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| <b>Subject:</b>         | <b>Online Safety- Free support from Bobby Van Trust</b>   |
| <b>Contact Details:</b> | <a href="mailto:bv.onlinesafety@wiltshire.police.uk">bv.onlinesafety@wiltshire.police.uk</a> / 01380 861191 |



The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust has launched its Online Safety Initiative. This will be the first scheme of its kind in the country.

If you are over 60, or Over 18 and registered disabled, and have concerns over your online safety you will be able to apply for a visit from an Online Safety Advisor. The Advisors have been interviewed following Police procedures and will be supporting The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust to rollout this important new initiative. All Advisors are volunteers and they aim to cover the whole of Wiltshire and Swindon.

Referrals can be made via self-referral either by email [bv.onlinesafety@wiltshire.police.uk](mailto:bv.onlinesafety@wiltshire.police.uk) or by calling 01380 861191. Alternatively via Wiltshire Police (101) and other supporting agencies.

The aim of the Online Safety Advisor will be to visit the client's home to offer a tailored service to:

- Improve digital/cyber security awareness and help the client to identify potential risks
- Offer cyber & scam prevention advice.
- Signpost to future advice & available resources.
- Provide support & reassurance.
- If an offence is identified reporting signpost the client to 101 for Police investigation
- Offer basic practical skills to ensure clients can check & understand privacy settings.
- Provide talks & presentations to community groups

Education is the key to its success.

Jennie Shaw Director of the WBVT, "Online crime is the fastest growing crime in our County and as always it the elderly and vulnerable that seem to be the most targeted."

"At the Bobby Van Trust we recognize the fear of crime and loneliness within our client base continues to increase, as life expectancy has risen and people increasingly live alone or far from their families. A recent study showed that a fifth of older Britain's felt lonely all the time. This isolation is having a serious effect on both mental and physical health. The computer is a tool to help prevent loneliness it enables people to keep in touch with family and friends or groups and interests".

As with our home security service we will work closely with Wiltshire Police to maintain an awareness of current threats and to ensure our advice is current with ever changing trends.

*The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust is a scheme which has been operating in Swindon and Wiltshire for nearly 20 years it provides a free home security service for older, vulnerable and disabled people.*