

PRESS RELEASE FROM The Blue Lamp Trust



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Company donates car to improve driving safety

A local business has handed the keys of a brand new car to a local charity to help it improve driving safety across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

For the past four years, Winchester Motor Group has supplied The Blue Lamp Trust with a new Skoda car, replacing it every six months. The Trust uses the car to carry out driver training for company car drivers to reduce occupational road risk and promote road safety in the county.

The Trust then uses the proceeds of its services to fund the Bobby Scheme which promotes fire and crime prevention in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Mark Mills-Goodlet, Group Managing Director of Winchester Motor Group, said: "As a family run business Winchester Motor Company is delighted to support such a charity because of the difference it's making to the local community.

"The charity does sterling work in improving road safety whilst looking after the most vulnerable in society: elderly people who have been a victim of crime or have been a victim of domestic abuse."

Mark visited The Blue Lamp Trust at its headquarters in Eastleigh to hand over the keys of a new Skoda Rapid Spaceback on Friday, 7th December.

The Trust's Business Development Manager, David Watkins, said: "It's the support of businesses like Winchester Motor Group that makes our work possible. We're very grateful to Mark and his colleagues for giving us the use of a new car every six months. It allows us to keep on providing our driver training programme in a vehicle we can rely on."

Winchester Motor Group also supports sponsors Winchester Rugby Club juniors, Hampshire Girls Golf squad, and support the Wessex Cancer Trust, Wessex Heartbeat and Friends of PICU, the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit at Southampton General Hospital.

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

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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411 words

Notes to Editor

Image:

Caption: (Left to right) TBC

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 has provided nationwide practical driving assessments for taxi licence applicants and existing taxi drivers since 2011.

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:

- 13283 taxi assessments
- 6276 drivers trained in the classroom
- 3191 drivers trained on the road

All profits made through its activities go directly to support The Bobby Scheme.

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