

Report on the work of the Cambridgeshire Police Shrievally Trust in 2015/16



Introduction

The Trust continues to operate The Cambridgeshire Bobby Scheme, now in its fifteenth year, which has helped in excess of 23,000 older, vulnerable and disabled people who are either the victims of burglary, domestic abuse and other crimes, or who are concerned about home and personal security.

The Scheme operates throughout Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, maintaining an urgent response to victims which has significantly reduced the repeat victimisation rate amongst the people it has visited.

The Scheme receives referrals from a wide range of organisations, including the police. Two security advisors visit the homes, assess the security and fit high quality, appropriate security devices in consultation with the homeowner. They also carry out a home fire safety check and fit smoke alarms and give crime prevention advice and reassurance. Their work helps overcome the shock and trauma of crime or the fear of crime, and restore feelings of safety, peace of mind, well-being and self - confidence. This enables many older people to live independently for longer than they otherwise might. The Scheme is able to reduce the rate at which elderly and domestic abuse victims of crime believe they are unsafe in their own homes and transfer to institutional or refuge care. For domestic abuse victims, feeling safe in their own homes allow them and their children to continue living in their own home and ensures current support networks are maintained in the local community.

Examples of Case Studies of residents visited in 2015/16

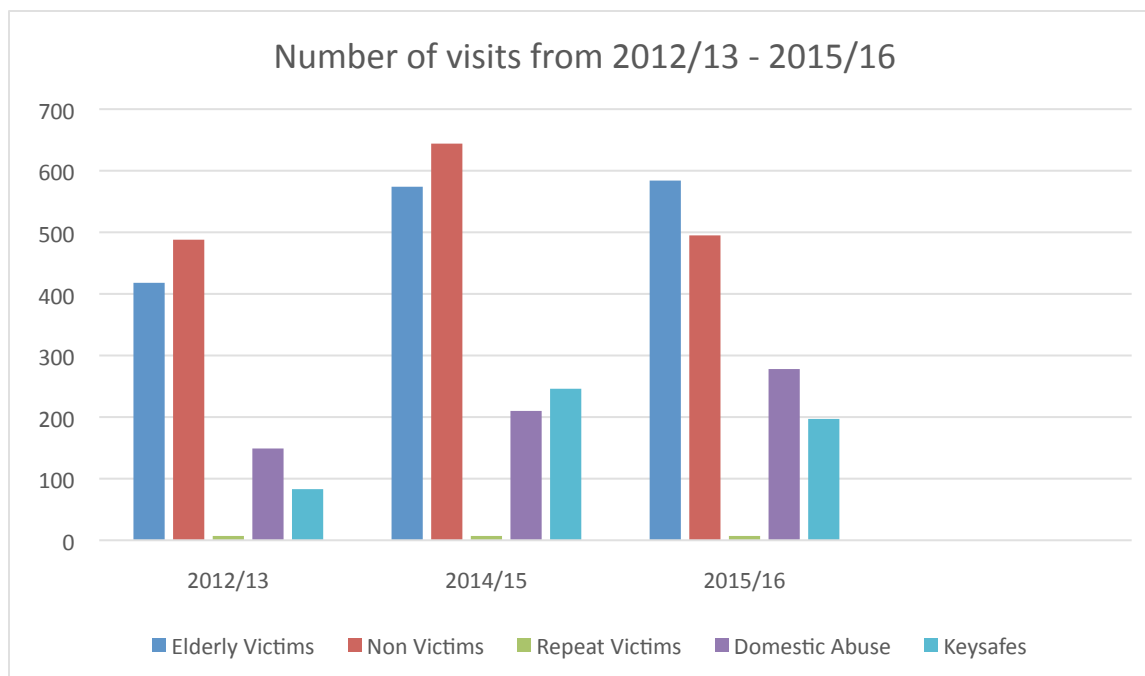
1. S was controlled and made dependent by her ex-husband both financially, psychologically and socially. She frequently was overwhelmed by emotion, breaking down in tears and felt extremely vulnerable. She was highly traumatised and not able to concentrate on conversation. She also found contact with professionals very challenging. She was overwhelmed by the sole responsibility of looking after two children. After the visit by the scheme, she said that she now feels safer knowing she can lock the back gate as well as the front and back doors. She was very sensitive to any noises but can now relax more with all the security devices fitted.
2. G had fled from Europe due to her husband who has attended her address in a drunken state and smashed property. She was concerned about her safety and felt that the suspect would

continue to come to her house and become violent. She was unsure if he had keys to her property. After we had visited, changed door locks and fitted alarms she said she was reassured to know that her house had been made safer for herself and her children.

3. M was an elderly victim of burglary. She lives with her partner in a rural part of the county. M was terrified of every sound and was frightened to go upstairs to bed to sleep when her partner worked night. After our visit M said that at last she felt safer, more reassured, less anxious, more confident when alone and could sleep better at night.
4. T was a 92-year-old man who was visited by rogue traders claiming he owed them £5000 for roofing work. They came back a few days later and demanded another £17,000, taking him to the bank to get the money. The bank became suspicious and called the police. We visited and fitted a door chain, window and door alarms. T's family were very appreciative of the work carried out and said they felt it had given them peace of mind.
5. L, a disabled lady in her 80s lived with her disabled daughter. One evening there was a knock at the door and two men wearing balaclavas said they were the police. They barged into the house, grapped hold of the elderly lady and flung her on the sofa. They also threatened to kill the daughter. They stole cash, keys and jewellery. After the scheme visited she said that this was an excellent service for people who had been traumatised by burglarised entry.

Bobby Scheme Visits in Cambridgeshire in 2015/16

	2015/16
Victims	584
Non Victims	495
Repeat Victims	7
Key Safes	179
Domestic Abuse Victims	278



The Trustees envisage being able to protect a similar number of homes in 2016/17. We continue to strive to keep our overheads at a low level through careful management of our costs and improved purchasing of security devices.

