

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 21st February 2021

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Leon Cullen extradited to the UK from United Arab Emirates

A 33-year-old man from Warrington suspected of being the head of a crime group supplying firearms and drugs has been extradited to the UK from the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Leon Cullen – one of Cheshire Constabulary's most wanted – was arrested as a result of a joint operation carried out by Cheshire Constabulary's Serious and Organised Crime Unit, the National Crime Agency (NCA), the North West Regional Organised Crime Unit (NWROCU), Interpol and police authorities in the UAE, assisted by the CPS to secure his successful extradition to the UK. Cullen, who was detained in Dubai on Friday 3 January 2020 after leaving the UK on 10 January 2018, was brought back to the UK by officers from the National Extradition Unit on Friday 19 February. Today (Saturday 20 February) he appeared at Liverpool Magistrates Court in connection with a number of offences including conspiracies to supply firearms, ammunition and class A drugs. He has been remanded in custody until his next appearance at Liverpool Crown Court on Monday 22 March.

Assistant Chief Constable Matt Burton, from Cheshire Constabulary, said: *"We would like to take this opportunity to thank the UAE authorities, and all those involved, for their hard work and commitment to bring Cullen back to the UK."* Deputy Director Tom Dowdall, head of NCA International, said: *"Leon Cullen believed he could evade capture by fleeing to Dubai. However, working with our partners in the UK and the United Arab Emirates, we were able to locate and apprehend him so he could be returned to the UK. This type of global law enforcement cooperation has never been more important to tackling serious and organised crime affecting the UK and I would like to thank the UAE authorities for all their work which led to Cullen's arrest and extradition. Our network of international liaison officers operate across the world and we will continue to work with our policing partners to pursue wanted individuals and ensure nowhere is a safe haven."*

Ten people charged in connection with the importation of illegal drugs

Detectives investigating the importation of illegal drugs have charged 10 people following a series of dawn raids across Cheshire, North Wales and Shropshire. The eight men and two women were all arrested on Thursday 18 February after a series of warrants were executed at 10 addresses in Chester, Whitchurch, Saltney, Frodsham and Tarporley. They have been charged with conspiracy to supply Class B drugs, evading a prohibition on the importation of a Class B drug and money laundering offences.

Below are the details of the 10 defendants:

- Jordan Mehta, 36, of Shrewsbury Street, Prees, near Whitchurch
- Jessica Bowater, 25, of Shrewsbury Street, Prees, near Whitchurch
- Jason Bowater, 25, of Geenfield Park, Saltney
- Ben Pearce, 27, of Kings Drive, Helsby

- Daniel Hewitt, 37, of Elm Close, Tarporley
- Joshua Jones, 25, of Bakers Court, Steam Mill Street, Chester
- Jonathon Williams, 28, of Hornsmill Way, Helsby
- Sean Upton, 25, of no fixed abode
- Melanie Fell, 61, of Cavendish Mews, Hough Green, Chester
- Gary Pennington, 43, of Robin Hood Lane, Helsby

All 10 have been conditionally bailed to appear at Chester Magistrates' Court on Friday 19 March.

