

Tackling County Lines and Cuckooing

What is a “county line”?

County lines gangs based in cities such as Birmingham and London are targeting the most vulnerable people in small towns across the country to sell Class A drugs on their behalf.

What is “cuckooing”?

This term refers to cases where drug dealers operate from (or completely take over) the home of a vulnerable person or family, using it as a base to deal drugs locally. The vulnerable person may be kept inside against their will. Their mobile phone and online communication (e.g. via email and Facebook) may also have been taken over by drug dealers. Drug dealers may control every aspect of a person’s freedom, even including access to food for children and adults in the home.

- *Have you noticed more people calling at an address? Sometimes at unsociable hours?*
- *Have you noticed a neighbour has not been seen for a while?*
- *Are there suspicious (drug indicative) smells coming from an address?*
- *Are there suspicious or unfamiliar vehicles outside the address?*
- *Do you believe an individual or family is being exploited or threatened with violence?*
- *Has a child or young person gone missing from school or home?*
- *Are children meeting with unfamiliar adults?*
- *Have you noticed a change in children’s behaviour?*
- *Do you believe a child or young person is being coerced to commit a crime?*
- *Do you think a child or young person is using drugs and alcohol?*
- *Has there been a breakdown in relationships with family and friends?*

What are the Police doing to tackle county lines?

Operation Tarak is the South West region’s response to tackling county lines criminality. The campaign aims to protect the most vulnerable in society from the exploitation of drugs gangs.

Your voice will be heard and will make a difference.



County lines gangs are operating in Frome, right now. Avon and Somerset Police need our help to identify and report any concerns if we believe an individual or family has been targeted in this way.

County lines gangs are a significant threat to our communities and their activities will not be tolerated. But the Police need our help to spot the signs and act on our concerns.

Call 101 to report it.