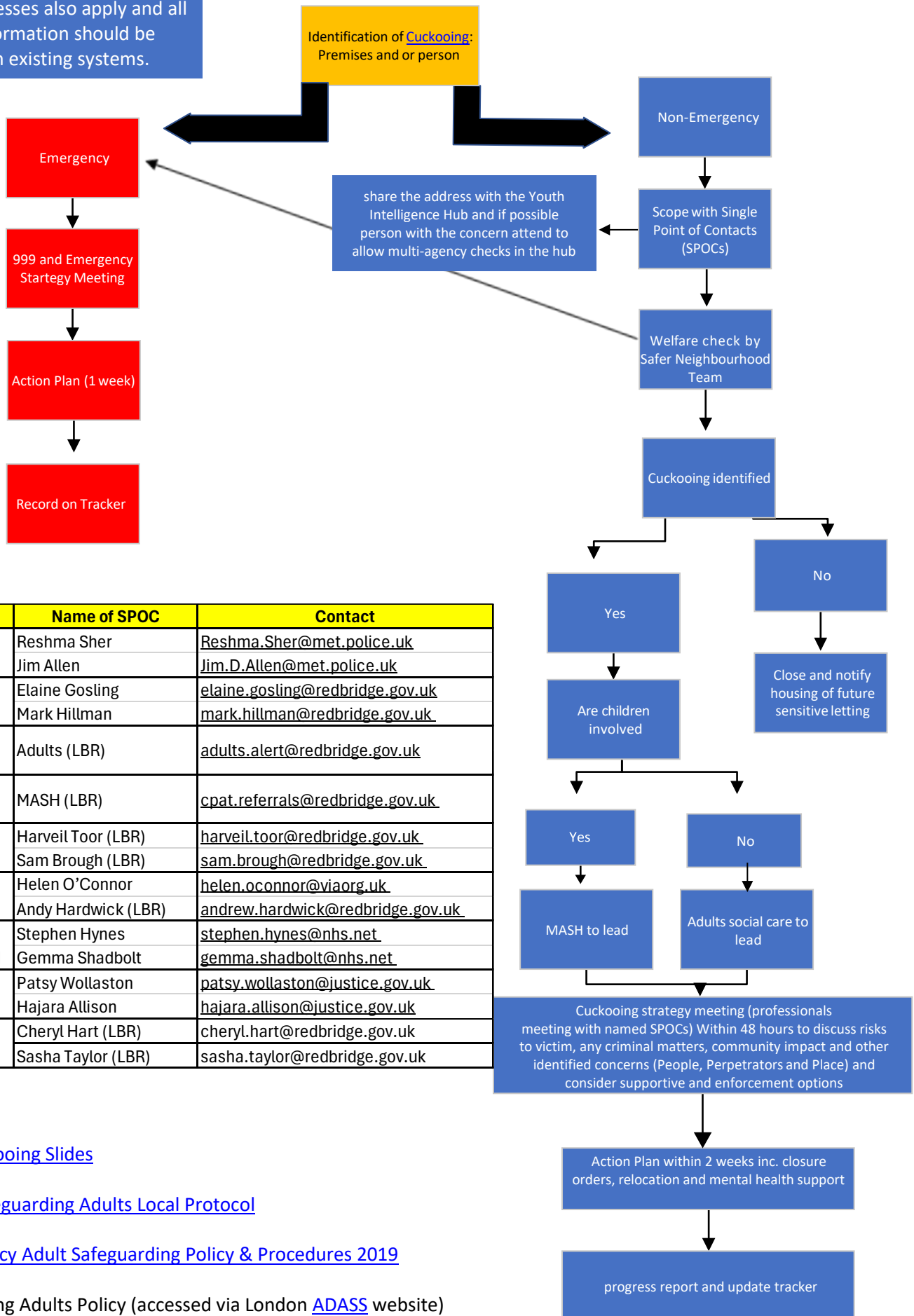


# Redbridge Multi-Agency Cuckooing Process Map V.4



Redbridge Safeguarding Adults

A reminder that this is a form of abuse so existing processes also apply and all relevant information should be recorded on existing systems.