Manchester man who broke into Cheshire homes and stole cars jailed

A Manchester man has been jailed after committing burglaries and stealing cars in Cheshire. David Ashton, of Kinmel Walk, Wythenshawe, began his crime spree in the early hours of Monday 30 November, breaking into a house in Wooley Avenue, Poynton, whilst the occupiers were asleep. The 21-year-old located the keys to an Audi car parked outside the address and then stole the vehicle. The incident coincided with a different Audi being abandoned with a flat tyre in Wooley Avenue. That car had been stolen from the Timperley area of Greater Manchester on Sunday 15 November. Ashton returned to Cheshire on Sunday 27 December, entering a house in Walden Close, Grappenhall, Warrington, whilst the occupiers were at home and stealing a handbag containing vehicle keys and bank cards. The bag was found by a taxi driver several days later. It had been discarded near to Junction 7 of the M56, by Manchester International Airport. After stealing the bag from the house in Grappenhall, Ashton was chased on foot by a neighbour of the burglary victims. He managed to flee in a Ford Focus. The car travelled to Wilmslow. An officer spotted a Ford Focus matching the vehicle's description on Altrincham Road in the town at around 11.30pm on Sunday 27 December. He pursued it in his police car before the occupants got out of the vehicle on Park Road and managed to flee on foot. As police searched the area, Ashton broke into a house on Racecourse Road whilst the occupiers were asleep and stole the keys to a BMW and then the car itself. The Ford Focus that was abandoned on Park Road had been stolen from the Cheadle area of Greater Manchester on Christmas Eve, Thursday 24 December. Ashton's downfall came when officers from Greater Manchester Police stopped a Vauxhall Corsa in Wythenshawe on the night of Thursday 7 January. He was in the car. After being arrested and questioned in custody, Ashton was charged with several offences. He pleaded guilty to three counts of burglary and two counts of theft of a motor vehicle. The theft charges related to the Audi and BMW cars that were stolen in the Poynton and Wimslow burglary incidents respectively. Ashton pleaded not guilty to driving that Audi whilst disqualified and two counts of handling stolen goods, in relation to the other Audi and the stolen Ford Focus. He also denied a charge of attempted burglary. That charge related to a back door being damaged at a house in Cobbetts Way in Wilmslow on the night that officers were searching the area following the police pursuit of the Ford Focus. Appearing at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 16 February, Ashton was sentenced to three years and nine months in a young offenders' institution. He was also banned from driving for two years, starting from when he is due to be released from the young offenders' institution, and ordered to pay a £190 victim surcharge. The prosecution agreed that the offences Ashton pleaded not guilty to can remain on file.



Following the sentencing, DC Michael McDermott, who led the investigation into Ashton's offending at a specialist burglary team at Cheshire Constabulary, said: *"David Ashton was travelling to Cheshire to break into homes and subsequently steal the cars parked outside. He successfully entered occupied homes in Poynton, Warrington and Wilmslow at night, stealing cars from two of them and a handbag from the other. It*

is always a deeply upsetting experience being the victim of a burglary, particularly when the incident occurs whilst you are at home. Your home is the place that you should be able to feel most safe. Thankfully, we were able to gather enough evidence to secure convictions against Ashton for all three burglaries. I hope that this, and the fact that Ashton is now behind bars facing the consequences of his actions, gives the victims some closure and provides reassurance for the communities that Ashton targeted. I also hope that this case deters others from travelling to Cheshire to try to commit such offences."

David Keane, police and crime commissioner for Cheshire, added: *"Everyone has the right to feel safe in their own home. Offences like these are traumatic for victims and cause a great deal of distress in our communities. I know that Cheshire Constabulary treats all forms of burglary as a serious offence and that they are investigated as such. It is pleasing to hear of this latest successful result."*

Burglar who assaulted elderly man in Alsager jailed

A 35-year-old man from Alsager has been jailed after breaking into a pensioner's home in the town and assaulting him. Paul McMillan, of Crewe Road, pleaded guilty to burglary and assaulting a person and causing them actual bodily harm. He was sentenced for the offences at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 16 February.

McMillan was jailed for three years and ordered to pay a £190 victim surcharge. The incident occurred at a house on Station Road in Alsager shortly before 6am on Tuesday 10 November. The pensioner was in bed when he heard his doorbell ring twice. He walked downstairs and heard glass being smashed at the back door.

McMillan then entered the house and demanded cash. When the victim attempted to call the police with his house phone, McMillan tried to grab it off him. A scuffle then ensued which resulted in McMillan losing the face mask he had been wearing and pushing the pensioner over. The victim sustained injuries to the lower half of his body as a result of the assault. McMillan then stated that he was in the wrong house and fled through the back door empty-handed. The police were called and an investigation was launched. Traces of McMillan's DNA were found on the face mask he was wearing when he broke into the house. He was arrested on Monday 18 January and admitted to being responsible for the break-in and for the pensioner's injuries when interviewed in custody. McMillan expressed remorse for his actions, claiming that he had consumed a large amount of class A drug cocaine, vodka and prescription medication on the day of the burglary incident and that this had a significant impact on his thought process and behaviour. He was subsequently charged and admitted the offences at his first court appearance, before magistrates in Warrington, on Tuesday 19 January. Following his sentencing, DC Jim Cornish, who led the investigation at Crewe CID, said: *"Paul McMillan subjected the victim to a terrifying ordeal, breaking into his house in the early hours of the morning before assaulting him. Thankfully, the victim only sustained minor injuries as a result of the assault. However, the incident understandably left him extremely shaken up. Our homes are our sanctuaries, the place that we should be able to feel most safe. It must be a traumatic experience for anyone, never mind an elderly man, to be confronted by an intruder in their home. Thankfully, we were able to identify McMillan as the offender via forensic analysis of the face mask he lost at the house. I hope the fact that McMillan has now been convicted of the offences and is behind bars facing the consequences of his actions gives some closure to the victim. I also hope that he can now move forward with his life and that this case deters others from committing similar offences."*



