

WARNING



**CUCKOOING
IN THIS
AREA!**

CUCKOOING IS HAPPENING NOW.

Criminal gangs are targeting the homes of vulnerable people to be used for drug dealing - a process known as "cuckooing" (like the bird that invades other bird's nests) and victims are often left with little choice but to cooperate.

Dealers often approach the vulnerable person offering free drugs to use their home for dealing or in some instances after providing 'free' drugs, will then force the person to deal for them in order to 're-pay' their drug debts.

These criminals are selective about who they target, a lot of the time victims are lonely, isolated, frequently drug users themselves and are already known to the police.

"Cuckooing" means the criminals can operate from a property rather than the street, which is out of sight from the police

making it an attractive option.

They can then use the premises to deal drugs from, which is difficult for the police to monitor and they often will only stay for a short period of time.

A property that is showing a change in usage could be a sign of cuckooing. These changes can include; more people going in and out, an increase in bikes and cars outside, signs of drug use nearby or secure doors wedged open.



HOW TO REPORT CUCKOOING

What to do if you suspect a property is being 'cuckooed'?

Call Essex Police on **101** or **999**
in an emergency to report drug-
related information. Please
mention '**Operation Tresspass**' and
'**Cuckooing**' when you call.

If you don't want to speak to the
police directly, you can call the
anonymous Crimestoppers charity
on **0800 555 111**.



Crimestoppers.