

PRESS RELEASE FROM The Blue Lamp Trust



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The Bobby Scheme, newly returned to the Isle of Wight, receives donation from Wight AID

Wight AID has donated £450 towards a charity dedicated to promoting and strengthening community safety on the Isle of Wight.

The money will go towards the cost of printing Bobby Scheme leaflets to promote the charity's free services for the residents of the Isle of Wight.

The Bobby Scheme sends expert fitters to the homes of the elderly and crime victims, offering security and fire prevention advice and installing safety equipment. The charity has operated across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight for 20 years but the service was interrupted recently on the Isle of Wight by the retirement of its dedicated fitter.

However, the service was relaunched on the island in November with the appointment of a new Bobby Scheme fitter, former police officer John Eldridge.

Wight Aid trustee Geoff Underwood handed over the donation to Nick Hayward from The Blue Lamp Trust, the charity that fundraises and operates the scheme, on Thursday 8 February 2019.

Mr Hayward, who lives on the Isle of Wight, said: "The Blue Lamp Trust and its innovative Bobby Scheme are extremely grateful to Wight Aid. Their generous cheque of £450 will be used to publicise and inform islanders of this important free service."

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.

Over the past 20 years the Bobby Scheme's trained fitters, who are all checked by Hampshire police, are uniformed and carry ID cards, have visited more than 17,000 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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317 words

Notes to Editor

Image:

Wight Aid hands over a donation of £450 to The Bobby Scheme.

Caption: (Left to right) Geoff Underwood of Wight AID, Nick Hayward, trustee of the Blue Lamp Trust

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 118 licensing authorities. The Blue Lamp Trust has achieved the following since 2011:

- * 14,176 taxi assessments
- * 6356 drivers trained in the classroom
- * 3271 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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