

7

Resources & Services

Policies - [Contents – Bury Safeguarding Adults Board APPP \(burysafeguardingappp.co.uk\)](#)

Professional form to raise a safeguarding concern - [Safeguarding Adults Concern form](#).

Further contacts:

CrimeStoppers – 0800 555 111

Modern Slavery Helpline – 08000 121 700

Bury adult social care: 0161 253 5151

Greater Manchester Police – 101 or 999 in an emergency

6

What to do next?

Partnership working is essential in effectively tackling cuckooing and to prevent reoccurrence. It is important to identify it as early as possible and safeguard the victim.

If you are concerned that an adult is a victim of cuckooing, you can contact Greater Manchester Police on 101 or 999 in an emergency. If the person is suspected to have care and support needs, you can report through Bury Adult Social Care.

It is also important to involve the housing provider if this is a registered housing provider or the landlord if it is a privately rented property.

5

Signs of Cuckooing with the Individual

Due to the presence of perpetrators in their home, alongside continuing threats and intimidation, it is extremely difficult for people who have been cuckooed to report the crime. It is essential to be curious and think critically about what you see.

Some typical signs are:

- Not engaging with services
- May have unexplained injuries
- Has paid off debts in full with cash
- Misusing substances
- Appears withdrawn and fearful of disclosing information
- New, unidentified associates who are often present at the home

Bury Safeguarding Partnership

7 Minute Briefing: Cuckooing



[Bury Safeguarding Partnership](#)

1

Background – what is cuckooing?

Cuckooing is a form of exploitation whereby perpetrators take over the home of an individual and use it for criminal purposes, such as dealing drugs.

Initially, a perpetrator may befriend an individual or pacify them with drugs.

They will then maintain control over them and their property through intimidation, threats, and abuse. Drug dealers will often cuckoo numerous properties at once in order to evade police.

The term comes from the behaviour of cuckoos who take over the nests of other birds.

2

Who is at risk?

Perpetrators will deliberately seek out individuals who they can more easily exploit. Typically, people who are cuckooed may be:

- Older
- Living with mental or physical health conditions
- Living with learning disability
- Involved in prostitution
- Single parents
- Experiencing poverty
- Isolated
- Living with drug or alcohol addiction

3

Abuse and control of victims

Perpetrators will use various means to gain access to a person's home and exploit them. In some cases the victim may be living alone and this may be used as a means to befriend them.

Cuckooing could be in relation to different forms of exploitation such as sexual, labour or financial exploitation.

Once perpetrators have gained control of the victim, they may start to bring larger groups into the property. They will maintain control by using certain means which could include intimidation and violence towards the individual.

4

Signs of cuckooing at a property

You may notice changes around a property that indicate criminal activity is taking place. These are not the only signs, but they could include:

- Changes in your neighbour's daily routine
- Unusual smells coming from a property
- People coming and going at various times day and night
- Suspicious or unfamiliar vehicles outside an address