**FOREWORD**

Karen Ditchfield - Chair of Trustees

This year has been unlike any other. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has affected everyone, and helplines have been there providing support as face-to-face services were suspended and people’s worlds changed.

As an organisation, (like many others), we have had to respond and adapt to the extremely challenging times created by the pandemic.

From establishing an online forum to enable members to support one another, to developing and launching our online training platform, the work done by the HLP team, is something that I, and the Board, believe to be truly valuable for members, and the helpline sector.

We have seen a huge demand for online training, and it’s been great to hear the well-deserved feedback it is getting. It is so important that we all take the time to look after one another and ourselves and have the skills and time to do so.

I would like to thank the whole Helplines Partnership team, staff, Trustees, partners and members for their commitment and hard work to support some of society’s most vulnerable through these unprecedented times.
“For us, the single biggest benefit of our Helplines Standard accreditation was being able to access funding. It meant that we were able to fit the funders eligibility criteria. It signals the professionalism of our service and gives our callers confidence.”

*Maternity Action*

“This is a good news story! We can use it in our publicity materials and communications to our members, in tender bids and when asking for funding. Additionally, it is a big confidence boost as it confirms that we offer an outstanding service - we always felt that we did but to get affirmation from an organisation such as yours makes it official.”

*Thirtyone:eight*

“The Helplines Standard is a bit like an MOT for the organisation. It helps us to check that we are doing everything that we should be and that all our policies and procedures are in place.”

*MS Society*

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**25,200 Visits to Find a Helpline.**

**Over 90 nominations for the three categories in the Helpline Awards.**

**27 Blog posts by Helplines Partnership and guest blog posts by our members.**

**834 @HelplinesUK tweets posted to 2,490 followers.**

**6 Helplines Standard workshops.**

**5 Organisations recognised as Star Members at our 2019 Conference.**

**£1,840 worth of health and safety training accessed by members who took part in a complimentary IOSH course, through partnership working with Towergate Insurance. The course covered the moral, legal and business case for proactive health, safety and risk management.**

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