

IS MY HOME BEING INVADED?



Easy to Read
Information



Who is this leaflet for?

This leaflet is for anyone who is living independently, their families and supporters.



It is for people to share and go through together and talk about.

It will help you understand that happens when a person's home is taken over by others for hiding or selling drugs, weapons or having parties.



This leaflet helps you think about what to look out for and what to do if this happens to you or someone you know.

Have you heard of the term cuckooing?

This term is used because a cuckoo bird will often take over another birds nest and lay its own eggs for the bird to look after -



so it is a term that has been used instead of saying that someone is trying to take over your home.

These people may want to hide drugs and weapons in your house.





... or have parties and encouraging sexual activity.

It can be part of a bigger, plan to move drugs, weapons and people around the country.



It means someone is trying to invade your home and take it over.

How does it start?

It can start by a person trying really hard to be nice to you, offering to help you or buy you things that you want.



When you they are your friend, they will ask you to do things for them, they may be fun things, like having a party, or it could be things that you may not want to do.

But they will start to trick or fool you by saying that they are your friend, that friends should help each other or that you are a bad friend if you don't help them.



How do I know if someone isn't really my friend?



There are some early warning signs - things that might help you realise that someone is acting in a way that isn't okay.

Ask yourself?

- Do they want you to keep your friendship a secret from other people you already know?
- Do they want to meet with you alone, in secret or with other people you don't know?



- Do you feel like you have to do or say things that make you feel sad?

- Do they give you things you need or want such as things that are very valuable, or very personal - or things such as alcohol, tobacco or drugs?



- Do they seem to already know things about you that you haven't told them?

- Do they keep things about their own lives and family secret from you?



- Do they ask you to let them do things in your home, such as borrow a room to store something or to meet their friends?

- Do they stop you from having visits from your friends, family or support workers?



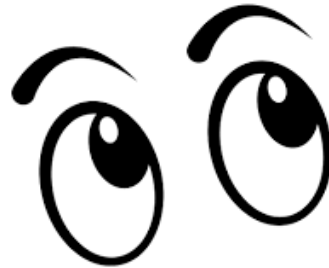
- Do they get angry with you or frighten you if you say you don't want to do the things they ask?

- Do they remind you that they have given you things and suggest that you owe them?

Remember
that phone I
gave you?

What can help?

They were just a few of the signs that someone could be trying to use you or your home for criminal activities, even if you believe they are your friend.



If the answer to any of these questions is yes, then it's important that you talk to someone - preferably an adult you can trust, about what is happening.

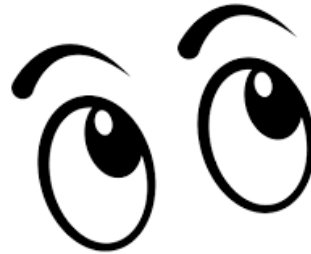
Remember, if something doesn't feel right - even slightly - then it probably isn't.



What signs might friends or family notice if someone's home is being taken over?

These are some of the most common signs to look out for.

If you notice any of these things it could mean that the person's home is being invaded:



- An increase in people you don't know leaving or entering the home



- An increase in cars, taxi's or bikes outside



- Increase in litter outside



- Increase in antisocial behaviour



- Property falls into disrepair



- Signs of drug/ alcohol use and/or parties



- Your friend or family member no longer wants you to visit them at home



- Your friend or family member becomes withdrawn



- Your friend and family member has items that you feel they may not usually be able to afford



What can I do if I'm worried about someone?

If you are worried about someone because you think their home is being invaded it is extremely important that you tell someone, so that support agencies can work together to help.

You can:



Speak to the police on 101 or 999 if it is an emergency



CrimeStoppers if you want to do it anonymously

CrimeStoppers.

0800 555 111

100% anonymous. Always.



Make a safeguarding referral to SMBC Adult Services by calling 0121 704 8007



Make a safeguarding referral online at.....

www.solihull.gov.uk/adultabus

[e](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/adultabus)



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