

PRESS RELEASE FROM The Blue Lamp Trust



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Blue Lamp Trust hosts the Reverend Richard Coles at its annual conference

TV personality and former pop star the Reverend Richard Coles spoke about the importance of taking personal responsibility behind the wheel, at a road safety conference in Southampton today (Thursday, 24 May 2018).

The Rev Richard appeared at the Grand Harbour Hotel to promote the Blue Lamp Trust at their annual conference. In front of more than 100 delegates representing local authorities, emergency services and road safety bodies, he admitted to going on a speed awareness course after once exceeding the speed limit during a momentary lapse of concentration.

The Blue Lamp Trust, based in Eastleigh, was established to promote community safety in Hampshire through two main ways. Since 2011 it has run practical driving assessments for taxi licence applicants and taxi drivers, testing nearly 10,000 taxi drivers for 106 licensing authorities across the UK, some of whom were represented at the conference.

The trust uses the profits from its operation to run The Bobby Scheme which provides a free service supporting vulnerable people in the county, particularly victims of burglary and domestic violence, promoting fire and crime prevention initiatives.

At the conference, the Chief Constable of Hampshire, Olivia Pinkney, said: "The Blue Lamp Trust, through the Bobby Scheme, is proven to help people who have suffered from crime and also to prevent people from becoming victims. It's great work and just fantastic the number of people who have been helped."

The Bobby Scheme in Hampshire celebrates 20 years of service this year, during which it has visited more than 16,500 homes.

The Rev Coles also praised their work: "It's becoming more and more important to encourage the mobilisation of people who are committed to providing services that are essential and it's great to come here and see the Blue Lamp Trust, the police, fire and ambulance services. It's not just about locking up the bad guys, it's about creating a community and the conditions where things aren't just falling apart."

Also at the conference, the Thames Valley and Hampshire Police Joint Operating Unit unveiled a hard-hitting video warning about the dangers of the "Fatal 4", the most common causes of road deaths and serious injury. Speeding, distractions such as mobile phones, not wearing a seatbelt and driving under the influence of drink or drugs are responsible for around 460 deaths a year in the UK.

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Sergeant Rob Heard, of the Police Road Safety Unit for Hampshire and Thames Valley Police, said: “We’ve created a short film to highlight the dangers involved with the fatal four and the devastating consequences it can have to all involved.”

He added: “We’re delighted to be unveiling the Fatal 4 video here. We want to remind people about the great work of the Blue Lamp Trust with The Bobby Scheme in supporting the most vulnerable people in society and the training they give to taxi drivers and other road users.

“As a road safety officer, I feel privileged to come and present to the conference about a topic that’s close to my heart.”

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500 words

Notes to Editor

Imagery:

1. Rev: The Reverend Richard Coles speaking to the conference (credit: Hants Fires and Rescue Service)
2. PaulSingh.PCDave.Mitchell: Delegate Paul Singh with PC Dave Mitchell from the Thames Valley and Hampshire Police Joint Operating Unit (credit: Hants Fires and Rescue Service)

The Fatal 4 trailer can be viewed at this link: <https://youtu.be/XGTRAIxXGIY>

Images of the police’s Fatal 4 roundels can be downloaded free on the Project Pictogram web site <https://www.hantsfire.gov.uk/keeping-safe/ontheroad/project-pictogram/>

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Social media:

Follow us on Twitter [@BlueLampTrust](https://twitter.com/BlueLampTrust) #bltannualconference

And on Facebook at: The Blue Lamp Trust - Bobby Scheme

TV and Hampshire police Fatal 4 campaign #ItsNotWorthTheRisk

ENDS