



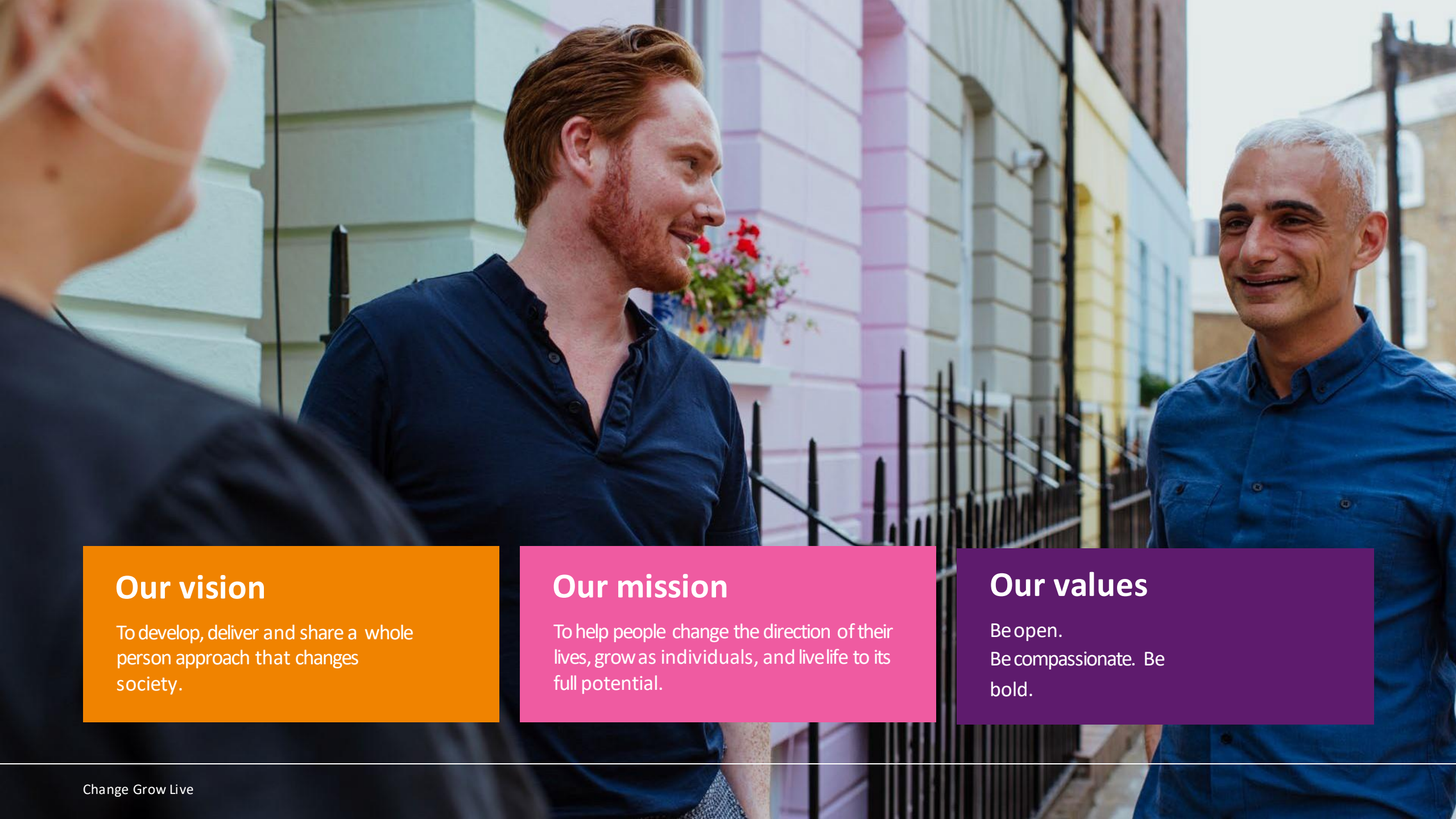
Change Grow Live Peterborough Aspire

Cuckooing



Change
Grow
Live

Believe in people



Our vision

To develop, deliver and share a whole person approach that changes society.

Our mission

To help people change the direction of their lives, grow as individuals, and live life to its full potential.

Our values

Be open.
Be compassionate. Be bold.

Agenda

1. What is cuckooing?
2. Possible signs of cuckooing
3. Case study 1
4. The approach taken in Peterborough to respond to cuckooing cases
5. Case studies 2 & 3
6. Key Learning
7. Questions

A term taken from nature

Cuckoos are known as 'brood parasite's'.

They do not build their own nests, instead they lay their eggs in the nests of other birds and leave those birds to rear the chick when it has hatched.

Once the chick hatches, it pushes out the eggs of the host bird.



Image of a Cuckoo taken from RSPB website at:
<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/cuckoo>

Cuckooing

'Cuckooing' is when a vulnerable person's home is targeted and taken over for the purpose of criminal activity such as drug dealing or hiding weapons etc.

