



# Safety Net

## Mate Crime Workshop

### Guidance Notes

#### *Shaun's Story*

The aim of the workshop is to get individuals and professionals thinking about friendships / relationships and when these may 'cross the line' and become Mate Crimes.

There may be a number of different views about what is going on in the film and people may wish to share personal experiences of events like this.

People should be allowed time to discuss and debate these issues. There may be no clear answers but those facilitating can add things that do 'cross the line' to make the incident a disability hate crime.

Questions such as:

- What if Shaun told them to leave and they didn't go?
- What if they told Shaun he had to pay for all the drinks?
- What if they told Shaun to steal the drinks for them?
- What if they took Shaun' TV/video/iPod with them?

The questions and guidance are to aid facilitators they are not a full list.



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### Session Outline

**Watch the short clip and discuss the questions below.**

#### 1. What is happening in Shaun's flat?

Good?	Bad?
<i>Shaun has friends He says he likes having them around He is enjoying himself He is popular (with his friends at least)</i>	<i>People taking advantage People drinking – Shaun made to drink People leaving a mess Playing loud music Upsetting neighbours</i>

#### 2. Do YOU think this is fair?

*This will need to be discussed. People will have differing views on this. Interesting to see if staff / family views differ from others.*

#### 3. Are these people Shaun's friends?

*We don't know for certain. They might be. They might be using him. They might want to be his friends. They are young males who base their friendships around drinking (not unusual). However they do appear to be using Shaun's flat and his good nature.*

#### 4. Is there a crime here?

Yes	No
<i>Shaun is not aware of the consequences. People are taking advantage of him. They are making him do something he doesn't want to do.</i>	<i>Shaun has the capacity to consent to people coming round. He is aware of the consequences. These people are his friends.</i>

#### 5. Is it a Disability Hate Crime?

Yes	No
<i>They are targeting Shaun because of his learning disability. He may not see it but others around him can and they can report it.</i>	<i>Shaun has friends his staff and neighbours don't like them but Shaun does.</i>



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### 6. What could Shaun do about it?

Positive	Negative
<p>Ask people to quieten down a little.</p> <p>Meet elsewhere.</p> <p>Suggest other activities (sport, cinema etc).</p> <p>Ask people to leave.</p> <p>Find other friends.</p>	<p>Get upset.</p> <p>Be attacked for asking people to leave.</p> <p>Not have any friends.</p> <p>Fall out with the neighbours, family and staff.</p> <p>Become even more isolated.</p>

### 7. What would YOU do?

Answers will depend on attitudes of those attending. This will lead onto the next section. People need time to answer this question and everyone should be heard.

### 8. What should those who support Shaun do?

Good	Bad
<p>Listen to Shaun.</p> <p>Ask him what he wants.</p> <p>Suggest alternatives (over times, places, activities etc).</p> <p>Offer advice not tell him what to do.</p>	<p>'Ban' people from visiting Shaun.</p> <p>'Ban' Shaun from visiting them.</p> <p>Not listen to Shaun.</p> <p>Take away Shaun's choices.</p>

### 9. What could Shaun, his family and others have done before he moved out of the family home?

Independent living should not just focus on practical skills. Work on relationships and friendships needed. Here are some examples of what is going on across the country:

- Join Luv2MeetU – Stars in the Sky
- Join a self advocacy group.
- What it means to be a neighbour?
- 'Safe Places' work.
- Make contacts with the local community (church, voluntary groups, sports clubs, etc)
- Make contact with local police and community support (Ward Forums / PACT meetings / Neighbourhood Watch, etc).



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## Worksheet

1. What is happening in Shaun's flat?
2. Do YOU think this is fair?
3. Are these people Shaun's friends?
4. Is there a crime here?
5. Is it a Disability Hate Crime?
6. What could Shaun do about it?
7. What would YOU do?
8. What should those who support Shaun do?
9. What could Shaun, his family and others have done before he moved out of the family home?