

Cuckooing poster & Information Document

CUCKOOING HAPPENS. SPOT THE SIGNS. PROTECT THE VULNERABLE.

Cuckooing is a form of criminal exploitation where vulnerable people are targeted and their homes are taken over for criminal activity.

SPOT THE SIGNS

-  **New faces coming and going**
People you don't know visiting frequently or staying overnight.
-  **Signs of control or intimidation**
A vulnerable person may appear fearful, withdrawn or controlled by others.
-  **Increased activity**
Unusual noise, lots of visitors, or activity that doesn't seem right.
-  **Neglect or distress**
The person may look unwell, neglected or in need of help.

CONCERNED? REPORT IT.

SCAN THE QR CODE
TO REPORT CONCERNS



REPORT CONFIDENTIALLY

 **EMAIL US**
safer@barnsley.gov.uk
We take every report seriously
and will act on your concerns.

 **CALL SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE
ON 101**
In an emergency always call 999

 **You don't need to deal with it. You don't need to know the people involved.
Your information could protect a vulnerable person
and help keep our communities safe.**

 **barneslai
homes**

 **SAFER
BARNSELY**
Working together for
a safer borough

 **SOUTH YORKSHIRE
POLICE**

Cuckooing – Spot the Signs. Protect the Vulnerable.

What is Cuckooing?

Cuckooing is a form of criminal exploitation where someone takes over another person's home for their own benefit. This often involves criminals targeting vulnerable people and using their property for activities such as drug dealing, storing drugs or weapons, financial exploitation, violence, intimidation, or other criminal behaviour. Victims are frequently manipulated, threatened, groomed, coerced, or pressured into allowing others access to their home.

Anyone can become a victim of cuckooing, but those who are socially isolated, experiencing poor mental health, addiction, financial difficulties, disability, housing instability, or other vulnerabilities may be at increased risk.

What Should You Look Out For?

You may notice one or more of the following signs:

Changes at the Property

- A large number of visitors coming and going, often at unusual times.
- People staying at the address who do not appear to live there.
- Vehicles stopping for short periods before leaving.
- Increased noise, anti-social behaviour, disturbances, or complaints.
- Signs of drug use, dealing, or other criminal activity.
- Damage, neglect, or deterioration of the property.

Changes in the Occupant

- The person appears frightened, withdrawn, anxious, or controlled by others.
- They seem reluctant to speak openly or allow professionals into the property.
- A noticeable decline in their wellbeing, personal care, mental health, or living conditions.
- Increased alcohol or drug use.
- Unexplained injuries, intimidation, or signs of coercion.
- Fear of returning home or reports of sleeping elsewhere to avoid others using the property.

Other Indicators

- Individuals controlling access to the property.
- The occupant appears unable to decide who can enter or remain in their home.
- People known to be involved in crime, drug activity, or anti-social behaviour frequently attending the address.
- Concerns raised by neighbours, family members, housing staff, health professionals, police, or support workers.

Why Reporting Matters

Early reporting can:

- Help protect vulnerable residents from harm and exploitation.
- Enable safeguarding support to be provided quickly.
- Assist agencies to disrupt criminal activity.
- Reduce harm to neighbours and local communities.
- Prevent situations from escalating further.

Concerned Someone May Be a Victim?

You do not need proof to raise a concern. If something does not feel right, please report it.

Professionals and Members of the Public

If you are worried that a person may be experiencing cuckooing or criminal exploitation, please complete the **Cuckooing Referral Form** below and provide as much detail as possible.

If there is an immediate risk of harm, violence, threats, weapons, or a crime in progress, call **999**.

For non-emergency police matters, call **101**.

You can also report concerns to:

Email: safer@barnsley.gov.uk