Chairman's report
Winning the Healthcare and Medical Research category at the 2022 Charity Awards was an immensely proud moment for Dentaid. To be shortlisted and then rise to the top of such a competitive category is testament to the hard work and dedication of the Dentaid team, our volunteers and all our supporters.

Whilst winning the award shows how compelling the work of the charity is now and our journey over the last 26 years, it also provides a platform to continue to develop and extend our reach. Dentaid's increased profile is strengthening both support and donations.

Going into the next year we will consider how best to meet the expanding requests for our services.

CEO's report
I have had the privilege of leading Dentaid for more than seven years and, looking back, I am immensely proud of what the team and our amazing volunteers have achieved. We have had a clear focus; helping more people access dental treatment, and we have had to adapt in order to deliver services to those who desperately need it.

One thing that has been consistent is that the dental community really supports us, whether that is through equipment donation, raising money or, most importantly, donating their time to help people less fortunate than themselves.

The need for Dentaid is increasing and we are now starting to get the recognition we and our volunteers deserve.

Even though Dentaid has been established for 26 years, I believe we are starting a new chapter. Our method of delivering care through the engagement of volunteers is gaining traction and these are very exciting times.

We can only grow and meet this increasing demand if we have the funding, volunteers and equipment. With the generosity of the dental profession behind us, we can continue to reach more people.

I am enormously grateful to every volunteer, our funders and our fantastic staff who are so committed. No one should struggle to access dental care and Dentaid is a small but growing piece of the puzzle to help resolve this.
**Tackling health inequalities**

"Health inequalities are avoidable and unfair differences in health status between groups of people or communities"

UK Government

Every day Dentaid staff and volunteers see for themselves the reality of health inequalities and the impact it has on our patients' lives. Whether that’s queues of people patiently waiting hours hoping to be seen at our public access clinics in Suffolk, children living in areas of high social deprivation who have never seen a dentist, or remote communities overseas.

In the last year we have responded by taking our mobile dental services to a growing number of communities who are struggling to access care for a wide variety of reasons.

These include pressures on NHS provision, challenging lifestyles and practical barriers such as access to technology, transport, having an address or even being in a place where they are physically, mentally or emotionally well enough to prioritise dental care.

Dentaid has run six clinics in Bury St Edmunds and Leiston, taking its mobile dental units and large teams of volunteer dental professionals to community centres. Patients queue from the early hours of the morning in the hope of being seen and while sadly demand is so great we have to turn some people away, we manage to treat between 35 and 40 people a day.

Dentaid in Suffolk

The area of our work continuing to attract most attention is our public access clinics. Held in Suffolk, an area where lack of access to dental care has led to protest marches, political lobbying and desperate people in long term pain, we are providing a temporary, charitable service to help those in the greatest need.

These clinics are funded by local councils and provide free emergency treatment for local people with toothache who have no other access to dental care. Health inequalities exist in this region due to the closure of NHS dental practices, pockets of social deprivation in a generally affluent community, lack of public transport and the cost and time of driving to emergency dental services.

"I personally have been trying for the best part of the last five or six years to get an NHS dentist, but it’s just impossible. I had a wisdom tooth out privately and I needed to take out a £500 bank loan to pay for that. I’m a single father and I don’t have that kind of money. Feeding my children and putting a roof over their heads has to come first." **Darren Turner, Dentaid patient**

Clinics for fishermen

Dr Bola Owolabi, Director – Health Inequalities at NHS England and NHS Improvement visited Dentaid’s mobile dental unit in Cromer. We regularly work with the Fishermen’s Mission to provide outreach dental services for fishermen and their families as part of the Seafit programme.

The nature of commercial fishing, which is dependent on the weather, tides, and fish locations, makes it very difficult for fishermen to make and keep pre-booked health appointments. If they are not at sea, they are not earning a living.
Dentaid’s work involves providing dental care for some of the most vulnerable children and underserved families in our communities. This includes looked after children, young people in areas of social deprivation, refugee families and those experiencing poverty.

