

## Action

Have information?  
Contact Notts Police on  
**101** or **999** in an  
emergency

Worried about a child?  
Contact Children and  
Families Direct. Tel.  
**0115 8764800**

Worried about an adult?  
Contact Health and  
Social Care Point. Tel:  
**0300 131 0300**

Want further information? Contact  
NCC Exploitation Slavery Team,  
Adults [MSVP@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:MSVP@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)  
or 07949254603

## Indicators

- More people at the house
- More traffic outside
- More litter & ASB
- Signs of drugs use
- Changes in behaviour
- Unexplained absences
- New 'friends'
- More parties
- Changes in finances
- Increased drug use
- Physical injury
- Disengagement

## Consequences

Gangs can have access to several addresses. They can move quickly between vulnerable people's homes for a few hours, days or longer. Because 'cuckooing' means criminals operate from a property rather than the street they can evade detection by the police more easily.

Some vulnerable adults may be forced from their properties, or decide to abandon them, making themselves homeless and leaving the gangs free to commit more crimes

## Cuckooing

'Cuckooing' is a crime that often, but not always, accompanies 'County Lines' offending and occurs when drug dealers take over the home of a vulnerable person to use for drug dealing and other criminal activity. The crime of 'cuckooing' vulnerable people is named after the cuckoo's practice of taking over other birds' nests for its young

## County Lines

'County Lines' refers to the phone numbers, or lines, that criminal gangs who traffic drugs from urban to rural areas use to sell drugs. Often, they use violence to drive out local dealers and exploit children and vulnerable people to 'run', or supply and sell drugs for them. Heroin, cocaine, crack cocaine and cannabinoids are the most common drugs supplied

## Victims

Victims are often lonely and isolated. They can have drug or alcohol problems and sometimes be involved in criminality themselves. They may not present as 'typical' victims and often do not identify as such. They can be older adults, people with learning disabilities, mental or physical health problems, sex workers or single mums

## Recruitment

Victims can be groomed, including via social media, and deceived into viewing the offenders as potential benefactors, friends or even romantic partners, before intimidation, physical or sexual violence and debt bondage –'re-paying' the cost of drugs first given as 'free' – are used as means for gaining control of the property