David Keane, police and crime commissioner for Cheshire, added: *"Everyone has the right to feel safe in their own home. I would like to praise the work of the officers involved in this case for establishing the identity of the offender and securing the convictions. I know that officers work extremely hard to protect our*

communities from those who commit such offences and to make our society a safer place, and I hope that the convictions provide reassurance to residents in Alsager and elsewhere in Cheshire.”

Gang responsible for supplying cocaine and heroin in Warrington jailed

A gang responsible for supplying cocaine and heroin with an estimated street value of over £140,000 in Warrington have been jailed for a combined total of more than 20 years. Five members of the county lines supply network known as ‘Titch’ were previously sentenced on Thursday 17 December 2020 at Liverpool Crown Court. The sixth and leading member Thomas Rayment was jailed for six years at a hearing at Liverpool Crown Court on Wednesday 17 February. The operation saw gang members, led by Thomas Rayment, supply cocaine and



heroin to drug users in Warrington during a six-month period from October 2019 and March 2020. Over a series of months, officers from Cheshire Constabulary’s Serious and Organised Crime Unit investigated the gang, witnessing drug deals and monitoring telecoms.

The gang attempted to throw police off the scent by using graft mobile phones and regularly changing vehicles. Over the six month period three different graft numbers were used, these phones were used to advertise drug sales by sending texts to users in Warrington. All of these phones were operated by Nadia Khatib-Shahidi who passed the details of orders on to street dealer Ryan Baker. The drugs would then be transported to Baker’s property by Sheldon Simpson who also collected the cash from the sales. The six were arrested during an early morning strike at addresses in Warrington, Rochdale and Cheetham Hill on Wednesday 27 May 2020 and subsequently charged the following day. Officers also found a stun gun and an encrypted mobile phone after searching Rayment’s car. Once being questioned by detectives Rayment claimed that he earned money from dog breeding however admitted trafficking cannabis at a later date. Rayment, of Brookvale Close, Warrington pleaded guilty to conspiracy to supply class A.

The five other defendants pleaded guilty to conspiracy to supply heroin and cocaine. They were sentenced to:

- Nadia Khatib-Shahidi - Four and half years
- Sheldon Simpson - Four years and four months
- Ryan Baker - Six years
- Matthew Parrack – 20 months suspended
- Callum Davies - Two years and three months

DS Adrian Priest said: *“I welcome the sentence handed down by the courts today. Rayment thought he could get away with bringing his illegal enterprise to Warrington but thanks to the efforts of all involved, we were able to stop him in his tracks and protect the vulnerable in our society. We will continue in our fight against illegal drugs and do all we can to break the cycle of serious and organised crime.”*

Police and Crime Commissioner David Keane said: *"I would like to praise the officers in this case who worked incredibly hard to secure this conviction. This is a great result not only for the Constabulary but for the people of Warrington. This shows that officers will take meaningful action against those who believe they can get away with illegal drug activity in Cheshire."*

Man jailed for 20 months after transit vans were stolen across Cheshire and in Liverpool

A man who was part of a conspiracy to steal transit vans across Cheshire and Liverpool has been jailed. Lee Bird, from Manchester, committed the offences between 12 December 2019 and 13 July 2020. The 31-year-old was involved in stealing two vans in Ellesmere Port, two in Warrington, one in Knutsford and another in Liverpool. The vans were either stolen from the owner's driveway or from outside their homes between the hours of 9.30pm to 11.30pm. The total cost of the vans, including the tools and equipment inside, was estimated to be worth almost £50,000.



