

Cuckooing

help us protect victims

'Cuckooing' happens when the home of a vulnerable person is taken over by criminals.

The address can then be used to deal, store, or take drugs. The tenant is often threatened with violence or assaulted.

We need to know as soon as possible if there is suspected cuckooing, so we can support the victims and take action against the criminals.

Criminals often target:

- People with mental health problems
- Disabled people
- Lonely people
- Substance misusers
- People in debt

Working together to support victims

Sussex Police work in partnership with the council and other partner agencies (including landlords) to support victims of cuckooing, help them take steps to keep their tenancy, and keep them safe by taking action against the perpetrators.



Spot the signs of cuckooing

Increase in the number of comings and goings



Increase in substance misuse by tenant



Increase in anti-social behaviour in and around the property



Not allowing support workers in or answering calls



Visits by people you haven't seen before



New vehicles outside the property



How to report if you think you or one of your neighbours is being cuckooed

If a crime is taking place or someone is in danger, always call **999**.

If you think cuckooing may be taking place, or are a victim of cuckooing, contact Sussex Police by calling **101** or report online at www.sussex.police.uk

Sussex Police will share necessary and relevant information with council and other colleagues to keep victims and other residents safe.