



# Stop Loan Sharks

## Jayne's\* Story

Single mum of two Jayne, worked in the local pub but pulling pints never earned her quite enough to pay the bills. After confiding in one of the regulars about her troubles she was given a number for someone who could help her out. Dave offered her a £500 loan. He would come to her home and collect £25 a week as repayment. Jayne signed a piece of pink paper to agree to this, convinced that he must be legitimate because he had paperwork.

However Jayne then moved home and was not able to work. Her priority was to feed the kids, so she asked Dave if she could have a break in the payments. He said no but offered her another loan for £1500, landing her in more financial hot water.

Dave had a proposition for her, he had some work she could do, not bar work, but working topless in a massage parlour and offering 'extras.' She was not willing to get involved, but as her situation grew worse through desperation and fear of what Dave may do to her, she gave him a call.

This is when he came to her home and raped her. After this she still continued to pay what she could. She fell into deep depression and was admitted to hospital. Jayne said "I deeply regret ever taking a loan out with this man. The last few months have been a nightmare. I have never felt in such a helpless situation".

However her story does have a positive ending, a leaflet was posted through her door and she contacted the team. From that moment on she supported 100%. Now the man who lent her money is behind bars and Jayne is going from strength to strength.

"The Stop Loan Sharks team have supported me through an emotional time. I was enrolled in counselling to help with my confidence and self esteem and now have savings for the first time in my life through the local credit union. I have received budgeting and debt counselling advice from the citizens advice bureau and am now in full time employment, doing a level 2 NVQ and off benefits. I now no longer just exist but live my life and look forward to the future. I am happier than I've ever been"

**Under no circumstances should you ever go to an unlicensed lender, they can destroy your life and leave you living in misery. As Jayne's story shows loan sharks often start out being friendly, but can quickly change.**

### Remember -

- Loan Sharking is illegal and will not be tolerated
- Unlicensed loans are not enforceable in law
- Loan Sharks prey on the vulnerable trapping them in a spiral of debt
- They rarely offer paperwork and can add random amounts to the debt
- They could take items as security such as passports and bank cards- this too is illegal

If you have any information about loan sharks operating please call us in confidence, at any time of the day on **0300 555 2222**

Alternatively Text 'loan shark + your message' to **60003** or

Email [reportaloanshark@stoploansharks.gov.uk](mailto:reportaloanshark@stoploansharks.gov.uk)

For more information visit [www.direct.gov.uk/stoploansharks](http://www.direct.gov.uk/stoploansharks)

*\*Name has been changed*

