

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 3 August 2025

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Man jailed for dealing drugs in Ellesmere Port

A man has been jailed for dealing drugs in Ellesmere Port.

Gareth Lancaster, from Hawthorn Road, Ellesmere Port appeared at Chester Crown Court on 31 July to be sentenced after pleading guilty to being concerned in supply of cocaine, possession with intent to supply a controlled drug of Class B (Cannabis) and possession with intent to supply a controlled Class C drug (Diazepam) at an earlier hearing. The 37-year-old was sentenced to three years in prison.



The court heard that on Sunday 10 December 2023 at approximately 7.44pm, a vehicle - KIA V'eed was stopped by officers on Himalayan Birch Close due to the erratic driving behaviour. Lancaster initially gave false details. The vehicle was checked on police systems and came back registered to another man who stated that Lancaster took his vehicle without permission, but he didn't want to make a complaint to police.

Due to Lancaster's demeanour during the stop check, he was breathalysed and drugs wiped, both were negative. However, due to a strong smell of cannabis coming from the vehicle, he and the vehicle were searched by officers under section 23 of the misuse of drugs act. Officers found a white plastic bag filled with large quantity of snap bags of cannabis, a mobile phone, 28 Diazepam tablets belonging that weren't prescribed to him. He was then arrested. Further enquiries established Lancaster had been selling both cannabis and cocaine to a number of customers.

DC Matthew Speak said: *"Lancaster is now paying the price for his illegal drug activity thanks to local patrols spotting his driver behaviour and persisting in their questioning. We're out there 24/7 proactively policing the streets of Ellesmere Port as well as acting on information given to us by the public, and we will continue to do so to keep people safe and put those committing crimes through the justice system."*

Another anti-social behaviour hotspot closed in Chester

Police in Chester have secured a partial closure order following reports of drug abuse, violence and anti-social behaviour at a property in the town.

The flat on Granville Road has been shut down by officers following the securing of a partial closure order under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 from Chester Magistrates' Court on 30 July. The order now has banned the occupant of the flat from the premises but also prevents anyone other than the residents of the



remaining flats from entering the whole premises. This will prevent any ongoing attendance at the location by the former resident or any of his associates. The order, which came into effect from on 30 July will run for three months and is a direct result of officers responding to the concerns of residents regarding the behaviour at the property including drug use/dealing, antisocial behaviour, and violence.

Residents in the local area provided sufficient evidence of the issues coming from the address and was an example of great communication between officers and the local community that lead to securing the three-month order. The occupant has since been ordered to leave the property and find alternative accommodation, with all windows and doors being secured for a period of three months. Anyone who enters the address during that time will be committing a criminal offence and could be arrested.

PC Dan Pheasey said: *"This is the 20th order we've put in place in 18 months to clamp down on ASB and illegal activity. I hope it shows we really are dedicated to keeping our neighbourhoods and their residents safe. I hope it encourages others to work with us to make their communities safer for everyone. I want to urge anyone with concerns about ASB or other criminality in their community to please contact local officers and we will do everything we can to address these issues and achieve justice."*

Anyone with concerns about anti-social or suspicious behaviour in their area is asked to report it to Cheshire Police via the Cheshire Police website or call 101.

Two teenagers arrested following fail to stop collision in Chester

Detectives' investigating a fail to stop collision outside a primary school in Chester have arrested another two teenagers in relation to the incident.

The two 17-year-old boys from Chester, were both arrested earlier today, Wednesday 30 July, on suspicion of causing serious injury by dangerous driving, obstruct police and assisting an offender. An electric motorcycle was also recovered during the arrests.

The arrests follow an incident at around 3.20pm on Tuesday 22 July, when a 5-year-old boy was involved in a collision with a blue electric bike on Wealstone Lane, outside Mill View Primary School. The rider and passenger from the bike both failed to stop and made off from the area. The boy was taken to the Countess of Chester Hospital with serious injuries.

A 16-year-old boy from Saughall was arrested on Tuesday 22 July, in relation to the incident, after presenting himself at Blacon Police Station. The teenager was held on suspicion of causing serious injury by dangerous driving, failing to stop following a collision, driving without a licence, and driving without insurance. He has since been released under investigation.