We use the BrightBites oral health programme to support this work and make it available to all the hard-to-reach families we work with.

“Dentaid’s relaunched BrightBites programme is teaching children about their teeth at home and overseas. Volunteers visit schools, nurseries and parents’ groups to deliver a lively, interactive presentation about teeth, healthy diets and the importance of dental care.

Everyone gets a toothbrush and toothpaste to take home and resources including lesson plans, songs and activity sheets are available for staff and parents so the sessions can be followed up at home. In the last year, thanks to our partnership with Denplan, thousands of children have benefitted from BrightBites and teachers and nursery staff love it too!

Learning about teeth

BrightBites in the UK

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BrightBites overseas

BrightBites is also delivered overseas. We make the resources available to our overseas partners, NGOs that deliver oral health programmes and our volunteering teams.

The posters have been designed without words and to be appropriate for different cultures. We believe that oral health education from a young age is critically important and we work with local teachers and healthcare professionals so they can deliver this message.

“I am so happy that we have brought BrightBites to Uganda! Seeing these photos brings tears to my eyes. The resources are so adaptable, bright and colourful. They bring a fresh new approach to dental health and so many children can now start to benefit. I am delighted we are reaching out to refugee communities in the UK too. Dentaid is in a perfect position to really connect with these disadvantaged children and families”

Anne Powders, Dentaid oral health adviser

Become a BrightBites volunteer

www.dentaid.org/bright-bites/
I became homeless due to family problems. I didn't want to sleep on the streets so I got a tent and someone donated me an Army sleeping bag which keeps me warm even in the winter. I lived in a tent for seven years.

I've been coming to Seaview in Hastings for about five years. They helped me find a flat – it's a new start in a new location. I know I can move on and have a different type of life. One part of that is getting my teeth sorted out. I was embarrassed to smile.

I've had fillings in three of my front teeth and they look really good now. I've got some more that need fillings and some roots that need to be taken out too. In total I'll have seven roots taken out and lots of fillings – it's good Dentaid comes here regularly because my teeth were a mess. When I get my smile back, I'll get my confidence back. Everybody likes a smile. People say to me “I miss your smile” because I don't show my teeth when I smile any more – but I will do when my teeth are fixed.

Nothing you wear is more important than your smile
Connie Stevens

Our mobile dental clinics for people experiencing homelessness have taken us from Exeter to Norwich and Weymouth to York. Demand for our services has soared and we are helping more people than ever before. Some patients are suffering from severe toothache and need emergency care, while others simply want a scale and polish or some advice.

It's very difficult to brush your teeth when you're sleeping rough and many of our patients struggle to look after their oral health. But receiving dental care really can change lives.

We have had patients who have been able to re-engage with their families, find housing and seek employment simply because they are more confident about their smiles.

Dan's story

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Sophie's story

“I came here with a broken front tooth that made me feel really bad about myself. It had been damaged for eight months and was affecting my mental health and my self-confidence. It made me feel really ugly and that people think I'm not taking care of myself. My self confidence had gone and I couldn't smile at people without putting my hand over my mouth. It just looked like my front tooth was a broken peg.

The dentist has built up my tooth at the front and now it looks like a proper tooth. It looks so nice. He needs a medal. It's not just my smile, it's that he took the time and the care. Before, I couldn't open my mouth and now I can smile. I'm so happy. I feel bubbly and smiley.

I was homeless for a long time and staying in a hostel. But now I've got my own flat and I love it, it's a really nice one and it's my proper home. Next week I've got an interview at a restaurant and I'll feel confident that I can talk to the customers and smile at them. Dentaid has changed my life, it's brilliant!”

Sophie was successful in her job interview.