During the investigation Bird was identified following CCTV analysis of an Audi A3 which was seen in the area during the times most of the offences occurred. Bird was interviewed on 26 August 2020 and subsequently charged. On Tuesday 16 February at Chester Crown Court Bird was sentenced to 20 months in prison after pleading guilty to conspiracy to steal motor vehicles at an earlier hearing. Detective Constable Stuart Wood, from Ellesmere Port Local Policing Unit, said: *"The victims all worked in the building trade and were dependant on their vans and tools for their livelihoods. Some of the tools and equipment were handed down from previous generations and held a sentimental value which can never be replaced. Unfortunately we have only been able to recover one of the six vans after it was found abandoned a few days later. I also want to take this opportunity to encourage people to consider taking steps to improve their vehicle security by removing all valuable tools and equipment from inside in order to protect them and prevent criminals from stealing their possessions."*

David Keane, Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, said: *"This must have been upsetting for those who have had their work vehicle and tools stolen from them, which were of sentimental value but also part of their livelihood. Crimes like this can have a detrimental impact on victims and the wider community. I know officers work hard to investigate the crimes, and as we have seen in this case, bring them to justice."*

Man jailed for 16 years for sexually abusing two young children

A man who sexually abused two young children has been jailed thanks to the bravery and courage of his victims. Jeffery Hawksworth was sentenced to 16 years in prison after a jury unanimously found him guilty of 17 counts of indecently assaulting a child. The 68-year-old was convicted following a seven day trial at Chester Crown Court which concluded on Tuesday 9 February. Hawksworth, of Lansing Gardens in Derby, was also ordered to sign the sex offenders register for the rest of his life. All of the abuse occurred in the east Cheshire area in the late 1990's and early 2000's, when his victims were both between the ages of six and 11. Following the sentencing, DC Vicky Taylor from Cheshire Constabulary Public Protection Investigations Unit, said: *"Firstly I would like to recognise the bravery and determination that both of the victims have shown throughout this investigation. What Hawksworth put them through is truly horrifying, he systematically abused both children over a number of years in order to fulfil his own sexual gratification. Not only that, but he also made his victims endure a trial and recount what he had done to them, which was extremely distressing. But thanks to their courage, he is now facing the consequences of his actions. The*

sentence handed to Hawksworth reflects the severity of his crime and I hope that his conviction will encourage other victims to come forward. As this case demonstrates, we treat all reports of historic sexual offences seriously and we will always do our best to ensure offenders are brought to justice."

David Keane, Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, said: *"It is vitally important that victims of sexual abuse come forward and talk about what happened to them so justice can be served on perpetrators of sexual abuse. Anyone who has been a victim of sexual abuse – no matter how long ago the incident took place – is urged to come forward and report it. I will continue to work with victims to ensure they are listened to and are provided with the relevant specialist support that they need."*

Man jailed following attempted burglary in Widnes

A man who attempted to break into a home in Widnes has been jailed for two years. At around 12.30am on Monday 21 September two men attempted to break into an address on Halebank Road via an insecure rear window. The homeowners were asleep in bed at the time of the incident but were woken by their dog barking. At the time they didn't think anything of it and went back to sleep. However, the following morning they decided to look at their CCTV footage and found images of two men attempting to access their home before fleeing the scene empty handed. The incident was reported to officers at Widnes Beat Initiative Team who launched an investigation and shared the images with neighbouring forces in a bid to identify the pair. As a result an officer from Merseyside police positively identified one of the suspects as 29-year-old Michael Miller. Following the identification officers made a number of attempts to arrest Miller but he became evasive in an attempt to avoid justice. Following repeated arrest attempts officers decided to appeal to the public in a bid to trace him. He was subsequently located by officers in Merseyside in a Taxi on Queens Drive, Liverpool, on Monday 21 December. Miller was arrested at the scene and later charged with attempted burglary. He appeared at Liverpool Crown Court on Friday 12 February where he pleaded guilty to the charge. Miller, of Eversley, Widnes, was sentenced to two years in prison and ordered to pay £156 victims surcharge. Following the sentencing PC Chris Bosward, who led the investigation, said: *"This is a fantastic result and I hope it provides reassurance to the local community and some closure to the victims. While the offenders were unsuccessful in their attempts to break into the address, to go through such an experience is extremely traumatic and it can have lasting repercussions. Throughout the investigation Miller has done all could in his failed attempts to avoid justice, but as a result of our determination and partnership work with neighbouring forces he is now facing the consequences of his actions. I would like to take this as an opportunity thank all those who came forward and provided information during the investigation and helped us to locate Miller."*

Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner David Keane added: *"I would like to thank all of the officers involved in this case for their dedication and hard work. Everyone has the right to feel safe in their own home - to be a victim of burglary or attempted burglary is a deeply upsetting experience. I hope that the outcome of the investigation provides reassurance to residents in Widnes and also acts as a warning to anyone looking to commit such crimes."*

County lines drug dealing tackled in successful week of action

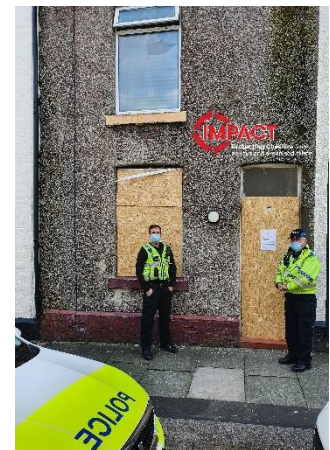
Several people were arrested during a week of action to tackle county lines drug dealing in Cheshire. Operation Expel saw officers across the county step up their already considerable efforts to bring county lines drug dealers to justice and protect vulnerable people from being exploited. Running from Monday 8 February to Friday 12 February, the bulk of the proactive activities took place in Halton.

DI Eleanor Atkinson, who oversaw the operation at Cheshire Constabulary, said: *“County lines drug dealing involves organised crime groups based in major cities or urban areas extending their criminal enterprises into more rural locations. They often recruit and coerce children and vulnerable adults to sell illegal drugs for them. The actions of these organised crime groups and the drugs that they supply causes untold damage to the direct victims, as well as to the wider communities who suffer from the resulting crime. The week of action, which saw numerous warrants executed, class A drugs seized, several people arrested and vulnerable children and adults safeguarded, was part of our ongoing commitment to tackling county lines drug dealing in Cheshire head on, utilising all the resources at our disposal.”*

The highlights of the operation included:

- A quantity of heroin was seized by officers who executed a warrant at an address in Alton Street in Crewe and three people – a 47-year-old man from Crewe, a 36-year-old woman from Crewe and a 35-year-old woman from Nantwich – were arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply the class A drug
- Quantities of heroin and crack cocaine were seized during a raid at an address in Gorran Haven, Brookvale, Runcorn, and two people – a 48-year-old woman from Runcorn and a 23-year-old man from Liverpool – were arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the supply of the class A drugs
- Information supplied about drug dealing in Crewe led to a 17-year-old boy from Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent, being arrested in Hanley in Stoke-on-Trent and being charged with being concerned in the supply of heroin, possession of criminal property and possession of class B drug cannabis
- A 27-year-old man from Widnes was arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply class A drug cocaine and class B drug cannabis following a stop and search on Kendal Road in the town and subsequent searches of properties linked to him
- A 40-year-old man from Widnes was arrested in the Kendal Road area of the town on suspicion of possession with intent to supply heroin and crack cocaine
- A three-month closure order was imposed on a house in Bower Street, Widnes, in response to persistent anti-social behaviour and reports of drug dealing and violence at the address.

PC Ian Harrison, left, and PCSO Stephen Marnick outside the house in Bower Street, Widnes, that has been closed for three months. DI Atkinson added: *“We are pleased with how the week of action went. The warrants we executed, the illegal drugs we seized and the arrests we made will have significantly disrupted criminal activity. However, it wasn’t just about catching criminals and stepping up our efforts to bring them to justice via the courts. A big part of the week of action was about identifying and safeguarding vulnerable children and adults who are controlled, coerced and manipulated into dealing drugs on behalf of others, and subsequently offering them the support that they require to get away from criminal activity and lead a better life. There was also a focus on educating people, particularly children and vulnerable adults, about the dangers of county lines drug dealers so that they have the information they need to avoid becoming victims. We worked with partner agencies for much of this work. People who have previously had their homes taken over by drug dealers through the use of violence and threats, in an activity known as cuckooing, were visited for welfare checks, as were other vulnerable addresses. Leaflets and letters about county lines drug dealing were distributed. We also made arrangements for schools and taxi companies to educate their pupils and drivers respectively about the dangers and signs of county lines drug dealing, and gave them suitable literature on the subject. Members of the Chester Local Policing Unit (LPU) visited the Blacon Adventure Playground and*



