

Are you aware of cuckooing?

What is cuckooing?

Cuckooing is a process where people target the homes of vulnerable adults, resulting in them losing control of their property. They may use the property for any criminal purpose, including drug dealing, sexual crimes and storing weapons.

The vulnerable adult can be exploited and coerced to participate in criminal acts. Young people vulnerable to criminal exploitation can also be associated with these properties.

Cuckooed residents may be victims of crime and the Council, in partnership with the Police, will also provide support to the Cuckooed resident to get the help they need.

We can also take steps to prevent people entering addresses which are being used for Cuckooing using formal enforcement action.

This can also help to deter any criminal activity or anti-social behaviour, which have a detrimental effect on the wider community and can make local residents' lives a misery.



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What do we need from you?

We need members of the community to be aware and look out for their neighbours who may be vulnerable. Those whose homes are most vulnerable include older people, those with mental health challenges, drug users or those living on low income. Please report to Police or the Council if you think the activity at a vulnerable person's address is suspicious.

The signs of potential drug dealing are:

- Lots of visitors, who don't stay very long, arriving at all times of the day and night
- People waiting in cars outside particular properties exchanging small packets or cash
- Lots of visitors bringing items such as TVs or bikes but leaving empty handed
- Lone/vulnerable neighbours suddenly having groups of people living at their address
- Possible increase in anti-social behaviour
- Increasing litter outside
- Signs of drugs use

What to do if you have concerns?

The best advice is to trust your instincts. Even if someone isn't being cuckooed, they may be exploited in some other way, so it's always worth reporting.

If you have suspicions, let us know:

- Time, date and place
- Vehicle registrations and the make, model and colour
- Descriptions of people and details of what they were doing
- Direction they were travelling to and from
- How many times you have seen them – is it always at the same time of day?

Don't put yourself at risk. Please always pass the information to the Police or Council and do not confront or approach suspected drug dealers.

You can report:

- Online:
<https://www.met.police.uk>
- Dialling 101 (or 999 in an emergency or if a crime is in progress)

Anonymously to Crimestoppers on
0800 555 1111



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