

# A guide to identifying victims of Cuckooing



**Cuckooing** is a practice where drug dealers take over a vulnerable person's property and use it as a base to deal drugs. Victims are often befriended by the dealers as they are vulnerable, isolated, and often drug users themselves. Victims are left with little choice but to co-operate. The tactic is known as **Cuckooing** – after the bird that invades the nest of other birds. We have produced a simple and memorable guide to help people identify and assist victims of **Cuckooing** using the acronym **N.E.S.T.**

## Notice the signs

Increased anti-social behaviour (ASB) near a specific property, frequent visitors, curtains closed most of the time, needles and drug paraphernalia.

## Evidence your concerns

Make a note of your concerns for evidential purposes – especially if you recognise individuals at the property.

## Safeguarding

Complete a safeguarding referral. The resident may require support during this time. Visit [www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/adult-social-care](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/adult-social-care) for further guidance.

## Tell the Police and Local Authority

Contact the police on 101, or online at [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk) and, for any council owned properties, the ASB team at MKCC on 01908 691 691. For further information on Cuckooing from Thames Valley Police, please scan the above QR code.



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