

PRESS RELEASE FROM The Blue Lamp Trust



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Publish Date: *March 2019*
Reference Number: *05/19*

Change of leader for Hampshire charity that has doubled in size

After overseeing the doubling in size of its operation, the head of a Hampshire charity that supports some of the most vulnerable people in the county hands on the baton.

Jim Bettley, general manager of the Blue Lamp Trust hands over his responsibilities to Theresa Pratt at the end of March 2019.

The Blue Lamp Trust operates and funds the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Bobby Scheme through any profits it makes providing advanced driver training and assessments for taxi operators and individual licence applicants across the UK.

The Bobby Scheme provides a free service to elderly and vulnerable people, including victims of burglary and domestic violence, across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight by sending qualified and police accredited fitters to the homes of the elderly and crime victims to offer security advice and install safety equipment. Since the scheme started in 1998, its fitters have visited more than 17,000 homes.

Jim has managed major transformation at the Blue Lamp Trust and is proud of what's been achieved during his four years there: "The fact that we've doubled the number of fitters from three when I joined to six by this April is a huge achievement which we've done with the help of the great team we have at the Blue Lamp Trust. I'll be leaving the Blue Lamp Trust as the largest taxi assessment company in the country."

Theresa, who lives in nearby Bishop's Waltham, comes from a background of working in naval charities. "I'm excited to be taking on this job," she said: "It's a move up for me to take on a CEO job in the charity sector. It's an exciting time to join the Trust as we're building up the assessment services and we're looking at how we can expand The Bobby Scheme further."

Jim became the Trust's general manager in 2014 after more than 33 years as a Hampshire police officer. He now looks forward to spending more time with his family, grandchildren and BMW motorbike: "I've booked a European tour and I'm hoping to travel around South Africa next year."

He added: "This has been a fantastic job but I'll be 66 and it's time to be with my family. I'm going to miss working with a fantastic team at the Trust, but I won't miss the commute from Fareham every morning on the M27."

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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Notes to Editor

Photograph (attached)

Some highlights from Jim's tenure as general manager:

- In 2015 The Bobby Scheme started working with the Hampshire Making Safe Scheme to secure the homes of Domestic Abuse victims helping them to remain in their homes and Hampshire Chief Constable Olivia Pinkney joined the Blue Lamp Trust board of Trustees.
- 2018 marked the 20th Anniversary of the Bobby Scheme which reached the landmark number of 15,000 client visits and The Bobby Scheme was awarded its second High Sheriff of Hampshire Communities Award.

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:

- * 15,072 taxi assessments on behalf of 118 licensing authorities
- * 6,433 drivers trained in the classroom
- * 3,400 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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