



Responding to Cuckooing concerns

You have concerns that someone may be the victim of cuckooing.



Seek consent

- Contact the adult at risk to discuss the concerns (if safe to do so) and ask them for consent to make a Safeguarding referral to Adult Social Care MASH.
- **If the individual is at risk of immediate harm, please contact the Police via 999.**
- If you can't get consent or the adult won't give it, consider whether the situation involves circumstances where consent can be overridden. Document your decision.



Report safeguarding concerns to ASC MASH

- Complete the SAPB referral form on the Council website and email it to: asc.mash.safeguarding@camden.gov.uk.
- Or call Access and Response on 020 7974 4000 option 1.
- If there are any children involved or living at the property, also report to the children's MASH team on 020 7974 3317 or email LBCMASHadmin@camden.gov.uk

What is cuckooing?

- When a person's home is taken over, usually as a base for criminal activities
- They may be befriended, coerced or offered free drugs to gain access
- They can be at risk of range of abuse
- Can be linked to other forms of exploitation such as mate crime, modern slavery and county lines

When can you reasonably override consent?

- The adult lacks mental capacity to decide
- Emergency or life-threatening situations
- Other people are, or may be, at risk, including children
- To prevent a crime or because a serious crime has been committed
- The risk is unreasonably high and meet the criteria for a multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC) referral

Tips for responding to cuckooing:

- Know the signs
- Be curious and enquire further
- Think about how to communicate safely with the adult at risk
- Be aware of the reasons people might not want to report cuckooing
- Be mindful of the impact of coercion and control
- Take a trauma informed and victim centred approach
- Build rapport



What will happen next?

- MASH will review the referral to determine immediate risk and whether the individual is known to a worker and/or team in Adult Social Care or Camden and Islington Foundation Trust (C&I). If known, MASH will pass the referral to them.
- If not known, MASH will undertake initial safeguarding enquiries.

More tips for responding to cuckooing:

- Consider the benefits of a multi-agency approach and work jointly with others
- More information is available in **Camden SAPB's Multi-Agency Cuckooing Guidance**, and in Camden's Modern Day Slavery and Trafficking Guidance and Procedure

Safeguarding Process



MASH or a worker in the allocated team will undertake initial safeguarding enquiries under Section 42 of the Care Act 2014, known as a section 42.1 enquiry. The purpose of this is to:

- To decide whether the referral should progress to a statutory section 42.2 safeguarding enquiry
- And undertake an assessment of risk by contacting the individual where appropriate and undertaking network checks

The criteria for statutory safeguarding is where the adult at risk:

- appears to have care and support needs
- appears to be experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect
- and, as a result of those needs, appears to be unable to protect themselves against the abuse or neglect, or the risk of it.

If the individual meets these statutory criteria, the safeguarding will progress to a section 42.2 enquiry. If not, other outcomes could be a non-statutory enquiry, a care needs assessment, referral to other agencies or to other risk management forums such as community MARAC or the High Risk Advisory Group.

Under a Section 42.2 Enquiry, actions may include the following:

- A planning meeting to decide on actions and who is responsible for these
- Mental capacity assessment and referral for advocacy as required
- Multi-agency risk assessment, protection planning and review



Multi-Agency Working

Joint working in cases of cuckooing is essential:

- SAPB partner agencies all need to work together in response to cases of cuckooing
- Multi-agency professionals' meetings help to establish who is working with the adult at risk and the actions that need to be taken.
- Adult Social Care can coordinate a safeguarding response where this is applicable.
- Housing may need to be involved to explore options for temporary accommodation and neighbourhood housing officers can support existing social housing tenants to explore their options.
- Community Safety can coordinate a multi-agency meeting with the relevant agencies and the Council's legal team to explore the most appropriate course of action where a vulnerable tenant's property has been taken over.
- Police may need to be involved for legal enforcement.
- Other partners, such as mental health, substance misuse and voluntary sector services may also be need to be involved to provide support and minimise risk of reoccurrence.

For full information on how to respond to concerns about cuckooing, please refer to Camden SAPB's Multi-Agency Cuckooing Guidance.