

PRESS RELEASE FROM The Blue Lamp Trust



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Silverlake Automotive Recycling gives £5000 boost to local community safety teams

A leading vehicle recycling company has given £5000 to support community safety for vulnerable people across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Silverlake Automotive Recycling, based in Shedfield, is sponsoring the Bobby Scheme, which sends a Bobby fitter to visit the homes of the elderly and crime victims to offer safety and security advice and install safety and security equipment.

Representatives of Silverlake and the Blue Lamp Trust, the charity that runs the Bobby Scheme, met at the Trust's headquarters in Eastleigh on Friday, 28 September to unveil Silverlake's logo on the Bobby Scheme's vehicles.

The Blue Lamp Trust's Business Development Manager, David Watkins, said: "This is a fantastic donation. It's great to have such a large organisation as Silverlake sponsor the charity for a year and it will make a big difference."

Before the event, Allen Prebble, Silverlake's managing director, said: "Silverlake has a long tradition of building strong ties with the community we work in. We see it as a privilege to support the Bobby Scheme's commitment to protecting the elderly and vulnerable within our community. Their work is a major contribution towards community safety in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight."

Supported by the emergency services and local authorities, The Bobby Scheme provides a free service to elderly and vulnerable people, particularly victims of burglary and domestic violence, by promoting crime prevention and fire safety initiatives.

Silverlake is an active sponsor of local charities and events, including Swanmore Village Fete, Curdrige Country Show and Bishop's Waltham Rotary Club's Carnival. Mr Prebble is also a director and financial supporter of Eastleigh Football Club.

This year the Bobby Scheme celebrates 20 years of service. During that time, its trained fitters, who are all vetted by Hampshire Police, uniformed and carry ID cards, have visited more than 16,500 homes. They carry out full home crime-prevention surveys, give reassurance and offer specific crime-prevention advice to improve safety. They also fit locks, spy-holes, door chains and smoke alarms where needed.



Anyone who believes they fit the criteria for a visit by a Bobby Scheme mobile team can contact bobby@bluelamptrust.org.uk or phone 0300 777 0157.

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352 words

Notes to Editor

Image:

Unveiling the Silverlake logo on a Bobby Trust mobile unit vehicle.

Caption: (Left to right) Mark Scovell (Bobby Scheme Lead Fitter), Simon Bastin-Mitchell (Silverlake Commercial Manager), Chloe Watkins (Bobby Scheme administrator), Sue Morgan (Silverlake).

The Blue Lamp Trust: background

The Bobby Scheme is operated and funded in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight by the activities of The Blue Lamp Trust, which provide a nationwide driver training and assessment programme which includes practical driving assessments for taxi licence applicants and existing taxi drivers.

To date, its assessors have tested nearly 10,000 taxi drivers nationally for 106 licensing authorities. The Blue Lamp Trust has achieved the following since 2011:

- 9664 taxi assessments
- 6047 drivers trained in the classroom
- 3019 drivers trained on the road

All profits made through its activities go directly to support The Bobby Scheme, which provides a free service supporting vulnerable and elderly people in the county, particularly victims of burglary and domestic violence, promoting fire and crime prevention initiatives.

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