Celebrating 25 Years

1996 - 2021
Chairman’s report

As Dentaid enters its 25th year, we do so off the back of another challenging time.

I am immensely proud of Andy and the team for adapting in such a dynamic environment. Like all charities, the inability to remain closely engaged with supporters has been very difficult when we aren’t able to run fundraising events, be present at the major dental exhibitions and awards ceremonies, or visit regional meetings. The team misses the interaction and can’t wait to see more of you all!

I have been struck by two things over the past year:

1. How the crisis has accelerated change. In the UK, we see growing need for our support and an immediate opportunity to deploy volunteers unable to travel abroad who are volunteering on our mobile dental units providing dental care for the most vulnerable people in their own communities.

2. And while we can’t yet travel overseas, we continue to develop our approach that delivers holistic, sustainable solutions with our local partners by funding outreach clinics and providing equipment that enables them to increase capacity and provide life-changing dental care for those with no other access to treatment.

My wife is a practising GDP and so I have seen first-hand the challenges the profession faces. At the same time, her joy and satisfaction of serving on Dentaid’s mobile dental unit in Worthing might just be the highlight of the year to date! My thanks to each and every one of our volunteers for giving time when life continues to be so topsy turvy.

Crispin Keanie

CEO’s report

This year has been one of contrast, change and opportunity. The impact of the pandemic was huge, both financially to our charity and to the lives of our homeless and vulnerable patients. Overnight our fundraising events were cancelled, UK clinics stopped and overseas volunteering trips postponed. So many people were left without help in such a difficult time.

Lockdowns overseas meant our dentists could not travel to rural areas to run our outreach clinics. And in the UK, people experiencing homelessness who already often live with the misery of dental pain had nowhere to turn to access care.

This period has brought about a lot of change globally and in the worlds of charity and dentistry. And change brings opportunity. Once we could get back up and running, we adapted our approach to provide care for as many people as we can. None of this would be possible without the help of our volunteers and supporters, and I thank you all.

However, every week the task gets bigger. We constantly receive requests for clinics in the UK to help people experiencing homelessness. We also continue to receive requests from overseas projects for equipment and our support.

We help where we can, however, without funding we can only meet a small proportion of requests. With more funding we can do so much more.

Andy Evans
Volunteering

Dentaid simply wouldn’t exist without our volunteers. Everything we do is supported by an incredible team of people who give up their time and skills to support our work. Whether that’s at our warehouse in Totton where we restore and refurbish dental equipment for our projects overseas, on our mobile dental units in the UK or those planning to join our volunteering teams abroad, there are so many ways to get involved with Dentaid.

Eileen Swanson  Dentist

“Once I sold my practice, I found a charity that needed a dentist in Tanzania for two weeks. Covid came along and my trip was repeatedly cancelled. Coincidently, I was asked by a colleague if I was free to volunteer for Dentaid in Eastbourne.

I have now worked several sessions and love it. The team is so supportive, the mobile dental unit is a tardis of a surgery and well equipped. The administrative staff are well organised and friendly. The patients are great, all have been appreciative of us being there for them and it’s so good to find a local charity!”

Dave Hibbert  Workshop Volunteer

“Every day is different and every day there is a new challenge. Dentaid does such great work in so many countries and it’s lovely to see photographs of things you have worked on being put to good use. There is a great team at Dentaid and it’s a joy to come here.”

Laura Durrant  Dental Nurse

“I signed up to volunteer with Dentaid because it’s something different and it’s a great charity to be part of. We see people who can’t access dental care elsewhere. We’ve seen people who are sleeping rough or have arrived from overseas and they’ve not been able to get an NHS dentist and they are in significant amounts of pain.”

Deepak Gupta  Foundation Dentist

“Dentaid was a name I had heard frequently throughout my dental nursing career. There is significant deprivation where I live in East Sussex, resulting in many people suffering from homelessness and subsequently dental disease with lack of access to care. So I jumped at the opportunity to contribute to aid people - in the one way I know - in my community.

After volunteering with Dentaid on their mobile dental unit, it not only gave me a feeling of happiness from helping, but it also humbled me hearing patients’ stories. I actively recommend people try volunteering with Dentaid.”
Larry's story

Everywhere we go, we are humbled by the stories our patients tell us about their lives. So many have faced enormous challenges and continue to do so. We can’t help them with everything but by providing safe, sustainable dental care we can help them out of pain, enable them to feel more confident and play our part in helping them to move on to a new chapter in their life.

“I get toothache and then I get depressed. When I get depressed I pull my own teeth out. I’ve done it with pliers and a spoon. It’s agony when you do it and it really bleeds. Then the pain goes away.

“I was homeless for a year, sleeping rough. I slept in between the doorways of two charity shops. They said it was ok for me to sleep there if I kept it clean. I do drink that’s my problem. Then last year they found me somewhere to stay and I’ve been in a place since then.

“I come to the Salvation Army most days and that’s how I get my food. But my teeth hurt a lot and I can’t always eat it – depends what it is. But if the dentist looks after me I’ll feel better about myself and better about my life.”

Larry
Dentaid patient,
Eastbourne

It has been a year of extremes for Dentaid’s UK work. After the disappointment of cancelling all our clinics during the first lockdown and several months of work to restart our programmes, our mobile dental unit was back on the road in September when we made a welcome return to Trinity House in Winchester. And since then we haven’t stopped.

Demand for our services has rocketed and most days our mobile dental units are out at soup kitchens, hostels and day centres with volunteers providing dental care for the most vulnerable people in our society.

New clinics

In 2021 we have started new, regular clinics for people experiencing homelessness in Bournemouth, Eastbourne, Hastings, Littlehampton, Portsmouth, Weymouth, Wilton and Worthing.