Our Dentaid volunteers are helping people smile across the UK.
Reaching new communities

“The best way to not feel hopeless is to get up and do something. If you go out and make some good things happen, you will fill the world with hope”

Barack Obama

People experiencing homelessness

Our mobile dental units visit hostels, drop in centres and soup kitchens with volunteers providing free dental care for people who are insecurely housed or sleeping rough. By taking a service to locations where our patients feel safe and supported we are helping to break down barriers and help them move on to a new chapter in their lives.

Refugees and asylum seekers

New clinics for refugees being given safe haven near Gatwick Airport started this year along with our regular dental service for those at Napier Barracks in Folkestone. Dentaid also provided dental care for Afghan evacuees rescued from Kabul when the Taliban regained power.

Head and neck cancer patients

We provide dental care for head and neck cancer patients either before, during, or after radiotherapy. This partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support, Southampton Hospitals Charity and University Hospital Southampton ensures patients can access timely care to improve outcomes and have emergency and restorative treatment after their cancer journey.

Victims of domestic violence

Survivors of domestic abuse often feel incredibly self-conscious about accessing dental care. Because of the way we run our clinics, our team can spend as much time as necessary with our patients, building up trust and gently explaining treatment options. By taking our service to safe spaces for our patients, we can start to re-engage them with dental care in a secure and comfortable environment.
Meeting growing need
“Charity sees the need not the cause”
Proverb

People struggling to access care
Queues quickly form for our public access clinics in Suffolk. People in the area are struggling to access NHS dental appointments and many on low incomes are unable to afford private treatment. We’ve paid two visits to Leiston and four to Bury St Edmunds and provided emergency treatment for hundreds of very grateful people.

Fishing communities
Our clinics for fishing communities take us from the south coast to the north east and across to Cromer in Norfolk. By parking on the quayside we give fishermen and their families the chance to meet our dental teams for advice and treatment.

Ex-military personnel
Thanks to a new partnership with Entrain Space in Wiltshire we are running dental clinics for veterans transitioning into civilian life. This group often faces challenges in fulfilling their potential after leaving the armed forces. By providing dental treatment we can help restore confidence and wellbeing for those retraining and seeking employment.

Looked after children and young people in areas of social deprivation
At Trinity Academy Grammar in Sowerby Bridge, pupils were regularly missing school due to dental problems. Our team screened and triaged every pupil and we provided dental treatment for those who needed it on mobile dental units parked in the playground. We are also running 50 clinics for looked after children in Hampshire.
Volunteering

“The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away”

William Shakespeare

As Dentaid has grown so have our volunteering opportunities. In the last year hundreds of dentists, dental nurses, medical history takers, engineers, and oral health educators have given up thousands of hours of their time to be part of our teams. Thanks to our partnership with Health Education England, we also have teams of foundation dentists and their supervisors on our mobile dental units. This has given the next generation of dental professionals invaluable experience providing dental care for patients with complex needs and enabled Dentaid to help people experiencing homelessness in Bath, Exeter and Yorkshire.

Our overseas volunteering experiences recommenced in March and our teams travel to Uganda, Cambodia, Morocco and Malawi to work alongside our local dental partners. Together they will be bringing dental clinics and oral health programmes to communities where people struggle to access care.

Mary - UK volunteer

“I like the opportunity to use my skills to help vulnerable people in the UK. It saddens me that there is so little support for looked after children, people experiencing homelessness and patients undergoing cancer therapies. I am happy to volunteer a couple of times a month for a really good cause. On a personal level, it makes me feel valued and useful. We can help patients with their dental care and improve their day-to-day lives by freeing them of pain, boosting their confidence and helping them smile again.”

Susanna - overseas volunteer

“Volunteering for Dentaid had been at the top of my to do list for many years – in fact, it spurred me on to complete my Dental Nursing Diploma. I had read about Dentaid and considered their work to be remarkable, so I was really pleased when I got the opportunity to go to Uganda as a volunteer. From helping to relieve dental pain in schools like Kyabirwa children’s centre to out of the way communities like Kaduwa, Mbale, my experience with Dentaid has been satisfying learning as well as a humbling journey. I’ll be on that volunteer waiting list again and would recommend the experience to anyone who wants to really understand what a dental professional is capable of offering to those with dental needs, in very different conditions and circumstances than their own.”