Examples of Feedback from beneficiaries in 2015/16

The feedback received from beneficiaries is exceptionally positive, many people stating they feel much safer, more confident and have greater peace of mind in their own homes.

Examples of feedback by beneficiaries have included:

- *I haven't been sleeping very well since the incident but now feel so much better since you came and fitted the alarms. I had my best night's sleep since you visited.*
- *You came to see my mother. You were brilliant and very good at your job. Mum is 91 and the break in shook her. I really hoped that this would encourage her to move into sheltered accommodation but she doesn't want to go now. Thank you for all the help your charity has given to my mother. The reassurance and advice was excellent*
- *Thank you so much for your visit to my recently burgled home. The installations you made will make our future considerably safer and my wife and I will benefit from greater peace of mind. Your demeanour and professionalism were much appreciated.*
- *Excellent and reassuring service. The security devices will make me feel much safer living on my own.*
- *I was unfortunately a victim of burglary recently and wish to thank you for visiting me at home. What excellent service. You fitted door and window alarms and has made me feel safer in my own home. What an excellent scheme. I sincerely hope that I will never be a victim of burglary again but I am sure that many people in the future will benefit greatly from the Bobby scheme.*
- *I now feel confident to leave the property knowing that it is now safeguarded. I also feel happier when at home, particularly in the evenings and night time.*
- *Client was very scared and has difficulty sleeping in case her ex or his friends tried to*

gain access to the property. She has said that she feels a lot safer and can now relax now that the doors and windows are alarmed. The safety work has made a big difference to her life.

- *You were amazing during this visit and really put this client at ease. By having these security measures done Lisa is now able to return to the home and no longer wishes to consider refuge. This has helped her feel more secure in her own home.*
- *Before you had come to visit me, was extremely fearful, anxious and scared to stay in the house and more afraid to go out. Now that I have all these security measures in place, I feel I can think and breathe easy in my home with my children who also feel safer.*
- *I feel a lot safer with the alarms and will help me sleep better which will help both me and my daughters lives at this difficult time. We can relax more and start feeling normal.*
- *thank you for making me feel safe again. I will feel better in my home knowing he can't get to me. The back garden is now safe for my daughter to play in. Thank you so much*

Publicity

We continue to raise the awareness and profile of the charity whenever and wherever we can by giving talks to many groups, such as Camsight, British Legion, WI groups, that have requested a visit as well as attended community events like the Senior Citizens Forum, Golden Age meetings, scam conference. Our website is regularly reviewed and updated and our weekly Blog page highlights our activities. We also have written articles in local newsletters and magazines.

The scheme works with many other agencies and organisations to ensure residents receive the best service possible. We have met with many different agencies this year to ensure we are co-ordinating our work as effectively as possible – Action Against Elder Abuse, Health Watch, Luminus. Groundwork. A number of agencies, including trainee police officers and staff from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, have gone out with the security advisors on their visits to see at first-hand the impact our work has on people. We are part of the Community Navigator programme run by Care Network and we send and receive referrals from a wide range of services, including Age UK Cambridgeshire. We are now members of the Health & Wellbeing Network, the Peterborough Dementia Action Alliance and the Foundation for Social Improvement. The FSI organised a training event in Peterborough on developing fundraising strategies which we attended. We met with the Bedfordshire Police Partnership who run a very similar Bobby scheme to share best practice.

Funding

As a small charity with four staff, two are part time, funding is a concern and it is continually seeking year on year funding to support its work. For victims the service is free and for non - victims a donation of £30 is requested. However, this contribution is waived if there are any financial difficulties. It costs the charity on average £130 for elderly victims and £180 for domestic abuse victims to work at each home.

Our funding this financial year has come from a wide range of organisations in the form of grants and donations. These have included the Office of the Cambridgeshire Crime Commissioner, Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service, Cambridge City Community Safety

Partnership, Nationwide Building Society, Safer Peterborough Partnership, , East Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership, South Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership, The Pye Foundation, Cambridgeshire Freemasons, Peterborough Freemasons, Dulverton Trust Fund, Microsoft Research Limited Community Fund, Seymour Charitable Trust, Cheffins Community Fund, Ridgeons Family Charity Fund, Marshalls of Cambridge Trust, Huntingdon Freemens Trust, Earl Fitzwillian Trust, Circle [Roddons] Housing, Cambridge Jesus Lane Quakers, Victim's Hub, Little Abington, Hinxton, Brampton, Papworth Everard, Warboys, Yaxley and Wisbech St Mary's Parish Councils, Waitrose Peterborough and St Ives, Mary Wilson, George Coomber and other generous individuals.

This support is greatly appreciated by the Trustees as without it, the Trust would not be able to continue to support victims and people who feel at risk of becoming a victim.

The Trust also held its third annual golf day to raise funds for the charity. This was held on June 12th at St Ives [Hunts] Golf Club and 14 teams of four players took part. Over £2000 was raised.

New Office Address

On March 1st we moved our office from Sawtry Police House to Yaxley Police Station. We would like to thank the Constabulary for all the support and help they have given us for the four years at Sawtry. Our new landlords, the Police Federation have been very welcoming and made our move to Yaxley relatively easy and stress free.

Conclusion

The Trustees intend that during the coming year, the Bobby Scheme, will continue to help victims over 60 years, domestic abuse victims and people who feel at risk of becoming a victim who are disabled, vulnerable or over 65 years. It will also work ever more closely with Cambridgeshire Constabulary, The Cambridgeshire Fire & Rescue Service and other key organisations, to deliver a broad ranging citizen focussed service, meeting the aspirations of both those organisations and the aims of the Trust.