

# BDA BENEVOLENT FUND

LDC Official's Day– November 2024



CHARITY FOR ALL  
**DENTISTS**



# OUR VISION

## No dentist in hardship



# OUR MISSION

We proactively support the **financial** and **emotional** needs of dental students, dentists and their dependants.

# WHO WE HELP

We offer support to:

- Dental students (on BDS or BChD courses)
- Dentists who are or who have been on the GDC register (i.e., current, previous & retired)
- Dentists (through qualification, registration or equivalent) who has asylum seeker or refugee status in the UK
- Their dependants

Who

- Live in the UK

And;

- Are in 'financial hardship' i.e., have insufficient income and/ or savings to manage their essential expenditure.

N.B. We help all dental students and dentists. You do not need to be a member of the British Dental Association to seek support.

# HOW WE HELP...

## **PRACTICAL** – signposting

- To other available organisations/sources of help e.g., other advice agencies including debt support, university hardship funds, state benefit, other charities.
- Free budget calculator on our website
- Link to find nearest debt advice agency on our website
- Hosting and promotion of the [Wellbeing Support for the Dental Teams](#) resource

## **EMOTIONAL** – wellbeing/ mental health

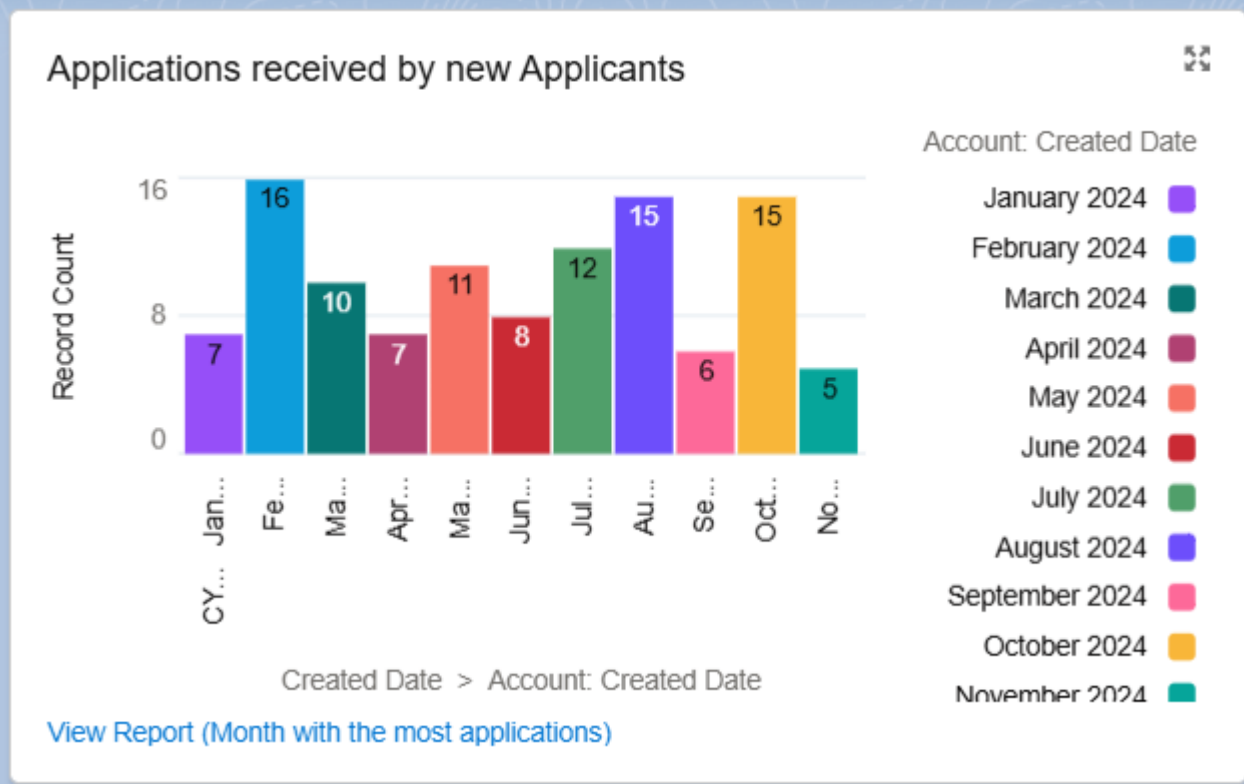
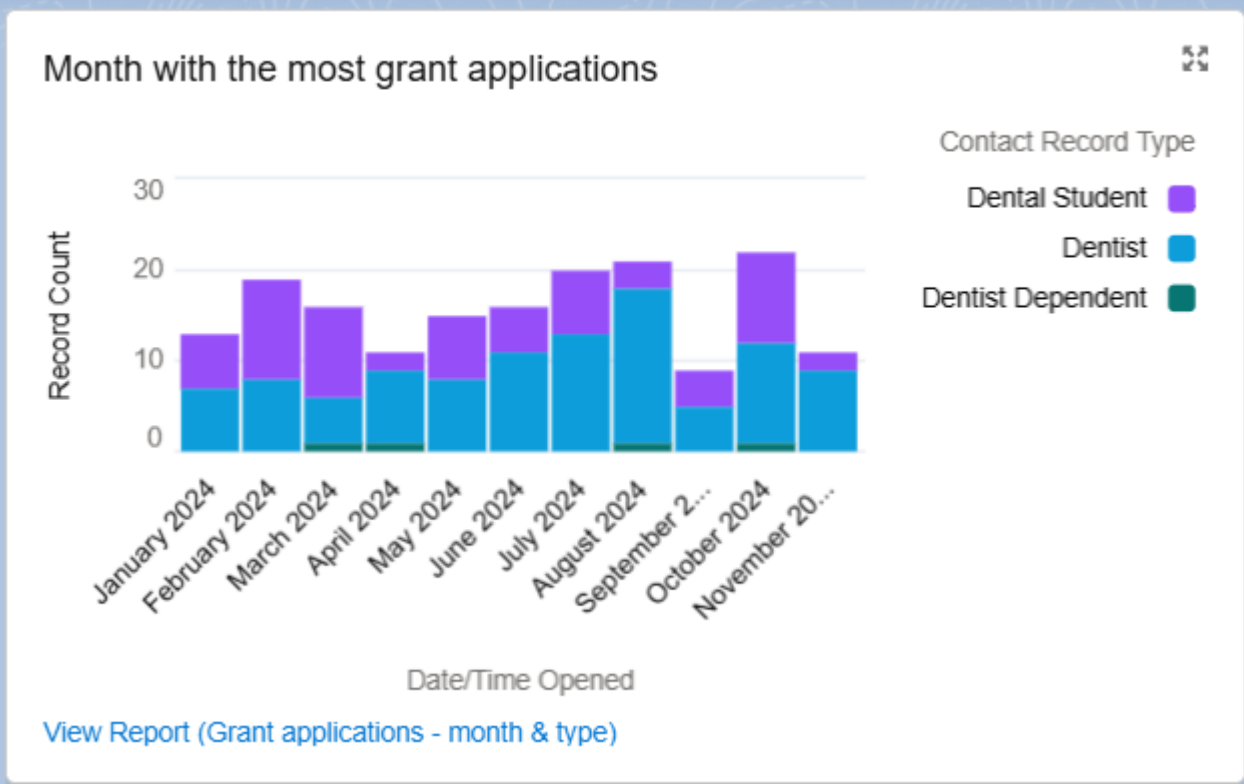
- Free [wellbeing and mental health support](#) through our provider – Health Assured. Includes an online portal with webinars, an app, a 24/7 helpline for advice and access to up to 6 sessions of free counselling.

