



## **Report to Conference of the Scottish Local Dental Committees**

**23 April 2021**

The Dentists' Health Support Trust is a charity run by dentists which helps dentists with mental, emotional and addiction problems thus our motto 'Dentists Helping Dentists'.

It is run by dentists and we rely totally on those in the Dental Profession for funds. We receive no grant from any Dental Organisation unlike other professions such as vets and pharmacists whose ruling body provides financing.

At the moment we are helping 319 dentists who have problems such as alcohol addiction, drug addiction, eating disorders, depression and mood disorders. We have more than an 80% success rate which is higher than any comparable charity.

The charity started as The Sick Dentists' Trust in 1991 primarily for Dentists with alcohol addiction problems. In that period alcoholism and suicide rates were high for the profession especially amongst single handed practitioners.

Any Dentist found with drinking problems was automatically struck off by the GDC and the object of the Charity was to show that these dentists were sick and needed treatment.

In 2005 with a change in the Chairmanship and new highly qualified coordinators we felt we were more equipped to help those with mental and emotional problems to treat and help to prevent them being struck from the Register. We became The Dentists Health Support Trust and have become a very important part of the profession.

The year prior to Covid we were helping over 400 dentists who had come to us for help and we feel that when we return to some normality we will have even more dentists asking for help.

We rely solely on those in the profession for our help and we thank you for supporting us and hope you continue to support us.

***Mike Stern,***

***Dentists Health Support Trust***