Service	Name of SPOC	Contact
Police (SNT & PPD)	Reshma Sher	<a href="mailto:Reshma.Sher@met.police.uk">Reshma.Sher@met.police.uk</a>
	Jim Allen	<a href="mailto:Jim.D.Allen@met.police.uk">Jim.D.Allen@met.police.uk</a>
Housing	Elaine Gosling	<a href="mailto:elaine.gosling@redbridge.gov.uk">elaine.gosling@redbridge.gov.uk</a>
	Mark Hillman	<a href="mailto:mark.hillman@redbridge.gov.uk">mark.hillman@redbridge.gov.uk</a>
Adults services	Adults (LBR)	<a href="mailto:adults.alert@redbridge.gov.uk">adults.alert@redbridge.gov.uk</a>
Children's services	MASH (LBR)	<a href="mailto:cpat.referrals@redbridge.gov.uk">cpat.referrals@redbridge.gov.uk</a>
Enforcement	Harveil Toor (LBR)	<a href="mailto:harveil.toor@redbridge.gov.uk">harveil.toor@redbridge.gov.uk</a>
	Sam Brough (LBR)	<a href="mailto:sam.brough@redbridge.gov.uk">sam.brough@redbridge.gov.uk</a>
VIA/Alcohol /Drugs Services	Helen O'Connor	<a href="mailto:helen.oconnor@viaorg.uk">helen.oconnor@viaorg.uk</a>
	Andy Hardwick (LBR)	<a href="mailto:andrew.hardwick@redbridge.gov.uk">andrew.hardwick@redbridge.gov.uk</a>
North East London Integrated Care Board	Stephen Hynes	<a href="mailto:stephen.hynes@nhs.net">stephen.hynes@nhs.net</a>
	Gemma Shadbolt	<a href="mailto:gemma.shadbolt@nhs.net">gemma.shadbolt@nhs.net</a>
Probation	Patsy Wollaston	<a href="mailto:patsy.wollaston@justice.gov.uk">patsy.wollaston@justice.gov.uk</a>
	Hajara Allison	<a href="mailto:hajara.allison@justice.gov.uk">hajara.allison@justice.gov.uk</a>
Private	Cheryl Hart (LBR)	<a href="mailto:cheryl.hart@redbridge.gov.uk">cheryl.hart@redbridge.gov.uk</a>
Rented Sector	Sasha Taylor (LBR)	<a href="mailto:sasha.taylor@redbridge.gov.uk">sasha.taylor@redbridge.gov.uk</a>

[MPS CW BCU Cuckooing Slides](#)

[Redbridge SAB Safeguarding Adults Local Protocol](#)

[London Multi-Agency Adult Safeguarding Policy & Procedures 2019](#)

London Safeguarding Adults Policy (accessed via London [ADASS](#) website)

[London Safeguarding Children Procedures](#)

## Cuckooing Process Map Information and Guide

Cuckooing (also known as “forced home invasion”) – is a tactic used by criminals, typically drug dealers, to take over the homes of vulnerable individuals, such as care leavers or those with addiction, physical or mental health issues, and use the property as a base for criminal activity such as drug dealing, sex work and storing weapons. This is a common characteristic of the county lines business model and can occur in a range of settings such as rental and private properties, student accommodation, prisons, and commercial properties<sup>1</sup>

Despite a large increase in incidents of cuckooing it often goes unnoticed or unreported to Police or Local Authorities, this is in part due to a lack of training and understanding of signs of cuckooing by both professionals and the public as well as victims being reluctant to report/ press charges due to fear of repercussions. There needs to be public awareness campaigns to equip the public with the knowledge of signs of cuckooing as well as how and where to report concerns. Professionals especially those in frontline roles also need to be provided with training to spot signs of cuckooing and what processes to follow if cuckooing is suspected and or discovered.<sup>2</sup>

It must be highlighted that some signs of cuckooing may be clear such as an increase in visitors particularly at unusual hours, an increase in vehicles and bikes at or near the property, an increase in anti-social behaviour and less frequent sightings of the occupant and or the occupant appears more distant or anxious as well as clear signs of drug use such as drug paraphernalia and smells coming from or near the property. Other signs may be more subtle so even if you people are unsure if cuckooing is occurring it is important that concerns are reported so it can be investigated and support can be offered to victims<sup>3</sup>

It must be noted that cuckooing isn’t an offence itself but will fall under offences including drug and weapon offences, violence and modern slavery. The following legislation is used in charging and prosecuting cases of cuckooing:

- Serious Crime Act 2015
- Policing and Crime Act 2017
- Modern Slavery Act 2015
- Criminal Exploitation of Children and Vulnerable Adults (2017, 2020)
- Care Act 2014
- Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Children Act 1989

The process map above as well as this guide should provide professionals with an understanding of the process to be followed if cuckooing is suspected and or discovered at an address in Redbridge. It also contains a list of single points of contact (SPOCs) for relevant service areas which will be involved in meetings regarding cuckooing cases.

When using this above process please consider the following points:

- This is a form of abuse so existing safeguarding procedures should also be followed
- Ensure details are accurately recorded on all relevant systems
- Identify a lead professional to own the safeguarding action plan
- Where applicable identify a lead professional who will have regular contact with the victim.

In addition to the SPOCs listed above, it may be relevant to contact the following service areas for further information:

- Benefits/Revenue/Transactions
- Education Welfare
- Youth Offending Service
- London Borough of Redbridge

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-05/Cuckooing%20Report%20Embargoed.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/keeping-safe/community-family/county-lines>