

What is Cuckooing?

When organised criminals take over the home of a vulnerable adult for criminal activity. It takes the name from cuckoos who take over the nests of other birds.

Different types of cuckooing:

- Using the property to deal, store or take drugs
- Using the property to engage with sex work
- Taking over the property as a place for criminals to live
- Taking over the property to financially abuse the tenant

The most common form of cuckooing is where drug dealers take over a person's home and use it to store or distribute drugs. In some cases, the criminals will move into a person's home and pay other neighbours to watch the person(s) coming and going from the property.

Spotting the signs of cuckooing



Possible increase in anti-social behaviour



Signs of drug use, such as unusual smells coming from a property



Not seeing the person who lives there, and when you do, there is a clear change in behaviour and may appear anxious

Frequent visitors at unsociable hours



Changes in the resident's daily routine



Suspicious or unfamiliar vehicles outside an address