## **FINANCIAL** – grant funding

- Grants to individuals to help cover general living costs and / or professional expenses. Usually one off (up to three months) but people can reapply. No funding limit but limitations on what we support with.

# SOME STATS FROM 2024 SO FAR...

- 173 applications from 112 new applicants (people apply more than once)



# CATHERINE...



- I have been a dentist for 37 years, a member of the BDA and an active participant of the West Cheshire, West Lancashire and North Wales BDA Branch including being the Treasurer and President.
- I went on to become a Trustee of the BDA Benevolent Fund as I saw it as a natural progression from supporting them at branch level and raising funds to enable the valuable work that they do.
- **Who would have thought that I would years later need to call on them for assistance myself?**

# CATHERINE...



- I worked in North Wales for 35 years. I was a Senior Dental Officer in November 2021, when I was signed off work due to various health problems – predominately hip and back pain, along with issues in both hands.
- Due to the back log from Covid-19, the process of obtaining a diagnosis was prolonged and I did go privately to try and speed up the processes to no avail. Unfortunately, as I couldn't be officially diagnosed my critical insurance policy wouldn't pay out.



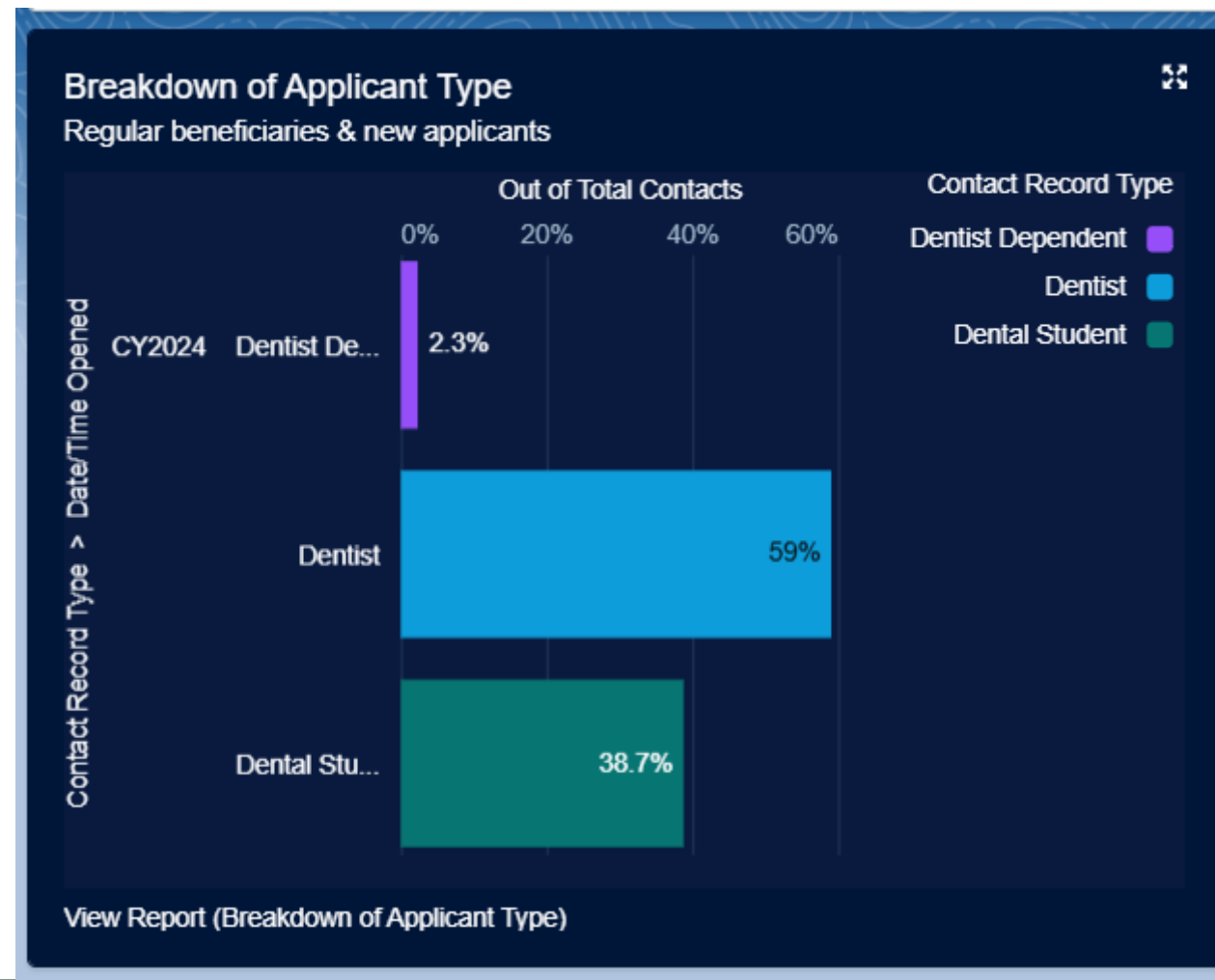
# CATHERINE...



- My savings had already been used up and I was now quite desperate...and embarrassed. I did, however, pluck up the courage to approach the Charity for temporary help and I am so glad I did. They were caring and patient.
- The process was smooth and efficient and took the added financial pressure away. I am awaiting funds from my pension to clear a good portion of my mortgage to ease the ongoing burden.
- I am still pursuing the claim for critical illness as having received a diagnosis of Carpal Tunnel Syndrome in my hands, which appears to be linked to impingement of the spinal cord in my neck, I will not be able to return to practicing dentistry.
- **I couldn't have got through this phase without the assistance of the BDA Benevolent Fund.**

