

## **Staff Safeguarding Briefing- Cuckooing**

### What is Cuckooing?

Cuckooing is a crime and form of exploitation where a gang member/gang befriend a vulnerable adult with the intention of exploiting them to use their home as a place to use and sell drugs, abuse alcohol, hide weapons or carry out prostitution.

### Who is at risk?

- Adults with alcohol/drug addiction
- Adults in financial difficulty
- Elderly people
- People with mental health issues
- People with learning difficulties

### How might cuckooing start?

Usually cuckooing starts with a gang member befriending an adult they can already see is vulnerable and may be easier to exploit. Often the gang member will appear very friendly and charming to build trust and get closely to the vulnerable adult.

They may offer the vulnerable adult something of interest to them such as friendship/relationship, drugs or alcohol, money or items that are of interest to them in exchange for using their property to store something or meet their friends.

Sometimes vulnerable adults have awareness of the crimes that are being carried out in their homes and agree, but often they are threatened, exploited and coerced into allowing the criminal activity to take place.

Gradually the 'benefits' the vulnerable adult is receiving reduce or end and more people will come and go from the address.

The vulnerable adult may be threatened or abused and stopped or discouraged from communicating with family, friends and services.

Indicators of the person being abused

- Increased people entering and leaving their home
- Increase in cars/bikes outside the property
- Increase in anti-social behaviour and littering in the area
- Signs of drug
- The person hasn't been seen in a while

### Risk to the vulnerable adult

- Being arrested or questioned by police regarding the criminal activity in their home.
- They may face prison or criminal charges if they knowingly allowed the crimes to take place.
- They are at risk of losing benefits or accommodation.

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- The effects of the exploitation may continue i.e. mental and physical health concerns.
- They may suffer financial loss and loss of possession.

#### What to do if you are worried about an adult

You can either refer directly through to adult social care (MASH) team or Police 101. Or you can report it online at <https://www.humberside.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

#### Cuckooing Case Study

Please find attached a full adult safeguarding review of a case involving cuckooing in Hull.

<https://www.hullcollaborativepartnership.org.uk/downloads/file/28/sar-neville>

**If you have any questions or concerns and would like to discuss with someone, then please contact Amy Elton- 07548764818 or email [amy.elton@nbforum.org.uk](mailto:amy.elton@nbforum.org.uk)**