It often involves the vulnerable person being befriended and then exploited for the use of their property. Intimidation tactics are often used which results in the vulnerable person being too scared to report what is happening to anyone.

Cuckooing | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board

(safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk)

Possible signs of cuckooing

- Reports of antisocial behavior at the property such as noise levels or alcohol use.
- Lots of unknown people visiting the property / cars or bikes pulling up outside of the property for short periods.
- Unknown people staying in the property.
- Increase in litter around the property
- Signs of drug using paraphernalia in or around the property – needles / foil / weighing scales.
- Weapons in the property
- Damage to the property.
- Windows being boarded up
- A change in a vulnerable person's presentation – signs of self neglect / presenting as withdrawn.
- A vulnerable person has unexplained injuries.
- A vulnerable person begins to disengage with support – not attending appointments or answering calls.

Case Study 1

- Male aged 50 in own tenancy through local housing provider.
- 20+ year history of co-occurring substance misuse and physical and mental health diagnosis.
- An acquaintance visited the property with a dealer from London selling 'good gear'. Dealer increased frequency of visits to the property and began bringing other people into the property – reduced cost or free drugs.
- Emotional blackmail escalated into physical violence and intimidation.
- The whole property is eventually taken over.
- Long term injury sustained.
- Death occurs in the property.
- Long term hospital admission required for both physical and mental health.

Approach Taken in Peterborough

Operation Spotlight is established....



Operation Spotlight

A 4 P strategic partnership action plan was created which formed:

- **Prepare** - To work in partnership to understand the scale and impact of drug supply and drug related serious street-based violence in Peterborough and the required whole system approach to tackling it. **Led by Cambridgeshire Constabulary**
- **Protect** - To work in partnership to identify those vulnerable due to being involved in drug use/supply/Serious Street Based Violence. To ensure necessary support and services are widely known and available. **Led by Change Grow Live and Public Health**

Operation Spotlight continued

Prevent - To work in partnership to identify, support and divert individuals away from involvement in drug supply and drug related serious street-based violence.

Led by Peterborough City Council

Pursue - To disrupt high harm offenders, drugs lines and organised crime groups involved in drug related crime/ASB/SSBV **Led by Cambridgeshire Constabulary**

Partners involved included Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Peterborough City Council, Change grow live, Public Health, Safeguarding Board, Local Housing Associations, Neighbourhood Watch...

Partnership Action Taken

- Weeks of action – community awareness raising, training delivered, targeted action for addresses where cuckooing was suspected, media campaigns.
- Referral pathway established – MASH and Problem-Solving Group
- Problem Solving Group – partnership forum used to coordinate support plans.
- Learning from others – partners visited Surrey to learn from their response to cuckooing.
- Literature
- Research undertaken through Anglian Ruskin University commissioned by the Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

This work continues to grow including learning taken from Op Spotlight to support the new County Lines Task and Finish Group.

Case Study 2

- Female, 45, in tenancy with local housing provider
- Long term history of substance misuse & poor mental health
- Non-Engagement with services
- Cuckooed – physical assault, threats of violence, intimidation & animal cruelty
- Too fearful to remain in the property, they fled and didn't not return.

What Happened?

- MASH RECEIVED – CGL became aware of concerns, same day appointment offered – supported to complete homeless application, began liaising with housing provider.
- Was moved out of area – fell off script. Rapid re-prescribing on return to Peterborough.
- CGL acts as “trusted person”, liaising between Police, Accommodation Provider & service user.
- Property is cleared – Service user doesn't return and eventually loses accommodation
- Support to complete homeless application, referral to supported accommodation and Dual Diagnosis Outreach Team
- **NOW.... She is in new supported living accommodation, is receiving support from mental health services and is engaged in her recovery.**

Case Study 3

- Male, 25, temporary accommodation in a House of Multiple Occupancy
- History of substance misuse, mental health, exploitation, adverse childhood experiences
- Not engaging with services
- At risk of cuckooing – threats to harm and life, harassment at property, previous harm
- At Risk from others, admitted to hospital after being stabbed

What happened?

- CGL raise with housing & police – new temporary accommodation provide
- “friend” who was considered protective factor is recognised as risk
- Evicted from Temporary accommodation due to behaviour
- Sporadic contact and finally resurfaces
- CGL, housing and police collaborate with a Multi-Agency meeting
- CGL act as trusted person to engage service user with officer from Modern Slavery Unit
- Moved out of area and placed in accommodation
- Became abstinent from illicit substances, living in supported accommodation and engaged with local mental health services.

Key Learning

- Multi Agency Approach – a need for safeguarding recognition across services
- Using the trusted person model is essential to engaging vulnerable service users
- Trauma informed approach and training is key to working with individuals from background of trauma
- Fear is a barrier we need to acknowledge and be flexible with
- Wrap around support calls for a calculated move out of area, not a knee jerk response.
- The person needs to be involved in creating their plan for it to work.

Any Questions, thoughts
or observations?



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