Cuckooing is a crime where drug dealers take over a vulnerable person's property and use it as a base to deal drugs. Victims are 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 nests of other birds. We have produced a simple, informative 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 near a specific property, needles and drug paraphernalia, frequent visitors, residents afraid or curtains closed most of the time.

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 MK Council's online Adult Social Care Hub for more information.

Tell the Police and Local Authority

Contact the Police on 101, or online at www.thamesvalley.police.uk. Contact the Anti-social Behaviour Team on 01908 252937 (option 4).