arranged to give county lines information training to everyone who works with young people at the community hub. However, the majority of the work during the week of action was done in Halton (Runcorn and Widnes). The Halton Complex Team visited several young people who are believed to be involved in county lines drug operations, or heading that way. The team spoke to them and their parents about the dangers involved and detailed the help and support that is available. The Runcorn and Widnes LPU's worked with housing associations and a drugs and alcohol support agency to give vulnerable people help, support and advice. Joint visits were conducted at the homes of people who have been identified as being at risk of cuckooing, to educate and safeguard them. In Runcorn, as well as visiting taxi companies, officers drafted letters and leaflets to local leasing companies to make them aware of the indicators of county lines drug dealing and cuckooing. In Widnes a survey was conducted at a housing estate to better understand community issues and develop intel, and a fireproof letterbox was fitted at an address due to safety concerns."

David Keane, police and crime commissioner for Cheshire, added: *"I would like to thank all the officers and the partner agencies involved in this operation. As police and crime commissioner for Cheshire, I know that officers work tirelessly in their fight against county lines drug dealers and those who exploit and manipulate vulnerable adults and children to aid their criminal enterprises. The week of action is a great example of how the police and partner agencies can work together to tackle serious and organised crime, which has no place in our communities, and identify and safeguard vulnerable children and adults to stop them from being exploited."* DI Atkinson added: *"Our aim is to drive county lines drug dealing out of Cheshire and we will continue to work with partner agencies to do everything in our power to protect residents from organised crime groups. However, we also need support from the public. We need residents to be our eyes and ears by looking out for, and reporting, suspicious behaviour and signs of children and vulnerable adults being taken advantage of by organised criminals. If you have any information that may help us to build more intelligence regarding county lines drug dealing, bring offenders to justice and keep vulnerable members of our communities safe then please get in touch."*

For details of how to spot the signs of county lines drug dealing and cuckooing, visit <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/cl/county-lines>. Any information regarding drug dealing in your community, no matter how small, should be reported to Cheshire Constabulary on 101, or via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>. Alternatively, you can contact independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



From left, PCSOs Tony Icke and Joanne Pendrey, Rage Fitness CEO Craig Brown, Blacon Adventure Playground Manager Sandra Hewitt and Youth Leader Lisa Pritchard during the playground visit

Two people charged with class A drug dealing offences following Macclesfield raid

Two people from Greater Manchester have been charged with drug dealing offences after quantities of what are believed to be heroin and crack cocaine were seized from a house in Macclesfield. Milo Stanley – a 24-

year-old man of Old Chapel Street, Edgeley, Stockport – and Tia Ingham – an 18-year-old woman of Eadington Street, Manchester – were arrested in Park Lane, Macclesfield, on the afternoon of Friday 12 February. The pair have since both been charged with two counts of possession with intent to supply class A drugs (heroin and crack cocaine). The charges relate to a warrant that was executed at a house in Park Lane, Macclesfield, that afternoon. Stanley and Ingham both appeared at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Monday 15 February. Stanley was remanded in custody and Ingham was released on conditional bail. They are both set to appear at Chester Crown Court on Monday 15 March. A 39-year-old man from Manchester was also arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply class A drugs following the raid. He has been released on conditional bail pending further enquiries.

£30,000 seized and drugs recovered following warrant in Chester

Officers from Chester Local Policing Unit have recovered more than £30,000 along with a quantity of Class B drugs following a warrant in Blacon. At around 5pm on Friday 12 February officers from Chester CID, supported by Special Constables and officers from the Policing Alliance attended an address on Adelaide Road to conduct a drugs raid. As officers approached the address four men were seen fleeing the scene, as they did so the men disposed of a holdall which was found to contain a quantity of cash and class B drugs (Cannabis). Further cash and cannabis were also located inside the property. Three of the men who fled the scene were subsequently arrested nearby on suspicion of being concerned in the supply of class B drugs. The men, aged 24, 25 and 34, have been released under investigation pending further enquiries.

