



Introduction to Child & Adult Criminal Exploitation and Cuckooing

CASE STUDY 2: JOHN

You have been asked to visit John, a 73-year-old man whose neighbours have raised concerns about unusual activity at his home. They report frequent visits from unfamiliar young adults at all hours, loud noise, and a noticeable change in John's appearance and demeanour. He has become increasingly withdrawn, anxious, and confused when spoken to, and neighbours feel something "isn't right."

John lives alone and relies solely on his state pension. Although generally independent, he has limited family contact and a small social network. In recent months, individuals began visiting him under the pretence of friendship and support. They initially offered help with chores and shopping, which John welcomed. However, over time, these visits escalated to extended stays, and John has lost control of who enters his home.

The individuals now use John's property as a base for drug-related activity. John feels frightened, trapped, and unable to ask them to leave. He has hinted to neighbours that he "feels unsafe" but is terrified of retaliation if he speaks openly. The referral notes concerns about criminal exploitation, coercion, and significant risks to John's wellbeing.

Question: What are your initial thoughts, and how would you approach your first interaction with John?

At the end of the discussion take 5 minutes to complete the [critical reflection survey](#) and get a certificate of completion.

