

## 'Cuckooing'

*Please be aware some of the resources signposted in this handout may contain scenes that some viewers may find distressing.*

'Cuckooing' is when professional criminals target the homes of vulnerable adults so they can use the property for drug-dealing and other criminal activities. These criminals are very selective about who they target as 'cuckoo' victims and are often entrepreneurial. Victims of 'cuckooing' are often drug users but can include older people, those experiencing mental or physical health problems, female sex workers, single mums and those living in poverty. Victims may be dealing with other forms of addiction, such as alcoholism, and are often already known to the police. Dealers often approach the victim offering free drugs to use their home for dealing.

When the criminals use the victim's property for criminal enterprises, the inhabitants become terrified of going to the police for fear of being suspected of involvement in drug dealing or being identified as a member of the group, which would result in their eviction from the property. Some vulnerable adults may be forced to leave their homes, making themselves homeless and leaving the gangs free to sell drugs in their absence.

(Manchester Safeguarding Partnership, 2022, access [here](#))

## What are the signs of cuckooing?



An increase in anti-social behaviour.



Not seeing your neighbour as often or they are distancing themselves.



The outside of the property possibly becomes unkept/untidy. An increase in litter.



An increase in cars or bikes outside



A decrease of the neighbours usual visitors



An increase in people entering and leaving



A neighbour all of a sudden driving people around.

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(Peel Solutions, 2022, access [here](#))

<b>Resources on YouTube – Due to the subject some material may be distressing to watch</b>	
<b>Title and Information</b>	<b>Web Link</b>
<b>GMMH Cuckooing Safeguarding Training - Subtitled</b>	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>NCLCC Cuckooing Masterclass 20 Oct 2021 by National County Lines Coordination Centre</b> - This NCLCC masterclass session delivered by Anne Rannard and John Aspinall looks to empower colleagues to understand what Cuckooing is, what you can do and how to collaborate and record information along with creating your own initiatives showing examples from current campaigns.	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>NCLCC - County Lines Awareness Video</b>	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Cuckooing Informative V3 Surrey Police</b>	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Monica Walton discusses her work to tackle cuckooing in Oxford!</b> Monica Walton, Oxford City Council's dedicated cuckooing officer, discussing her work to tackle cuckooing in Oxford.	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Mark, who was a victim of cuckooing, shares his story (Oxford)</b>	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>County lines short stories – Cuckooing (Kent Police)</b>	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>What is Cuckooing? Humberside Police</b>	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Cuckooing Canterbury City Council</b>	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Aimee's story: Camden police's film on cuckooing</b>	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Examples of Hate Crime – Cuckooing, Lewisham Speaking Up</b>	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Surrey Police Ask Residents to be Vigilant about Victims of Cuckooing, That's TV South East</b>	<a href="#">Link</a>
<b>Section 45 Modern Slavery Act</b>	<a href="#">Link</a>

<b>Other Resources</b>	
<b>Salford Safeguarding Adults Board 7 minute briefings</b>	Cuckooing - 7 Minute Briefing <a href="#">here</a> 7 Minute Briefing – Cuckooing (plain text) <a href="#">here</a>
<b>Article</b>	Spicer, J. , Moyle, L. and Coomber, R. (2019) The variable and evolving nature of 'cuckooing' as a form of criminal exploitation in street level drug markets. Trends in Organized Crime (2020) 23:301–323 <a href="#">here</a>
<b>Cuckooing poster</b>	Cuckooing is a form of crime in which drug dealers take over the home of a vulnerable person in order to use it as a base for drug dealing <a href="#">here</a>
<b>Guidance for Working with Adults at Risk of Exploitation: Cuckooing</b>	Although this is a resource from Leicester it contains some useful information on cuckooing) <a href="#">Access here</a>
<b>Do you suspect an address is being used for drug dealing?</b>	<a href="#">Access here</a>
<b>County Lines &amp; Cuckooing</b>	<a href="#">Access here</a>
<b>SPOT THE SIGNS OF CUCKOOING – COUNTY LINES</b>	What is Cuckooing County Lines? <a href="#">Access here</a>
<b>National Crime Agency - County Lines</b>	<a href="#">Access here</a>

## References:

Manchester Safeguarding Partnership (2022) *Cuckooing – advice for all*. Manchester: Manchester Safeguarding Partnership. <https://www.manchestersafeguardingpartnership.co.uk/resource/cuckooing-advice-for-all/>

Peel Solutions (2022) *SPOT THE SIGNS OF CUCKOOING – COUNTY LINES. What is Cuckooing County Lines?* Warrington: Peel Solutions. <https://peelsolutions.co.uk/spot-the-signs-of-cuckooing-county-lines/>

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