

What will happen next?

If you voice a concern, you will be listened to.

Everyone is different and will need tailored support depending on their situation and circumstances.

The person can involve others they trust and may be entitled to advocacy if they have difficulty making decisions.

If you would like this information in another language, Braille, audio tape, large print, easy English, BSL video or CD rom or plain text please contact 0117 922 2700.



Bristol is committed to being a Safe City



Mate Crime



What is Mate Crime?

Mate crime is a type of disability hate crime when someone pretends to be your friend and then they commit a crime against you. They may even persuade or trick you into doing things.

A 'Mate' can be anyone. They could be:

- A friend
- A family member
- Someone that helps you

Not everyone is pretending to be your friend and is going to commit a crime against you.



Most of them, if not all of them, will be good people.

It is important you know who to tell if you are not happy with the way a friend is treating you.

Mate Crime starts with people saying they want to be your friend but moves to bullying and other behaviour that you do not want.

Some people who are victims of Mate Crime are scared of losing their friends if they say 'No' to what is happening.

Mate Crime can happen in private so that it is not seen by others.

How does Mate Crime happen?

Some of the things that this friend may try to do is:

- Take your money and not give it back
- Use all your credit on your mobile phone
- Take you out but ask you for lots of money in return
- Take your food

- Have parties in your house
- Hurt you
- Tell you to have sex with them or with their friend
- Tell you to do things that you are not happy about

How can other people spot Mate Crime?

Some of the signs to look out for are:

- Changes in relationships, appearance and finances
- Unexplained injuries
- Being involved in sexual acts that have not been agreed to
- Self Neglect
- Bills not paid for, short of money
- A friend that appears to bully the person
- Signs of mental ill health
- Missing appointments
- Packages turning up at the person's house

What can I do to stop it and how do I get help?

Talk to someone that can help:

- Your support worker
- Your House Warden
- Police – Call 101 or in an emergency call 999
- Tell a Safeguarding Lead
- Bristol City Council Care Direct
Tel 0117 922 2700

