**Mate Crime**

**Most friends really are friends… but sometimes people might pretend to be your friend**

Mate Crime happens when a vulnerable person is befriended by someone who goes on to exploit or take advantage of them in different ways.

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| Says they have no money, giving money to 'friends', bills start not being paid |  |  | Changes in routine behaviours or appearance, including unexplained injuries |
| Lots of new 'friends' visiting the home, and more noise and mess than usual |  |  | Secretive internet or mobile phone use |

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| To report a hate crime, visit [www.report-it.org.uk](http://www.report-it.org.uk)  If you have concerns for someone’s wellbeing or safety call Mencap’s helpline on 0808 808 1111 |