



Digital Stories made by the members of Digitalk July 2016

[Mate crime digital story >>>](#) (2.49 minutes)

[Dean's digital story >>>](#) (4.43minutes)

Case Study: Hywel

Digitalk is a lottery-funded project based in Bridgend County Borough and is part of the of the Big Lottery funded [Community Voice](#) portfolio. The project supports people with learning disabilities to get their voice heard in creative ways, offering training and representation using film making, animation and digital storytelling.

"I didn't know what Mate Crime was, me and the guys thought it sounded funny."

"I liked to meet my friends every Sunday and do a pub-crawl, and go to the sport centre for pool tournaments. I'd always win as well!"

Hywel is an independent 38-year-old man who has a learning disability. Hywel lived with his parents on their farm in Maesteg for years. Hywel decided to move into a flat with his girlfriend Tracey. They became engaged, bought three dogs and three cats. After a few years together Hywel and Tracey split up, Hywel moved out of their flat and into his own flat close by.

Tracey then met John and they became a couple. Hywel didn't mind as they were 'all friends', and he got on well with him. John started asking Hywel for money and to use his bankcard.

"I didn't mind because we were friends and I wanted to help him out."

Hywel got lonely living on his own so friends encouraged him to move back to Maesteg and he moved back in with his parents. He started to meet up with his old friends and joined the Community Voice, Digitalk project.

"I had mixed feelings moving back, I missed my freedom but getting out of the house to come to the Digitalk project has been great. I get to see my friends and learn about cameras and films."

Hywel's mother was sorting out his things and found some bank statements, she saw payments for car insurance, a sofa and a TV. "I didn't know what the payments were, I don't

drive and hadn't bought any of the things on the list! I thought the bank had made a mistake. I know John had asked me for my card to buy one month's insurance because he was stuck."

Digitaltalk have worked closely with the Police to make accessible 'Mate and Hate crime' information for people with disabilities, as all the information we were given was written and many of us cannot read.

After a local PCSO visited the project and spoke to the group about 'Mate Crime', Hywel said: "It made me think about the bank statements and John asking for my card. So I told the policewomen about it all. I never would have done that before coming here but because we had done work with the Police, I knew how nice they were and I could talk to them easily. The Police said it was Mate Crime and I could report it. I was a bit scared but all my friends in the group encourage me to do it and said they would help me.

"We are making films with the police now to tell other people about 'Mate Crime'. If someone was in my situation I'm glad the films we have made could help them also."

Every Link Counts: DigiTalk @DigitalkELC

For people with learning difficulties offering training and representation using film making, animation and digital storytelling.

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