DI Nick Henderson said: *"This is a fantastic result, not only have we seized more than £30,000 but we've also seized a large quantity of Class B drugs which were undoubtedly destined for the streets of Chester. The corrosive effect that illegal drugs have on our communities is well known and we are committed to tackling the problem and targeting those involved. As part of our ongoing fight, information from the public is vital and I would urge anyone with any information in relation to illegal drug use in their community to get in touch on 101 or visit <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>."*

David Keane, police and crime commissioner for Cheshire, said: *"Illegal drugs have a hugely detrimental impact on our communities and it's great to see some of the proactive work taking place to ensure that those responsible are held accountable. I would like to thank all the officers involved in this warrant for their hard work helping to remove a quantity of drugs from the streets of Chester."*

Information can also be reported anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

Man charged following Chester burglary

Detectives investigating a burglary at the home of a vulnerable resident in Chester have charged a man in connection with the incident. Stephen Deerin was arrested on Friday 12 February in relation to a burglary at an address on Heron Place, Chester, which occurred between 3 and 7 February. The 49-year-old, also of Heron Place, Chester, was subsequently charged with burglary and theft. Deerin appeared at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Saturday 13 February where he was remanded in custody. He is next set to appear at Chester Crown Court on Friday 12 March.

Have your say on the use of ANPR technology

Residents across Cheshire are being invited to have their say on the use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology in policing. ANPR technology is used by police forces and law enforcement agencies to help detect, deter and disrupt criminality, including tackling travelling criminals, Organised Crime

Groups and Terrorists and to protect vulnerable people. The system uses a network of cameras situated on the road network across the country which record the details of all passing vehicles, including those of vehicles that are not known to be of interest at the time of the read that may in appropriate circumstances be accessed for investigative purposes. This data provides officers with vital lines of enquiry and evidence in the investigation of crime.

Chief Superintendent Martin Cleworth said: *"The data provided by the ANPR system is totally invaluable and has proved vital in a number of major investigations, ranging from murders and organised crime gangs to burglaries and missing people. However, when using such a system it is essential that we seek the views and experiences of the general public, to help ensure that we are able to deliver a meaningful strategy for the use of ANPR in policing. I would urge residents across the county to log-on and complete this short on-line survey to help us determine how ANPR technology is used in future. The survey will only take a couple of minutes to complete and it could make a real difference."*

Anyone looking to take part is urged to visit the [ANPR survey](#).

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Appeal following burglary at Widnes Cricket Club

Officers investigating a burglary at a cricket club in Widnes are appealing for information from members of the public. Three people wearing dark clothing and hooded tops with the hoods up broke into garages at Widnes Cricket Club on Beaconsfield Road at around 8pm on Saturday 13 February. They stole a number of items, including a large petrol-powered lawnmower that is used for cutting pitches. The offenders also stole two standard lawnmowers, a power generator, a leaf blower and a backpack trimmer. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and officers are urging anyone with any information or footage that may aid their investigation to get in touch.

PC Jamie Chambers, of Widnes Local Policing Unit, said: *"We are doing everything we can to establish the identities of the offenders, make them face the consequences of their actions and have the stolen items returned to the cricket club. Enquiries are ongoing and we want to hear from anyone who was in the area and believes that they may have seen the offenders or anything else that may help our investigation. Although the items were stolen shortly after 8pm on Saturday 13 February, at around 5.30pm that day two people wearing dark clothing and hooded tops with the hoods up trespassed at the cricket club. They looked around the club before leaving. A red Nissan Micra was in the area when the burglary took place later on. However, a larger vehicle such as a van will have been needed to transport the stolen items away from the cricket club. With the information we have, we want to speak to anyone who witnessed anything suspicious in the Beaconsfield Road, Pit Lane and Derby Road areas of Widnes between 4.45pm and 8.30pm that day. We also want to talk to anyone who believes that they may have information or CCTV or dashcam footage regarding the offenders, the Nissan Micra or a larger vehicle that may have been involved in the burglary. The same goes for anyone with information in connection with the whereabouts of the stolen items."*

