

GREAT MATE OR FAKE MATE?



MATE CRIME



**BEING A MATE IS NOT A CRIME:
MATE CRIME IS**



Warwickshire
POLICE



West Mercia
POLICE

www.warwickshire.police.uk
www.westmercia.police.uk

This booklet is for people with learning disabilities and their families, friends, supporters and carers. The booklet is also available in easy read from:

- www.warwickshire.police.uk/hate-crime-materials;
- and
- www.westmercia.police.uk/hate-crime-materials

What is a disability hate crime?

A disability hate crime is any offence that is motivated by hostility or prejudice based upon a person's disability.

If someone is picking on you because of your disability then it could be a hate crime and you should call the police.

All of these might be a disability hate crime

- People throwing stones at your window



- A group of people stealing your shopping
- Someone beating you up
- A neighbour calling you names when they see you
- Someone sending you abusive text messages.



What is mate crime?

Mate crime is a type of hate crime. It is when someone pretends to be your friend and then takes advantage of you instead of being a proper friend. You may have met them recently or you might have known them for a long time.

A 'mate' may be a friend, family member, supporter, paid staff or another person with a disability.

A mate crime is done by someone you know.

All of these might be a mate crime

- A 'mate' borrowing your mobile phone and using all the credit
- Your 'mate' coming round every time it's benefit day so you can go to the pub and spend your money

- Family members taking your money
- A 'mate' coming round once a week and going out in his car for the afternoon and charging you £20 for petrol
- Your 'mates' coming to your house and forcing you to buy the food and drink
- Your boyfriend saying you should have sex with other people for money.



Stay safe online

- People might pretend to be your friend online
- Keep your personal details safe and private
- Never give anyone your passwords
- For more information go to: www.thinkuknow.co.uk



What should you do if you are a victim of hate crime or mate crime?

- Tell lots of people
- Tell the police
- Tell your local safeguarding team
- Use a third party reporting centre like:



Safe Place

If you feel in danger or under threat whilst out and about, you can drop in anywhere that displays a Safe Place sticker.

www.safeplaces.org.uk

True Vision

You can report a Hate Crime through their website:

www.report-it.org.uk



Remember

- Most of your mates are good mates and they don't want to hurt you or take advantage of you
- If you report a hate crime or mate crime you will be believed
- Your report will be taken seriously and investigated
- Don't be scared, just be aware of hate crime and mate crime.

Information for friends, family, carers and supporters

Who else might notice hate crime?

- Real friends
- Family
- Supporters
- Neighbours
- Anyone who knows the victim well such as a doctor or staff at their bank or local shop who might notice a change in their routine.



How can you spot mate crime?

- Changes in routine, behaviour, appearance, finances or household (e.g. new people visiting or staying over, lots of new 'mates', lots more noise or rubbish than there normally is)
- Unexplained injuries
- Being involved in sexual acts which they have not agreed to
- Losing weight
- Not taking care of themselves and looking dirty or scruffy



- Bills not being paid
- A 'mate' who is not respectful or is bullying or undermining
- Suddenly short of money, losing their possessions or changing their will
- The person 'doing what they are told' by a 'mate'
- Showing signs of mental ill health
- Not being with the usual networks or friends/family or missing regular activities
- Goods or packages arriving at a person's house and then being collected by someone else
- The house in a mess after lots of parties.

If you are concerned, you can report a mate crime in confidence in any of the following ways:

- **In an emergency call 999**
- **For non-emergencies call 101**
- **Report online at:**
www.report-it.org.uk
- **contact CrimeStoppers on 0800 555111**