And we’ll be launching new clinics in London, Birmingham, Thanet, Bradford, Leeds, York, Lowestoft, North Shields and Felixstowe later this year.

Reaching refugees and asylum seekers

In February we paid our first visit to Napier Barracks in Folkestone to provide dental care for refugees and asylum seekers. Every month our mobile dental unit visits the barracks with volunteers offering emergency treatment and oral health advice for people who crossed The Channel in the hope of finding a better life.
Larry’s story

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Larry Dentaid patient, Eastbourne

For support workers, finding dental care for their homeless and vulnerable patients is often impossible. Dentaid receives requests to visit new venues every week. Claire Halford-Dale from Turning Tides in Worthing explains what a visit from Dentaid’s mobile dental unit means to her clients.

“A lot of our clients are embarrassed by their teeth. They fear that they might be judged. We have taken people to A&E in the past when they’ve been in agony. We’ve had people with severe abscesses and one client was in pain for at least 18 months.

“We often have people who come to the centre in dental pain who can’t eat or clean their teeth because it hurts too much. It’s the constant pain in their heads which is so hard to deal with. It’s depressing for them. And then they are tempted to self medicate to take the pain away.

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“By coming here on a regular basis it will break down some of those barriers. We think it’s fantastic what you do.”
FOCUS ON

Overseas

Although Covid-19 caused the postponement of all Dentaid’s overseas volunteering experiences, our international work is still going strong as we find new ways to provide dental services in remote communities around the world. Dental equipment and portable surgeries in DentaidBoxes have been sent to our partners in South Africa, Ethiopia, Uganda, Malawi, Bosnia, Zimbabwe and Papua New Guinea, while our Ugandan dental associates have been busy running outreach clinics for people who have no other access to dental care.

Report on Batwa outreach from Dentaid’s Ugandan associate, Boaz Jardel

The Batwa were originally forest dwellers, who survived on hunting and gathering before they were thrown out by the government. They now live in impoverished communities very far into the countryside. Every morning it took us two hours to reach them and set up our clinic and we had to carry equipment on our heads to reach communities the vehicle couldn’t get to. The first clinic was in Murambo where hundreds of people turned up happy to have a dental service. We registered 234 people who attended an oral hygiene talk and did 96 extractions. The second day we went to Ryamihanda in Ikumba sub county. We were told the nearest dental clinic is in Kisoro district on the other side of the forest which would be over 60km of winding rough road away. More than 300 people turned up to this clinic and we worked until we ran out of supplies. The final clinic was in the Batwa settlement of Murubindi where we saw another 132 people. This was no ordinary dental outreach, and we learned a lot about the affairs of our indigenous people. Thanks to Dentaid for always looking out for the dental health of the vulnerable. We are grateful.”

DentaidBoxes in Papua New Guinea

Two DentaidBoxes have arrived in Papua New Guinea.

One will be used by Kompiam Hospital to provide outreach dental services and the other by the dental team at Moem Barracks who will fly into remote jungle areas only accessible by light aircraft or boat!
Our team

Two new members of the Dentaid team describe what working for the charity means to them.

Claire Soper
UK Clinics Manager

“I have always wanted to work in a role which made a difference to others. Each day working at Dentaid gives me the opportunity to use my skills and passion for dentistry to help everyone I meet, which is the most worthwhile work, I could hope for.”

Pete Burch
Trusts, Grants and Community Fundraising Officer

“We’ve all had toothache at some point, but very few of us have had toothache whilst also being hungry, wondering where we will sleep, whether we’ll be safe overnight or not knowing if anyone will be able to help us. Working for Dentaid on a clinic is like witnessing kids opening presents on Christmas Day. It really is such a rewarding experience to know that, today, we have dramatically improved an individual’s wellbeing, health and quality of life.”

Finance

As for all charities, the last financial year has been a challenging one for Dentaid. Whilst our income was reducing due to the influence of the pandemic, our expenses were rising.

Just before the pandemic Dentaid had increased the team size anticipating an increase in our work. The charitable activities costs for the year 2020/21 were £357,044 as compared to £309,318 the year before. To balance out the reduction in income, Dentaid decided to invest in enlarging its fundraising team to enable the charity to concentrate on funding applications to trusts and grants, the successful results of which can be seen in the graph below.

The total income for the year 2020/21 was £457,175 compared to £538,211 the previous year.

Dentaid finished the year in an improved financial position on previous years with total funds of £527,020 including stock. However, with a full programme of UK clinics planned for 2021/22 and the ever changing situation in respect of Dentaid’s ability to run overseas trips, Dentaid will need the backing of its regular supporters to ensure it can continue to develop as a charity and meet the needs of its patients.

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<th>2019/20</th>
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The Dentaid team

Andy Evans  CEO
John Elkins  Finance Director
Jill Harding  Communications Director
Sue Smith  UK Development Manager
Jacqueline James  Overseas and Volunteering Manager
Stuart Bassham  Workshop Manager
Pete Burch  Fundraising Officer (Trusts, Grants and Community)
Nicky Heather  Fundraising Officer
Clare Soper  UK Clinics Manager
Allie James  UK Clinics and Compliance Officer
Emma Coulam  UK Clinics Officer
Gemma Martin  UK Projects Administrator
Clive Murrey  Mobile Dental Unit Officer
Kevin Milburn  Mobile Dental Unit Officer
Chris Stone  Mobile Dental Unit Officer

Dentaid trustees

Crispin Keanie  Chairman
Fiona Ellwood
Mark Inman
Richard Guyver
Jane Lelean
Gavin Whitney
Sally Reading
Andy Evans

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported Dentaid over the last 25 years.

Trusts and grants