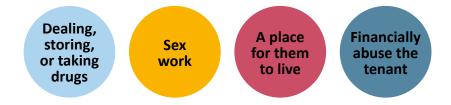# CUCKOOING

John* had lived in a YHG property on his own for several years. However, when we weren't able to carry out an annual gas service, and were refused entry, we saw large piles of just stuff within the property.

John told us that he had two 'friends' staying with him and the stuff was theirs, but when we looked into these people, we discovered that they had previously 'moved in' to another person's YHG property and we had evicted them from there for trespassing, and the state of the property.

Out of concern for John, we arranged another visit with him, and we found that he was living in the lounge, and sleeping on the sofa, surrounded by piles of stuff. He didn't have access to his kitchen or bedroom due to the level of hoarding, and there was also limited access to the bathroom. The property was in a very poor state.

Whilst at John's home, we raised a concern for welfare with the Police as it appeared that he was being taken advantage of. However, John later denied this, so we spoke to safeguarding within Adult Social Care due to concerns of possible 'cuckooing'.

Cuckooing is when someone takes over a person's home and uses it for:

Dealing, storing, or taking drugs   **Sex work**   **A place for them to live**   **Financially abuse the tenant**

It takes the name from cuckoos who take over the nests of other birds.

The following day, along with the Police and Adult Social Care, we visited John and agreed to meet properly at the local safeguarding office. There, John told us that they two people had moved in a year before and taken over his home. He said he was threatened by them and they would take drugs in his home.

We immediately arranged temporary accommodation for John whilst the Police removed the two 'cuckoos'. John actually decided not to return and moved into accommodation for people with support needs, where he feels much better.

*All names have been changed.