



Increase in
substance
misuse

Staying out late or
overnight, or sudden
and often frequent
missing from home
episodes - being
found in locations for
which they have no
known connection

Unexplained
money, gifts
and/ or
clothing



Getting in trouble
with the police
for offences such
as possession of
substances

Spending more
time on social
media and being
secretive about
use

Spotting the Signs a Child is involved in

County Lines

Frequent phone calls
or messages at all
hours which may
trigger an anxious
response

Change in peer group
including older peers/
more secretive about
peer group and how
they spend their time

Unexplained
injuries

Disengagement from
school, hobbies/
interests and peer
group

Change in
personality or
behaviours

Finding large quantities or
drugs, weapons, money
and/or drug related
equipment such as scales,
'deal' bags, basic low cost
mobile phones hidden by
the child





An increase in people entering or leaving a property at all hours of the day and night



An increase in litter outside the property and/ or the property looking unkempt with no attempt to rectify

Signs of drug use from within and/ or outside the property

Suspicious people or vehicles attending the address

An increase of anti-social behaviour from a property

Spotting the Signs of Cuckooing

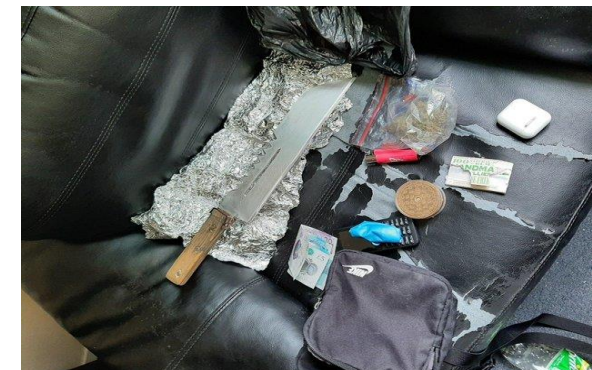
Not seeing a neighbour for a while or they become more distant or present as anxious/ pre-occupied

An unoccupied property such as a holiday let, rental or abandoned building suddenly becomes occupied and unusual activity is noticed within

An increase in vehicles and/ or bikes outside

A noticeable lack of regular visitors e.g. family, health care professionals, friends

An older neighbour suddenly starts having children/ young people attending their property at all hours and/ or is seen driving unknown children/ young people around



Useful Contacts and Further Information

- Police – Emergency 999, Non-Emergency 101
- Crimestoppers – 0800 555 111
- West Berkshire Children and Family Services - 01635 503090 or child@westberks.gov.uk
- *#LookCloser is a partnership campaign between The Children's Society, the National County Lines Co-ordination Centre and the British Transport Police aiming to raise awareness of child exploitation and abuse, with a particular focus on public spaces.
The campaign also seeks to challenge stereotypes of victimhood, highlighting that child exploitation can happen anywhere, and any young person can be a victim.*
<https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-we-do/our-work/child-criminal-exploitation-and-county-lines/spotting-signs>