Following the arrests, DS Russ Sime, from the Serious Collision Investigation Unit said: *"Once again, I would like to thank the local community for all the support and information provided so far in relation to this incident. We understand the impact that this incident has had, and I hope that the three arrests will provide some reassurance for the local community. I'm also pleased to say that the*

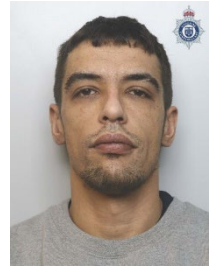
victim from the case has now been released from hospital and is recovering at home. As our investigation continues, we're keen to hear from anyone who witnessed the incident, or anyone with any video footage that may aid the investigation."

Anyone with any information is asked to call Cheshire police on 101 or visit www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us, quoting IML 2138673. Information can also be reported anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Man jailed after burgling homes of elderly people

A man who burgled the homes of vulnerable and elderly people has been jailed.

Michal Duda, of Stalbridge Road, Crewe, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 29 July where he was sentenced to 57 months. The 32-year-old had previously pleaded guilty to burglary, theft of a motor vehicle, handling stolen goods, driving while disqualified, possession of cannabis and driving without insurance.



On 24 January 2025 at around 7.30pm, Cheshire Police received reports of a burglary in Gainsborough Road, Crewe. Officers attended the address, belonging to a 79-year-old man who was not at home, and identified a smashed window to the side of the property. A man – later identified as Duda - could be seen in the upstairs window by officers and loud crashes were occasionally heard from inside the building.

Officers forced entry into the property and conducted a full search of the address which had been ransacked by Duda. He was eventually found hiding under some duvets in the cupboard below the stairs in the hallway. Duda was arrested on suspicion of burglary, and he tried to claim he had keys to the address. It was believed he had damaged a key safe outside of the property to ascertain them. A number of keys, £30 in cash, low value jewellery, spoons and other decorative items were found in his pockets.

Despite then being on bail for the serious offence while officers conducted further enquiries, Duda targeted another address just weeks later. The second victim was a 72-year-old man. On 21 February 2025, he returned to his address in Badger Avenue, Crewe, after visiting a family member in hospital, to find it had been burgled. Items stolen included between £250 and £300 in cash, a purse, an iPad and keys to a Hyundai vehicle which had also been taken. The vehicle was located in an alleyway near to Stalbridge Road, Crewe, the following day. CCTV footage showed a man, identified as Duda (who was disqualified from driving) coming to and from the car. A fingerprint recovered from the address also provided a match to Duda. He was subsequently circulated as wanted.

During this time, a third incident occurred at an address in Gresty Road, Crewe, at some time between 5 March and 7 March 2025, the victim being an 87-year-old man who was in hospital at the time. Damage was caused to the rear door of the property and a search was made of the inside of the address. Duda was arrested on 10 April 2025 by West Yorkshire Police and a search was conducted of his address at the time. Among the items recovered were a large boat figurine and

vintage coins, which had been stolen from the address in Gresty Road, linking Duda to this incident. Duda was subsequently charged in relation to the three offences. He was previously fined for the possession of cannabis offence.

DS Kevin Williams said: *“Duda targeted the properties of elderly and vulnerable people, violating their homes – the place they should be able to feel safe and secure. Even after being arrested for one offence and bailed to allow for further enquiries to be carried out, he continued to offend and attempted to avoid being arrested by officers. However, thanks to teamwork from across Cheshire Police and with help from another force, Duda is now facing a lengthy spell behind bars. I hope the conclusion of this case will help reassure the victims and residents nearby of how seriously we take crimes of this nature.”*

Man charged with weapons offences following incident in Widnes

Officers have charged a 36-year-old man with several offences following an incident in Widnes.

John Wilcocks was arrested at around 8.28pm on Monday 28 July. The 36-year-old has since been charged with possession of an offensive weapon in a public place using threatening or abusive words or behaviour with the intent to cause fear. Wilcocks has been remanded in custody to appear at Chester Magistrates’ Court on Wednesday 30 July. The charges relate to an incident that occurred in the Breck Road area of Widnes on Monday 28 July.

Local Policing Newsletters Summer 2025

Below you can read all about your local area in our Local Policing newsletters from your beat officers.

