

# 01 What is cuckooing?

Cuckooing is where a criminal befriends an individual who lives on their own.

The criminal then moves in and uses the property to operate unlawful activity.

Victims are often lonely, isolated and vulnerable.

# Who are the victims? 02

Victims are vulnerable individuals, often drug users but can include people who are:

- Living with a mental or physical health condition
- Living with a learning disability
- Involved in prostitution
- Single parents
- Isolated
- Older
- Living with forms of addiction, such as alcoholism

# 07 What to do

Police, Health, Education and Social Work should use The National Referral Mechanism. The NRM process is applicable when dealing with both children/young people and vulnerable adults who have been exploited into taking part in County Line activities, may have been moved around (trafficked) in order to run drugs, or may have had their properties cuckooed. The form can be accessed [HERE](#).

If you are concerned that a child or young person is in immediate danger - Call 999

Suspicious about something you have seen/heard, call your local Police on 101. Information can be given anonymously on online, [crimestoppers-uk.org](http://crimestoppers-uk.org) or call crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

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## Controlling the victims

Once residency is established drug dealers then have a discreet location out of sight of police of which to conduct their criminal activity.

An example of controlling activity could be pacifying victims using drugs. Once the high wears off and the victim wants the criminals to leave, intimidation levels can escalate to the use of threats and violence.



# 06 Cuckooing Legality

Under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, landlords or property managers can receive up to 14 years imprisonment or a substantial fine for having drugs residing at their property. The property may be seized or forfeited as well as prosecution for money laundering. The premises may be 'closed down' and boarded up under the terms of a Premises Closure Order: (Section 76 Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014)

- They have stopped engaging with services
- They are presenting with unexplained injuries.
- They have paid off debts (including housing debts) in full and in cash.
- They are appearing withdrawn and fearful of disclosing information for fear of 'betraying' the criminals, abuse or eviction.
- They are associating with new unidentified people who are often present at the home.
- They have changed their appearance either wearing expensive clothing or appearing unkempt.

# The vulnerable person

# Spotting the signs

There will be.....

- An increase of vehicles stopping at the property, often for short periods of time.
- An increase of anti-social behaviour around the property.
- Open drug dealing
- Not seeing the resident of the property as often.
- An increase in the number of people coming and going at various times - day or night

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