

DISCRIMINATORY ABUSE, HATE CRIME AND MATE CRIME

Background: Discriminatory abuse is when values, beliefs or culture result in a misuse of power that denies opportunity to some groups or individuals. It can be a feature of any form of abuse of an adult at risk but can also be motivated because of age, gender, sexuality, disability, religion, class, culture, language, race or ethnicity. **Hate crime** is a range of crimes motivated by, or perceived by the victim to be motivated by, hostility or prejudice. **Mate crime** is where a perpetrator befriends a vulnerable person, particularly people with learning disabilities, with the intention of then exploiting them.

Why it matters: Race, sex, age & disability are all protected characteristics under the Discrimination (Jersey) Law 2013. A 2017 Jersey Police survey showed that most respondents had experienced racially aggravated hate crime (39%) followed by sexual orientation (25%). Most people did not report it, mainly because they felt it would have been one word against the other but also because they didn't know the police would investigate. The Police take hate crime very seriously and encourage people to report it.

Questions to consider: How can your service raise awareness of discrimination, hate and mate crime amongst the public and other professionals? Do you promote the use of 3rd sector resources to enhance social networks for adults at risk, increase self-esteem and self-confidence to empower people to protect themselves from abuse? Are staff confident in their understanding of the Capacity and Self-Determination (Jersey) Law 2016? How do you identify potential victims? How do you gain the thoughts and wishes of your service users?



Information: Discriminatory abuse, hate crime & mate crime can have a significant impact on the victim and their community group, including anxiety, depression and fear of leaving their home. The Jersey Police use a range of existing laws to prosecute perpetrators of **hate crime**. The intention is for this to be greatly enhanced with specific legislation being put out for public consultation later in 2020. **Mate crime** can be particularly hard to identify, especially if the adult at risk is pleased to be receiving attention from a new 'friendship.'

What to do: People need to be enabled to feel they are part of the community to avoid isolation. Services should aim to intervene at an early stage to prevent people becoming the subject of mate crime. If the person is a victim of hate or mate crime, ensure their immediate safety. Talk with the victim – what are their views, concerns and wishes? What outcomes would they like? Would they benefit from the support of an advocate? It is common for victims of mate crime to be reluctant to sever the relationship.

Signs of mate crime: unexplained injuries, changes in behaviour or mood, bills not being paid/sudden loss of assets, weight loss, isolation from usual contacts, withdrawal from services, an overly critical/controlling friend or relative. **Common factors in hate/ mate crime:** previous incidents escalate in severity and frequency; often multiple perpetrators who may be 'friends', carers, acquaintances or neighbours.

Mate crime may involve financial abuse (eg perpetrator may demand or ask to borrow money or possessions and then not pay it back or when the victim has received benefits and been shopping, the perpetrator may clear their cupboards of food or alcohol), emotional abuse (eg groom the victim for criminal offences or manipulate/mislead them), physical abuse (sometimes for amusement of perpetrator or others) or sexual abuse (eg coerced into prostitution or sexually exploited by someone they think is their partner or friend).