



**METROPOLITAN  
POLICE**



# Are your neighbours at risk of being **cuckooed?**

Cuckooing is when people take over a person's home and use the property for some form of exploitation, such as drug dealing, sex work, human trafficking, storing weapons or financial abuse.

## **Signs of cuckooing include:**

- Suspicious items in the property, such as weighing scales, multiple phones, sim cards, drug paraphernalia, cash and other valuable items.
- Conversely, the property may appear almost sparse of valuable possessions inside and begin to go into a state of disrepair both inside and out.
- Doors and windows which have been blocked off.
- New faces appearing at the property and the property regularly changing residents.
- Presence of unknown people in the property, who may act as friends of the inhabitant.
- More people than normal entering the property, or people arriving and leaving at unusual times.
- Possible increase in anti-social behaviour in and around the property and increased litter such as drinks cans and takeaway packaging outside the property.
- Cars arriving at the property for short periods of time.
- Signs of drug use and open drug dealing.



If you are concerned please contact **101**, or 999 in an emergency if someone is in immediate danger, or report it online via this QR code.

If you are concerned that the person being cuckooed may be a vulnerable adult you can make a safeguarding referral to [enquiry@towerhamletsconnect.org](mailto:enquiry@towerhamletsconnect.org) or call **0300 303 6070**.



You can also make a report anonymously to Crimestoppers at via this QR code or call **0800 555 111**

Cuckooed residents may be the victims of crime and the council, in partnership with the police, will also provide support to the cuckooed resident. We can also take steps to prevent people entering addresses which are being used for cuckooing. This can help deter any criminal activity and anti-social behaviour which have a detrimental impact on local residents.

