

Cuckooing

Cuckooing is the process whereby criminal gangs target the homes of vulnerable people in order to use their premises for criminal activity.

Many of the victims are particularly vulnerable and criminal gangs may use threats and intimidation to gain access to the property to engage in criminal activity such as drug dealing, sexual exploitation etc. Signs of cuckooing include but are not limited to:

- an increase in the number of visitors to what is usually a multi-occupancy or social housing property
- different people that you do not recognise coming and going at the property
- new or hire cars parked outside the property
- changes in the resident's behaviour (they might become reclusive, but you see other people coming and going from the property)
- changes in the resident's appearance (they may have visible injuries or look like they are in discomfort from hidden ones)
- signs of drug paraphernalia around the property disengagement with support services a local increase in anti-social behaviour.

This could happen to anyone. Cadets that might be more at risk are those who are young carers or who are care leavers and living in multi occupancy dwellings. It could also happen to adult cadet leaders who might be vulnerable.

If you are concerned about a young person and think they may be being exploited then you should follow the referral [process](#) and discuss it with your unit or force lead for safeguarding and report it to the [National Safeguarding Manager](#).