Steph - BrightBites volunteer

“If we can start from a young age teaching children the importance of self-care and instilling responsibility to look after their own mouths perhaps we will see a change in the future. I was so grateful when I heard that Dentaid had created a new range of oral health education resources I was lucky enough to be the first volunteer to go into an after-school club to use them. I love having the opportunity to reach out to different groups and on this session we had great fun going through toothbrushing techniques on models, reinforcing toothbrushing twice a day and looking at diet. The children were funny and engaged with the session and loved to tell me all sorts of tooth related stories and facts they know.”
"How wonderful it is that nobody needs to wait a single moment before starting to improve the world"
Anne Frank

Maldent project

A highlight of our overseas programme has been our ongoing involvement with the Maldent Project in Malawi. The country has 56 dentists for a population of more than 19 million and access to dental care in rural regions is almost non-existent. The Maldent Project is aiming to change that by training a new generation of dental professionals who will provide life changing dental care in poor and remote communities.

In March our engineering and workshop manager Stuart Bassham travelled to Malawi to install reconditioned surgeries and phantom head training units at Kamuzu Central Hospital in the capital Lilongwe. This equipment is supporting the training of 70 dental students who are currently in the first three years of their courses and represent the future of dental care in Malawi.

Crucial to the success of this project is ensuring that local engineers can maintain and repair the equipment. Dentaid is working alongside Medical Aid International and the Maldent Project to develop dental modules as part of a biomedical engineers training programme. Six students who were sponsored by Maldent completed the biomed course in June and are enthusiastically maintaining the equipment.

Equipment donation

DentaidBoxes have been sent to Uganda and South Africa where they are being used by local dentists to deliver outreach care. Dentaid has supplied full surgeries to projects in Uganda, Ghana and Bosnia and equipment has been sent to Liberia, Cambodia, Malawi, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Uganda.

Dentaid’s first ever project in 1996 was providing reconditioned dental equipment to a prison in Ukraine, so we were glad to be able to support one of our Moldovan partners who is providing dental care for Ukrainian refugees.

Toowa School

Children at Toowa School in Uganda are brushing twice a day and will have regular check ups thanks to funding from Bupa Dental Care. Our local Ugandan associates screened all the children and treated those who needed care. They also taught staff at the school how to incorporate toothbrushing into the school day and made sure there is a steady supply of toothbrushes and toothpaste.
"As the purse is emptied, the heart is filled"

Victor Hugo

**Fun and fundraising**

**Meeting the fundraising challenge**

After Covid-19 brought Dentaid’s fundraising programme to a standstill and faced with greater demand for our work than ever before, fundraising has been Dentaid’s toughest challenge. Revenue from trusts, grants and foundations has been crucial along with corporate sponsorship, individual giving and statutory funding. As lockdown eased we were heartened that our amazing fundraisers got back out jumping from planes, climbing mountains, running, walking, dancing, baking and having fun – all to raise funds for Dentaid.

**Ken’s Kilimanjaro climb**

In February FMC founder Ken Finlayson climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in memory of his late wife Kimberley and raised £55,971 for Dentaid. The funds will enable Dentaid to purchase a new mobile dental unit that will be named Kimberley and will help the charity reach many more vulnerable patients.

Kimberley was one of the first Britons to die from Covid-19 after she became ill whilst on holiday in March 2020. Ken, accompanied by his friend Tim Molony, spent eight days climbing to the 5895 metre summit and back down again, facing freezing conditions, sleepless nights and altitude sickness.

“Kimberley and I had 30 fabulous years together and she was very committed to charity projects related to the profession and organised multiple fundraising activities,” said Ken.