Chester LPU	
Congleton LPU	Congleton Newsletter Summer 2025.pdf Congleton Sandbach Newsletter Summer 2025.pdf
Crewe LPU	Crewe Central Newsletter Summer 2025.pdf Crewe East Newsletter Summer 2025.pdf Crewe South Newsletter Summer 2025.pdf Nantwich Newsletter Summer 2025.pdf
Ellesmere Port LPU	Ellesmere Port East Newsletter Summer 2025.pdf Ellesmere Port Rural Newsletter Summer 2025.pdf Ellesmere Port West Newsletter Summer 2025.pdf
Macclesfield LPU	Macclesfield North Poynton Newsletter Summer 2025.pdf Macclesfield South Newsletter Summer 2025.pdf Knutsford Newsletter Summer 2025.pdf Wilmslow Newsletter Summer 2025.pdf
Northwich LPU	Runcorn East Newsletter Summer 2025.pdf Runcorn West Newsletter Summer 2025.pdf
Runcorn LPU	
Warrington LPU	Warrington Central Newsletter Summer 2025.pdf Warrington East Newsletter Summer 2025.pdf

	Warrington North Newsletter Summer 2025.pdf Warrington South Newsletter Summer 2025.pdf Warrington West Newsletter Summer 2025.pdf
Widnes LPU	Widnes Inner Newsletter Summer 2025.pdf Widnes Outer Newsletter Summer 2025.pdf

Appeal for witnesses following fail to stop collision in Chester

Police are appealing for witnesses and video footage following a fail to stop collision in Chester.

Sometime between 2.50am and 3.30am on Sunday 27 July, a 21-year-old man from Woodchurch, Merseyside, was walking on the pavement over Grosvenor Bridge when he was hit by an unknown car. The vehicle is believed to have been travelling from the city centre, towards Overleigh roundabout at the time the collision. The man was taken to the Countess of Chester Hospital following the incident, his injuries are not believed to be serious.

Sgt Jon Dixon, of the Roads and Crime Unit at Cheshire Police, said: *“Enquiries in relation to this incident are in the early stages and we’re doing all that we can to establish what took place. As part of our investigation we’re keen to hear from anyone who was in the area and may have witnesses what took place. The same goes for anyone with any dashcam or CCTV footage which may aid the investigation.”*

Anyone with any information is asked to call Cheshire Police on 101, or visit www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us, quoting IML 2142056. Information can also be reported anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Latest Cheshire Appeals

CCTV Images release following burglary at Chester bar

Officers have released CCTV images of two men they are keen to identify following a burglary at a bar in Chester.

At around 12.15am on Sunday 18 May, two unknown men gained entry to a residential flat within ‘Off the Wall’ in Chester city centre. The pair began to search the premises but were disturbed by a dog and fled the scene empty handed.



CCTV 1

CCTV 2

Enquiries in relation to the incident have been ongoing and officers have now released CCTV images of two men they are looking to speak to as part of the investigation.

Police Constable James Wright, of Chester Proactive CID said: *“Enquiries in relation to this incident are ongoing and we’re committed to doing all we can to identify the people responsible. As part of our investigation we’re keen to identify the men in the CCTV images as we believe they may hold*

vital information. If you recognise the men, please contact us. I would also like to appeal directly to the men in the CCTV images to get in touch."

Anyone with information is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101, or at www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us, quoting IML 2094183.

Investigation launched following suspected arson in Ellesmere Port

Officers have launched an investigation following a fire at a disused building in Ellesmere Port.

At around 6.51pm on Friday 1 August, emergency services were called to reports of a fire at a disused building on Chester Road, Ellesmere Port. Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service (CFRS) remain in attendance at the scene. Thankfully, there were no reports of any injuries. The cause of the fire is believed to be deliberate, and police are now appealing for information and video footage from members of the public.

DC Sean Harris said: *"The fire is being treated as arson and our investigation is ongoing to identify who was responsible. Enquiries are in the early stages and as part of the investigation I would ask anyone who was in the area and believes they may have seen anything suspicious to get in touch. The same goes for anyone with any CCTV or dash cam footage that may aid the investigation."*

Anyone who has information is asked to contact Cheshire police on 101 or [visit the website](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us) quoting IML 2145847. Information can also be provided anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)

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