Cuckooing / Home Invasion



Cuckooing or 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 to avoid police detection.

Gangs involved in County Lines will establish a base in the market location, typically by taking over the homes of local vulnerable adults and families by force or coercion (giving free drugs or offering to pay for food or utilities).

How does it happen?

Befriending - A gang member may begin by befriending the vulnerable adult. 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.

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, they may make it clear that this is for criminal purposes.

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.

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

<u>Discourage Visitors</u> -They will also discourage family or friends and support workers from visiting the vulnerable adult's address.

Groups At Risk

- Teenage children and young adults
- History of domestic violence, parental substance misuse, mental health issues or criminality
- Are homeless or have insecure accommodation status
- Exposed to violent crime, gang-related activity and deprivation
- Are socially isolated, lonely or experience social difficulties
- Are economically vulnerable
- Have a physical or learning disability
- Experience mental health issues or substance misuse
- Are or have been in care
- Children excluded from school (either permanently or temporarily
- Migrants.



What are the signs?



- An increase in people coming and going. This includes people you haven't seen before, young people of school age, and visitors throughout the day and night. Visits will often be for short periods.
- New vehicles outside the property, including taxis or hire cars.
- Possible increase in anti-social behaviour
- Increase in litter outside, bags of clothing or bedding around the property.
- Reliance on takeaway services (as no food provisions are within the house or premises).
- Signs of drug use.
- Lack of support service visitors.
- Property falls into disrepair.

What to do if you are worried about someone

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 Adult Social Care by calling 02476 833 003 or email ascdirect@coventry.gov.uk_

What to do if you are a victim

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

To talk through any issues or concerns: Samaritans - 116 123 (free

24/7) or email jo@samaritans.org

For support with an addiction: Contact Change Grow Live – Drug and Alcohol Service on 02476 010241 or email

coventryreferralsandenquiries@cgl.org.uk

Speak to Adult Social Care by calling 02476 833 003 or email ascdirect@coventry.gov.uk

