

PRESS RELEASE FROM

The Blue Lamp Trust



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Cyber Bobby – Our First Year

The growing demands of the digital age come with pitfalls. Cybercrime and fraud can have a devastating impact, both financially and emotionally, on victims' lives. In January 2022 The Blue Lamp Trust launched the Cyber Bobby scheme to help older people, those with disabilities or who have been a victim of cyber crime to stay safe online.

The Cyber Bobby service is unique in offering home visits from our volunteer Cyber Advisors to give advice and guidance about basic IT security and how to avoid being affected by a cyber crime or a cyber enabled crime to the elderly and disabled in Hampshire.

The areas covered during a visit are:

- What is cyber crime?
- Cyber and scam prevention advice
- How to check privacy settings
- Signposting to other advice and resources
- How to report issues
- How to recognise scam emails and text messages

In the first year of the scheme we have visited 76 residents in Hampshire. 88% of these have been aged 60 and over. 23% of referrals were for people who had already been a victim of cyber crime.

Collectively our volunteer Cyber Advisors have donated over 135 hours of their time, visiting residents and giving talks to community groups.

One clients feedback; "It was wonderful, I learnt lots. It i a great service and I appreciated the advisors being so patient with me".

Anyone can make an online referral for someone they know who may benefit from a visit

<https://www.bluelamptrust.org.uk/about-cyber-bobby/>

If you organise a community group in Hampshire and would like a Cyber Bobby Advisor to come and give a talk people can get in touch via cyber@bluelamptrut.org.uk

Do you have a background in IT? Could you be a volunteer Cyber Bobby Advisor? Email the team at cyber@bluelamptrut.org.uk for more information

-Ends-

Notes to Editor:

Theresa Pratt, CEO of the Blue Lamp Trust will be available for interviews about this story. For an interview with Theresa Pratt, please see the contact details below.

The Blue Lamp Trust

Supported by the emergency services and local authorities, The Blue Lamp Trust offers two schemes; Bobby Scheme & Cyber Bobby Scheme. Both provide free services to elderly and vulnerable people in Hampshire (the Bobby Scheme also covers Isle of Wight).

The Bobby scheme promotes crime prevention and fire safety initiatives. For over 20 years its trained fitters, who are all vetted by Hampshire police, uniformed and carry ID cards, visit homes to carry out full home crime-prevention surveys, give reassurance and offer specific crime-prevention advice to improve safety. They also fit locks, spyholes, door chains and smoke alarms where needed.

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 driver training for business drivers and training and assessments for taxi 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 also offers ongoing training for taxi and private hire drivers to meet legal responsibilities, including Disability Awareness and Safeguarding training.

Contact:

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