

# CUCKOOING/HOME INVASION

## What Is It?

- Cuckooing/Home invasion is when a vulnerable adult's address is taken over for criminal purposes, usually as a site to supply, store or produce drugs in order to avoid police detection
- Cuckooing/Home invasion is often seen as part of county lines criminality, which involves drug gangs exploiting children and vulnerable adults in order to move drugs around the country

## How Does It Start?

### 6. DISCOURAGE VISITORS

They will also DISCOURAGE FAMILY OR FRIENDS AND SUPPORT WORKERS FROM VISITING the vulnerable adult's address

### 5. THREATEN

The gang members may THREATEN the vulnerable adult verbally or physically if they try to put a stop to their criminal activity

### 4. 'BENEFITS' WILL REDUCE

Gradually the 'BENEFITS' WILL REDUCE and may eventually come to an end, and more and more people will come and go from the address

### 1. BEFRIENDING

A gang member may begin by BEFRIENDING the vulnerable adult

Gangs will select members who are charming and manipulative in order for them to quickly build a rapport

### 2. SOMETHING OF INTEREST

They will then offer the vulnerable adult SOMETHING OF INTEREST to them

This could be a relationship, friendship, drugs, alcohol, money or clothing

### 3. 'BORROW' A ROOM

In exchange they may ask to 'BORROW' A ROOM, to store something or meet other 'friends' at the property

In some cases the gang may make it clear that this is for criminal purposes i.e. drug supply, or they may use an excuse as to why they want to use the property



# SIGNS OF CUCKOOING/HOME INVASION



An increase in people entering and leaving



Signs of drug use



An increase in cars or bikes outside



Lack of support service visitors



Possible increase in anti-social behaviour



Property falls into disrepair



Increase in litter outside

## WHAT CAN HELP?

- If you know someone who is cuckooed/invaded it is extremely important that you tell someone, so that support agencies can begin a multi-agency approach in tackling the issue
- Inform the **police** by calling **101** or **999** in an emergency
- If you would like to remain anonymous please call **Crimestoppers** on **0800 555 111**
- Make a safeguarding referral to **SMBC Adult Services** by calling **0121 704 8007** or online at **[www.solihull.gov.uk/adultabuse](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/adultabuse)**
- If you are a victim of cuckooing/home invasion the first step is to talk to someone; family, friends or a support worker
- If you feel you are in danger contact the **police** by calling **999**
- For practical advice and support: **Community Advice Hubs** - **0121 709 7590**
- To talk through any issues or concerns: **Samaritans** - **116 123** (free 24/7) or email **[jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)**
- For support with an addiction: **SIAS** - **0121 301 4141** or **[help@sias-solihull.org.uk](mailto:help@sias-solihull.org.uk)** provides a wide range of support no matter what kind of alcohol, drugs or gambling you are using
- To speak to **SMBC Adult Services** call **0121 704 8007**