



Mate crime and cuckooing

The risks to people with learning disabilities and autism



Mate crime

Someone pretends to be your friend



They use, control or hurt you



This can happen over time



It can get worse if not stopped





The case of Steven Hoskin

Steven wanted friends

He trusted people who hurt him

There were missed chances to help Steven

This shows why speaking up is so important



There is no legal definition of mate crime



It is often treated as disability hate crime



Always report any concerns



If it is not a crime, it is still s safeguarding issue



Types of mate crime

Theft or financial abuse

- Money taken or not given back



Cuckooing

- People taking over your home



Physical assault or abuse

- Being hurt

Harassment or emotional abuse

- Make you feel bad or sad



Sexual assault or abuse

- Harm you sexually

Cuckooing

Cuckooing is when someone takes over your home

They may stay without you wanting them to

They may use your home for drugs or crime

They may make you feel unsafe



Signs of mate crime and cuckooing



You may get lots of visitors or people you do not know

There may be more noise or people making noise

There may be signs of drug use

There may be damage to your door or people buzzing into the building, who you do not know

Who may be a target

A person seems anxious, scared or withdrawn



They may have unexplained money phones, or other items



They may have injuries or there could be changes in their behaviour



You may hear talk about **friends** staying with them



Need for friendship

Everyone needs friends

Wanting friends can increase the risk

People may stay in unsafe friendships

A good friend respects you



Mental capacity

People can make their own decisions

If they cannot, then support is needed

We can still act if others are at risk

If a serious crime has happened

Or if a child is involved



What works



Support workers, social workers and other professionals get to know the person well



They keep clear and accurate records



Work with other professionals

Stay curious and follow up any concerns



Do not ignore

Always report concerns – tell a manager or staff



Call the police if you or someone else is in danger



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Case study

- Lives alone and gets support
- Was pressured to share private information
- Experiences financial and emotional abuse
- Needs support to stay safe and build trust





Thank you for listening



Do you have any questions?