

# PRESS INFORMATION

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## Crime Pays For Bobby Scheme

Bedfordshire Police Authority has agreed to continue its financial support for the highly acclaimed 'Bobby Scheme', managed by the Bedfordshire Police Partnership Trust. As a result the charity will receive £17,100 in this financial year, on top of the £30,800 it received from the Authority in 2009-10.

The money is collected from the proceeds of sale of property which has come into the possession of the Police and whose ownership cannot be traced. The law\* states that these funds must be donated to charitable causes.

The Bobby Scheme is a free service that aims to help elderly or vulnerable victims of crime by giving advice, support and practical assistance. From one 'Bobbyman' in 1999 when the scheme was first launched, the team now consists of five fully qualified carpenters. The team not only helps victims of crime to protect their properties against repeat offences, but also elderly or vulnerable people to improve their security and prevent them becoming victims in the first place. Representatives from the Bobby Scheme have attended over 14,000 homes in Bedfordshire since inception and have had a major impact in preventing crime.

Tony Brown, Chair of the Authority's Finance Committee, said that the Bobby Scheme was an ideal beneficiary for the funds. "The Bobby Scheme's aims dovetail well with the Authority's commitment to keep people safe. People who are victims of



burglary are often repeat victims within a few months. We know that the skills of the

Bobbymen help elderly and vulnerable people to protect their property, providing reassurance around its safety. In properties where a Bobbyman has attended the rate of repeat burglary offences is less than 1% compared to a national average is 14.5%.

“The whole committee was highly impressed by the report on the scheme which included numerous letters of thanks and appreciation and pleased that we could again support their request for funding.”

Ends

\* Under the Police (Disposal of Property) Regulations 1975, monies in the Police Property Act Fund are used to make payments to charitable causes as agreed by the Police Authority. Money in the fund is collected from the proceeds of sale of property which has come into the possession of the Police and whose ownership cannot be traced.

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