# SOME STATS FROM 2024 SO FAR...

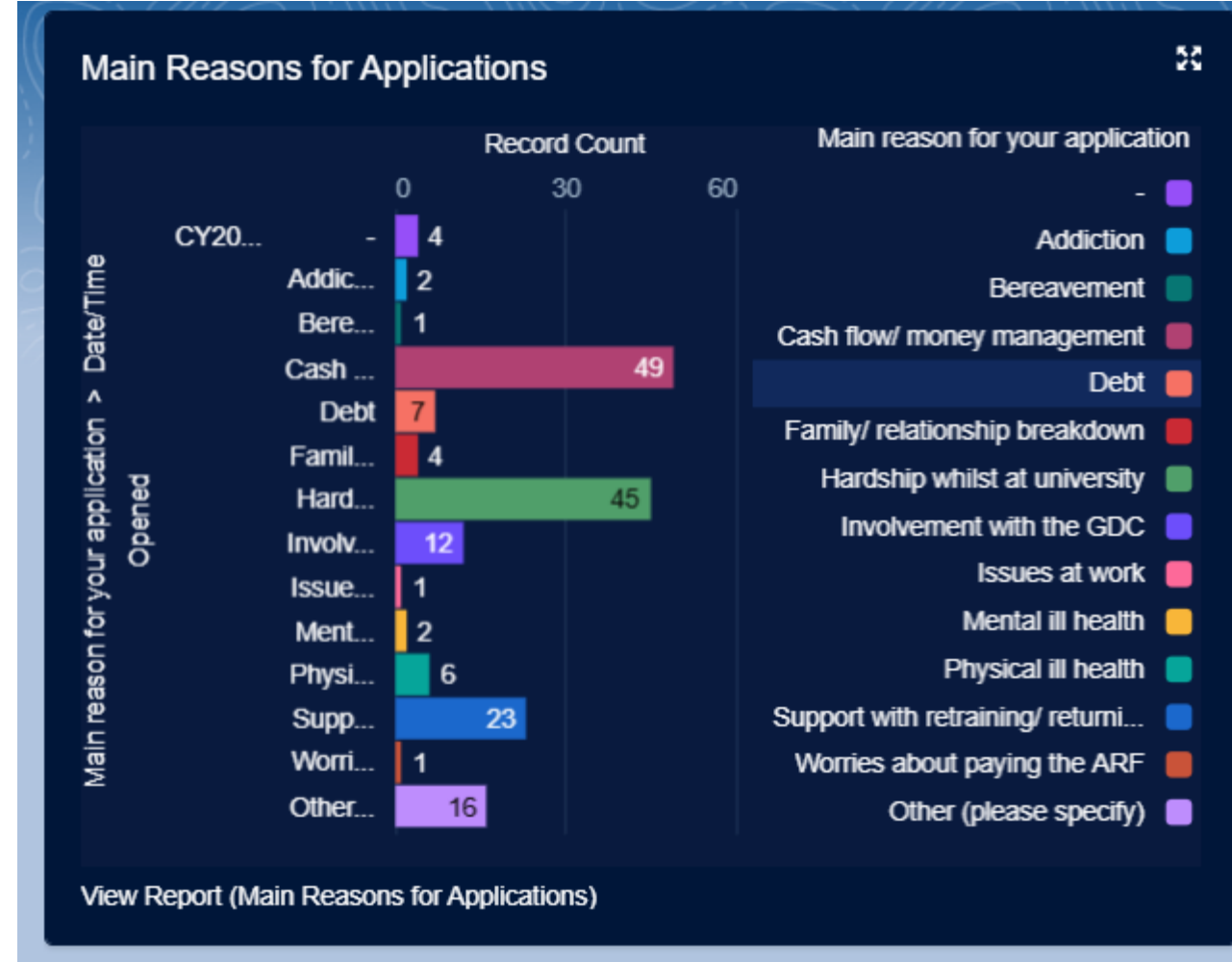
- 59% dentists
- 39% dental student
- 2% dependants



# SOME STATS FROM 2024 SO FAR...

## Top 3 reasons for applying:

- 28% Cash flow/ money management
- 26% Hardship at university
- 13% Support with retraining/  
returning to dentistry



# FINANCE AND FUNDRAISING

We are humbled to continue to be given contributions from LDC's across the country and for your generosity.

- You are our biggest (collective) funders. We couldn't do it without you!
- We've received **£111,678.02** this year (as at 30/10/24).
- In 2023 we received £108,152 (2022: £119,415)
- Ask us for a breakdown of funds received by each LDC.

# CAN YOU HELP US?

- Please help us to spread the word.
- We need you to let people know we exist so that they know where to turn to when they need us.
- Keep up to date with our activities (e-newsletters/website).
- Share our messages on social channels – you never know who might see it!

# PLEASE SHARE OUR DETAILS

So, your friends and colleagues know where to turn when they need help



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**DENTISTS**



[bdabenevolentfund.org.uk](http://bdabenevolentfund.org.uk)

# CONNECT WITH US

1. Follow us on our social channels
  - a. <https://www.facebook.com/bdabenevolentfund/>
  - b. [https://twitter.com/bda\\_ben\\_fund](https://twitter.com/bda_ben_fund)
  - c. [https://www.instagram.com/bda\\_benevolent\\_fund](https://www.instagram.com/bda_benevolent_fund)
  - d. <https://www.linkedin.com/company/10245794/admin/feed/posts/>
  - e. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJxeEylQK7jwnE7p258LSow>
2. Sign up to receive our newsletter-  
<https://www.bdabenevolentfund.org.uk/contact-us/>
3. Promote/ download/ request a copy of the Wellbeing Support for the Dental Teams <https://www.supportfordentalteams.org/>

CHARITY FOR ALL

DENTISTS



THANK YOU

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[bdabenevolentfund.org.uk](http://bdabenevolentfund.org.uk)