation through social stimulation and group activity for patients on the Stroke Unit at the WGH

## Measurement of improvement

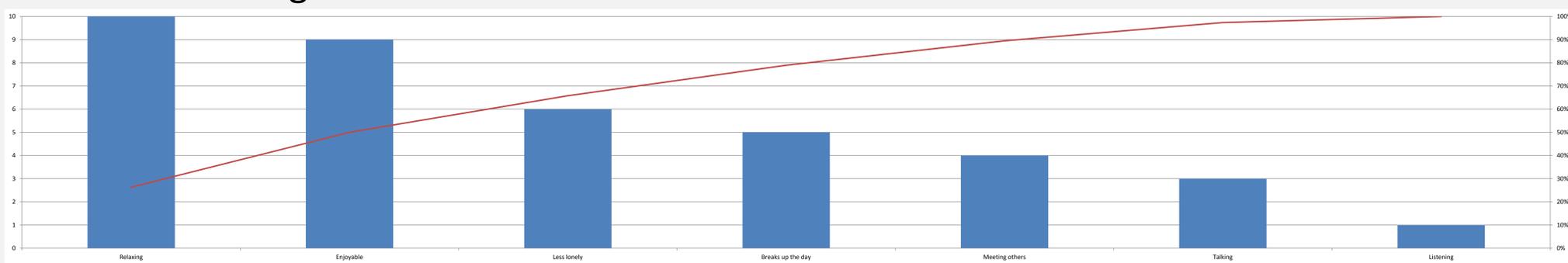
The team did a fishbone diagram together and used it to decide on what they could do to address patient isolation.



Once a week Pippin the Therapet comes to the ward and patients can choose to walk with him around the ward or to just have a pat and a cuddle.

Through the volunteer co-ordinator and Artlink volunteers were identified to come to the ward and do activities with patients in the ward dayroom.

There is now a table and chairs in the dayroom and patients who are able can choose to eat their meals sitting at the table



## Tests of change

- Weekly visit from Pippin the Therapet
- Art Therapist recipe book
- Increase use of dayroom

## Tools

- Patient experience questionnaire
- Fishbone diagram
- Pareto chart

## Effects of change

Patients involved in the various activities were more engaged and interactive as they got to know the other patients. More patients are now using the day room and less patients choosing to just sit at their bedside.

## Lessons learned and message for others

Do something instead of thinking 'it would be good if..' It felt good to do something with an idea and make something happen to improve things for patients. I really want to keep this going and not allow the various activities to stop.