Anyone with information or footage that could be relevant to the investigation is asked to call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting incident number 21000097126, give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report> or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Police in Alsager appeal for information after suspicious incident

Police are appealing for information following a suspicious incident in Alsager. At around 6pm on 15 February a 16-year-old girl was walking onto Audley Road from the alleyway at the top of Meadowcroft when she became aware of a man behind her. He walked past her but appeared to be staring at her and tried to engage her in conversation. The teenager walked away from him but he continued to follow and try to speak with her. She was scared by his behaviour and went to a nearby house to seek help and police were informed. The man was last seen walking towards the golf course. The suspect is described as 5ft 7 to 5ft 11, white, aged in his mid 30's with dark brown, short hair, and a dark brown beard. His hair was not styled. He was wearing a 'Bomber' jacket with no hood which was dark grey and what looked like a burgundy shirt. He also had dark grey/black coloured jeans. She could only describe his accent as 'foreign'. PC Kerrie Cummings said: *"Despite the teenager clearly looking alarmed by this man's constant attention and attempts to speak with her he continued leaving her afraid of the situation she was in. While we don't know what his intentions were he was clearly not concerned about the affect he was having. We made a search of the area at the time but did not locate anyone matching the description so we are making further enquiries in the area. If you have any information or you see suspicious behaviour, please contact us."*

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via www.cheshire.police.uk quoting IML 918405. Alternatively information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

Man wanted in connection to threats made to Frodsham resident

Police are asking the public to help trace a 32-year-old man who is wanted in connection to threats made to a Frodsham resident. As well as Frodsham, James Jones has links to Chester, Helsby and Winsford. Jones is white and 6' 2" tall. He has a stocky build, very short brown hair and brown eyes. Anyone who sees Jones, or has information regarding his whereabouts, is asked to call Cheshire Constabulary immediately on 101, quoting IML 889990.

Alternatively, information can be given anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Appeal for witnesses following incident in Ellesmere Port

Detectives are appealing for information from the public following an incident in Ellesmere Port in which a man sustained serious injuries to his leg. At around 1.30pm on Sunday 14 February officers were called to reports of an incident on a service road off Briarfield Road. Officers attended and found a man who had sustained serious injuries to his leg. The 23-year-old local man was taken to hospital, his injuries are not believed to be life threatening. Detective Constable Michelle Flanagan said: *"Enquiries in relation to this incident are in the early stages and we are trying to establish exactly what has taken place. As part of our enquiries we are keen to hear from anyone who witnessed the incident or anyone with any information which may aid our investigation. The incident itself occurred in a service road off Briarfield Road and at the time of the occurrence there were two vehicles present – a black Vauxhall Corsa and a silver Vauxhall Corsa. As part of the investigation I'm keen to hear from anyone in the local area with any CCTV or dashcam footage of the cars travelling to or leaving the scene – it's likely that they will have travelled along Princes Road or Enfield Road. I'd urge anyone with any information, no matter how small to contact the team here at Ellesmere Port."*

Anyone with any information is asked to call 101 quoting IML 917540 or visit <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>. Information can also be reported anonymously, Via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Police appeal for witnesses following serious collision in Barthomley

Police are appealing for witnesses following a two vehicle collision on the A500 in Barthomley. At about 6.30pm on Friday 12 February a grey Renault Master van was in collision with a white Fiat Punto. The driver of the Punto, a 53-year-old woman from Crewe, was taken to Royal Stoke hospital where she remains in a serious but stable condition. PC Geraint Williams said: *"I'd urge anyone who has any information on the collision to contact us. We are especially interested in any dash cam footage that motorists may have available of the collision and – or - the events leading up to it."*

Anyone with information should contact PC Geraint Williams in the Serious and Complex Collision Investigation Unit by calling 101 or going to www.cheshire.police.uk and quoting IML 916373. Information can also be passed anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

To find out further information about the Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association, to log into your account or for Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Literature please visit our website: <http://cheshire.ourwatch.org.uk/>