

PRESS RELEASE FROM The Blue Lamp Trust



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Hendy Group donates van for to local community safety teams

A generous Solent-based car dealership is helping a local charity to strengthen community safety and provide support to vulnerable people across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight by donating the use of one of its vans, free of charge.

The Bobby Scheme provides a free service to the elderly and vulnerable people, including victims of burglary and domestic violence, by sending experts to the homes of the elderly and crime victims to offer security advice and install safety equipment.

The scheme, which is run in Hampshire by The Blue Lamp Trust and supported by the emergency services, relies upon on a fleet of vans for its fitters to do their home visits.

Hendy Group car dealership in Fareham has donated one of its vans to the scheme for the next year. Hendy has been providing similar support since 2015.

Mark Busby, Commercial Director at Hendy Group handed the vehicle keys to The Blue Lamp Trust at its Eastleigh headquarters on Wednesday, 6 February 2019.

Mr Busby said: "The Blue Lamp Trust supports and helps people in the community in which we operate, as well as raising valuable funds through driver training for The Bobby Scheme. It provides a valuable support to vulnerable people that the emergency services simply can't do."

The Blue Lamp Trust's General Manager, Jim Bettley, said: "We rely on the goodwill and generosity of businesses like Hendy, that make up the community in Hampshire. We're delighted that they are continuing to support us in this very direct and practical way which lets us keep another of our fitters on the road.

"With this valuable support, company is contributing towards a safer Hampshire and the Isle of Wight."

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.

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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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366 words

Notes to Editor

Image:

Handing over the Hendy Ford van to The Bobby Scheme.

Caption: (Left to right) Graeme Hobbs, Chair of Trustees of The Blue Lamp Trust, Mark Busby, Commercial Director at Hendy Ford.

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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