



PRESS RELEASE FROM The Blue Lamp Trust

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Publish Date: 04.09.2023

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Reference 02/23

10 Years of The Bobby Scheme on the Isle of Wight

10 Years ago the Blue Lamp Trust expanded their service to cover the vulnerable and elderly residents on the Isle of Wight with a fitter working two days a week on the island carrying out our free Safe and Secure visits.

Over the past 10 years we have visited over 2127 properties on the island, fitted 1431 smoke alarms, 903 carbon monoxide detectors and carried out over 250 community engagements such as talk to community groups and attending community events.

Our visits are free to over 60's, disabled adults and victims of; burglary, domestic abuse and repeat home crime. A full crime prevention and fire safety survey is carried out by one of our trained, police-vetted fitters. They will provide both general and specific crime and fire prevention advice to improve home safety and when appropriate fit a range of items such as locks, spy-holes, door chains, smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. This service is completely free of charge.

In addition we can supply and fit police approved Key Safes and Ring Doorbells, however there is a charge for these items due to the cost to purchase.

The true impact of our work was summed up by the story of a domestic abuse victim. We visited Hollie following a referral in September 2022. Police reported "she was feeling harassed by her ex-partner. She lives in a top floor flat, however she doesn't currently feel safe to stay there and has had to move in with her parents. Hollie would like some support to ensure that her flat is secure to prevent any unwanted access from her ex-partner and to help her feel safe to stay there once more".

We visited Hollie and provided advice on how to keep herself safe in the property. The front door lock was changed, a security jammer fitted to the letterbox and a glassguard alarm fitted the front door. Hollie also took the fitters advice and installed a Ring Doorbell.

Having had no contact from the offender since the Police warned him off in September 2022 Hollie received unexpected contact from him in August 2023. Initially she panicked but then she took a moment

The Blue Lamp Trust

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Charity No. 1137786. Registered Company in England and Wales. Registration No. 07267846. VAT No. 110741266

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and realised that with the measures put in place she was safe in her flat and didn't need to run to her parents to be safe.

Hollie was very grateful to have had the visit and to now feel safe in her own home.

Referrals to the Bobby Scheme can be made via our website <https://www.bluelamptrust.org.uk/bobby-scheme-landingpage/> or by calling 0300 777 0157 opt 1

ENDS

424 words

Notes to Editor:

Theresa Pratt, General Manager of the Bobby Scheme will be available for interviews about this story. Please see the contact details below.

Photograph caption:

Isle of Wight Bobby Scheme fitter John Eldridge.

The Bobby Scheme and the Blue Lamp Trust

The Bobby Scheme in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight is managed and part-funded by the not-for-profit organisation The Blue Lamp Trust funds. Since 2011, the Trust has been a leading national provider of training and assessments for taxi licence applicants and private hire car drivers for over 130 licensing authorities. The service is now provided via Blue Lamp Trust (Services) Ltd, which is wholly owned by The Blue Lamp Trust.

The Trust is supported by local emergency services and Hampshire & Isle of Wight Police Chief Constable Scott Chilton and Hampshire & Isle of Wight Chief Fire Officer Neil Odin are both trustees of the charity.

Contact:

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