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank the dental community from the bottom of my heart for the amazing level of support we have received for our Kilimanjaro climb. This is the largest amount ever raised by a dental charity for one event and it bears huge testimony to the generosity and spirit at the heart of UK dentistry.”

**Partnerships for cancer patients**

Our fortnightly clinics for head and neck cancer patients are funded by a partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support, Southampton Hospitals Charity and University Hospital Southampton.

**Corporate support**

Our corporate partnerships are going from strength to strength with many of the biggest companies in the dental industry supporting Dentaid. In 2021 we were awarded £50,000 from Denplan – part of Simplyhealth – to fund 25 clinics and kickstart the redevelopment of our BrightBites programme.

Bupa Dental Care sponsored three clinics for people experiencing homelessness in London and raised £7,500 for our overseas work with its Super Saturday event. [My]dentist generously donated our fourth mobile dental unit, we were named as charity partner for the 2022 Straumann Group Charity Bike Ride and we started new partnerships with Gensmile, Dentsply Sirona and FMC.

**To donate**

[www.dentaid.org/donate](http://www.dentaid.org/donate)
Our 5 year plan
"Progress is impossible without change"
George Bernard Shaw

Dentaid’s newly published five year plan will see the charity grow to meet the needs of our patients and project partners across the UK.

Our vision is for Dentaid to have a presence in all areas of the UK including Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales serving the most underserved sectors of society who cannot access dentistry. We seek to enlarge our breadth of impact to increase confidence and life opportunities for our patients through dental work including dentures and restorative dentistry.

We will provide high quality dental care for people experiencing health inequalities

- Design care based on people’s needs, using best evidence
- Support people to receive the best dental care that we can provide
- Treat people with respect
- Ensure services are safe and effective
- Deliver effective oral care in partnership with other organisations
- Collaborate with our partners to ensure those most in need receive care
- Involve the communities in which we work in the decisions about how the service we provide will produce the best results

Our 2022-2027 business priorities

- Mobile dental care – continue to use our growing fleet of mobile dental units to reach those who face barriers to accessing dental care.
- Supporting local communities – using local dental professionals to deliver care within their communities.
- Operating from fixed sites – assess the feasibility of operating fixed sites where communities can access emergency care.
- Development of restorative dentistry – begin developing restorative dental services for those whose confidence has been affected by lost teeth and who are not able to access dental care – specifically survivors of domestic abuse, head and neck cancer patients and people experiencing homelessness. Dental care can help these groups to achieve improved outcomes.
- Providing a sustainable service – seek to prove the need to NHS commissioners to provide a service for underserved communities in their geographical regions. Enter into contracts with newly established Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) to deliver care and provide sustainable funding for the future.

How will this benefit people?

- More people in the UK will be free from dental pain and will have more faith in the care they are offered
- More people from communities who do not currently access dental care will have knowledge of how to care for their teeth and have improved oral health in the future
- Less demand will be made on overburdened NHS and local healthcare services
- Money will be saved from emergency call outs and care for those with oral health emergencies
- We will provide more life enhancing volunteering experiences for our volunteer base
- Support workers and social workers will have more time to address their clients’ other needs
- People will be less likely to consider or attempt self dentistry which presents severe risks to health.
The Dentaid Community

Our newly launched Dentaid Community is a great way to get more involved with our charity. The group is a network of volunteers, supporters, fundraisers and people with an interest in Dentaid and its work.

Community members can share experiences of volunteering in the UK or overseas, swap fundraising tips and learn more about how we change lives through dental care.

We’ve had a fantastic reaction with hundreds of people proudly wearing their Dentaid Community badges and signing up. There’s also a Dentaid Community Facebook Group which is growing fast.

To find out more and join the Dentaid Community visit www.dentaid.org/dentaid-community/

SCAN HERE

The Dentaid Community
Registered Charity Number 1075826

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www.dentaid.org

Dentaid, 116 Commercial Road, Totton SO40 3AD

Registered Charity Number 1075826

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