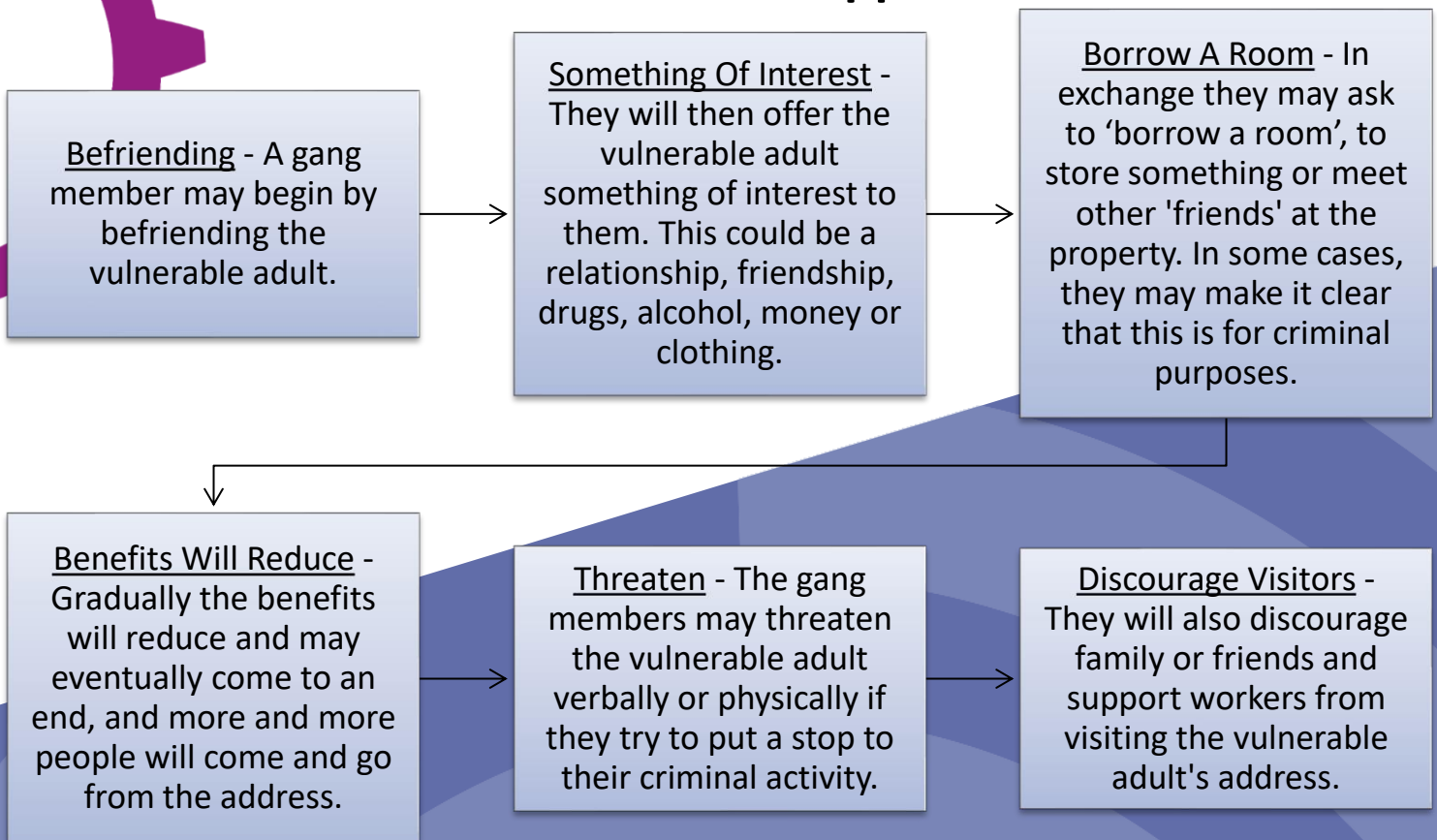


# Cuckooing / Home Invasion

Cuckooing or home invasion is when a vulnerable adult's address is taken over for criminal purposes, usually as a site to supply, store or produce drugs to avoid police detection.

Gangs involved in County Lines will establish a base in the market location, typically by taking over the homes of local vulnerable adults and families by force or coercion (giving free drugs or offering to pay for food or utilities).

## How does it happen?



### Groups At Risk

- Teenage children and young adults
- History of domestic violence, parental substance misuse, mental health issues or criminality
- Are homeless or have insecure accommodation status
- Exposed to violent crime, gang-related activity and deprivation
- Are socially isolated, lonely or experience social difficulties
- Are economically vulnerable
- Have a physical or learning disability
- Experience mental health issues or substance misuse
- Are or have been in care
- Children excluded from school (either permanently or temporarily)
- Migrants.

# What are the signs?

- An increase in people coming and going. This includes people you haven't seen before, young people of school age, and visitors throughout the day and night. Visits will often be for short periods.
- New vehicles outside the property, including taxis or hire cars.
- Possible increase in anti-social behaviour
- Increase in litter outside, bags of clothing or bedding around the property.
- Reliance on takeaway services (as no food provisions are within the house or premises).
- Signs of drug use.
- Lack of support service visitors.
- Property falls into disrepair.

## **What to do if you are worried about someone**

If you know someone who is cuckooed/invaded it is extremely important that you tell someone, so that support agencies can begin a multi-agency approach in tackling the issue. Inform the police by calling 101 or 999 in an emergency

If you would like to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111  
Make a safeguarding referral to Adult Social Care by calling 02476 833 003 or email [ascdirect@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:ascdirect@coventry.gov.uk)

## **What to do if you are a victim**

If you are a victim of cuckooing/home invasion the first step is to talk to someone; family, friends or a support worker

If you feel you are in danger, contact the police by calling 999

To talk through any issues or concerns: Samaritans - 116 123 (free 24/7) or email [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org)

For support with an addiction: Contact Change Grow Live – Drug and Alcohol Service on 02476 010241 or email

[coventryreferralsandenquiries@cgl.org.uk](mailto:coventryreferralsandenquiries@cgl.org.uk)

Speak to Adult Social Care by calling 02476 833 003 or email [ascdirect@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:ascdirect@coventry.gov.uk)