

# Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

## Week ending 18 May 2025

### Cheshire News & Appeals



#### Latest Cheshire News

##### **Diary of a drug dealer exposes multi-kilo supply network**

Two men caught facilitating the supply of cocaine and cannabis through their use of an encrypted messaging service have been jailed.

Michael Sherwood, 53, and Simon Johnson, 43, used codenames 'Rooftile' and 'Rockethawk' while accessing EncroChat, a secretive communications network used exclusively by serious and organised criminals. The bespoke service was cracked by international law enforcement in May 2020.



The pair were caught by detectives from the Serious and Organised Crime Unit (SOCU) following an analysis of their encrypted data where they discussed buying and selling bulk quantities of cocaine and cannabis, between March and June 2020. They conspired with their Liverpool based upstream supplier, who went by the codename 'Alissonbecker', to conduct the onward supply of at least six kilos of cocaine during this period, with a further three kilos agreed with another upstream supplier and awaiting delivery, at the end of the EncroChat capture period.

During the investigation, detectives were able to access the detailed accounts kept by 'Alissonbecker', namely Excel spreadsheets, which evidenced the exact quantity that had been supplied to Sherwood and Johnson, as well as the total bill owed, the number of repayments, and the outstanding balance. On Wednesday 8 April 2020, Johnson, (AKA 'Rockethawk') had arranged to buy one kilo of cocaine from 'Alissonbecker' for £42,000. Johnson's EncroChat data documents that he then sold this onto his downstream customers for £44,000. This transaction occurred six times in total as displayed in the messages between Johnson and 'Alissonbecker'.

As well as cocaine, Sherwood and Johnson were involved in the supply of up to 103 kilos of cannabis. The pair had a number of upstream suppliers, including 'Allisonbecker', whose spreadsheet confirmed he had supplied the defendants with 35 kilos of cannabis. Johnson also bought 10 kilos of cannabis from another supplier, paying £5,500 per kilo. Sherwood would assist with this logistics of collecting the drugs and the onward distribution. The data captured allowed detectives to identify that Johnson led the operation and employed Sherwood as an associate to assist him with facilitating the significant drug deals between upstream and downstream suppliers. Johnson was trusted by his upstream suppliers to accrue large debts by obtaining drugs on credit.



The spreadsheet kept by 'Allisonbecker' highlighted that Johnson had owed a total of £371,800, and that he had made repayments to the amount of £283,455.

Johnson and Sherwood were both arrested on Tuesday 3 December 2024 following a warrant at Sherwood's address on Sedgewick Court, Warrington. Following a search of Sherwood's address, detectives recovered a large quantity of cash, a quantity of cannabis, and multiple mobile phones. A warrant was also conducted at Johnson's address on Edward Gardens in Woolston, Warrington, following his arrest. Here, detectives found a quantity of cannabis, a mobile phone, and a number of high value items, including boxing memorabilia and a Rolex watch.

The pair were ultimately charged with conspiracy to supply class A drugs (cocaine), conspiracy to supply class B drugs (cannabis), possession with intent to supply class B drugs (cannabis), and possession of criminal property. Both men pleaded guilty to the offences and following an appearance at Liverpool Crown Court today, Friday 16 May, Simon Johnson was sentenced to ten years in prison, and Michael Sherwood was sentenced to seven years in prison. Detectives monitored their criminal communication and gathered evidence over a three-month period.

DCI Nick Henderson, from Cheshire Constabulary's SOCU, said: *"These men were part of a well-established organised crime group that supplied multi-kilo quantities of class A and B drugs. While Johnson led the operation, negotiating prices and arranging deals, his handyman Sherwood would facilitate the logistics and the collection of the drugs. Both men played a significant role in peddling dangerous drugs into the county before pocketing the profits and living lavishly on their proceeds of crime. They believed EncroChat was a safe and secure service that would enable them to message freely and openly without being detected. They quickly became comfortable sharing personal details which made it even easier for our detectives to piece together the evidence and ensure the defendants had no option but to plead guilty."*

### **Cheshire Constabulary to support week-long national campaign tackling knife crime**

Next week, Cheshire Constabulary will be supporting a national campaign aimed at keeping knives off the streets while educating people about the dangers of knife crime.

Between Monday 19 May and Sunday 25 May, Cheshire Constabulary will be supporting police forces across the country by taking part in a national effort aiming to reduce the impact of knife crime in our communities, known as Sceptre (previously known as "Operation Sceptre"). The Constabulary's officers work all year round to ensure the number of knives being carried across the county remains as low as possible. Over the course of the next week these efforts will be further intensified through enforcement and engagement initiatives. There will be a number of opportunities to safely dispose of any knives, bladed weapons and knuckle dusters into designated surrender points across the seven Local Policing Unit (LPU) areas.



Knife crime in Cheshire remains comparatively low when compared to other forces in England and Wales. Recent figures show that possession of weapons offences across the county have fallen by 6.6%, with 727 incidents recorded in the 12 months to April 2025, compared to 778 recorded in the previous year.

The focal point for the May 2025 week of action will also be ensuring the county's retailers are aware of the rules and regulations surrounding the sale of bladed articles. Other activities during the operation will include community knife sweeps, engagement in the community, as well as an increased visible policing presence to provide reassurance.

Supt Cath Jones, who is Cheshire Constabulary's knife crime lead, said: *"Crime involving knives remains a growing issue on the national stage, so the Constabulary's participation in Sceptre is an excellent opportunity for us to highlight the outstanding work our officers put in daily to keep Cheshire weapon-free. We are particularly proud that, when compared to our fellow home forces, knife crime in Cheshire remains low; but we have seen a considerable number of people across the county choosing to carry knives and bladed weapons - this is something we will not tolerate as a force."*

*"In this, the first of two Sceptre operations for 2025, our officers will be engaging with the county's retailers who have a crucial role to play in ensuring these potentially dangerous and lethal weapons do not fall into the wrong hands. As well as this, we are further intensifying our efforts to challenge the perception that you need to carry a knife in order to feel safe. When someone chooses to carry a knife, it is only a matter of time before they, or someone else, sustains a life-changing or fatal injury. If you choose to carry a knife, you are much more likely to be involved in knife crime."*

*"When it comes to issues as serious as knife crime, it is so important that everyone feels that they can come forward to us with any issues, so we can take swift and immediate action, so, over the course of this week, we will also be working with our partner organisations, including local authorities, charities, third-sector organisations, youth representatives and community groups as we continue to keep Cheshire a hostile environment for anyone who chooses to pick up a blade."*

Anyone who knows someone that carries a knife or has been a victim of street robbery can report it to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or [via their website](#). Information can also be passed to the force online [here](#).

### **Congleton police arrest a man and seize drugs and cash in drug warrants**

On Thursday 15 May, officers from the Congleton Beat Team were supported by colleagues from across the Constabulary in executing search warrants at addresses across the eastern area of Congleton.



Officers have recovered Class A & B drugs as well as seizing a quantity of cash and luxury items. We also arrested a 36-year-old man and enquiries are ongoing.

Insp Jim Adams said: *"We will continue to be relentless in our bid to tackle illegal drug activity to create a safer, stronger community in Congleton. If you witness or are affected by drug dealing in your community please report it to us on 101 or via the [website](#) so we can take action."*

<https://youtu.be/MQnyo8iQe8E>

### **Man charged following incident in Congleton**

A man has been charged with several offences following an incident in Congleton.

Billy Grocott, 20, was arrested at around 10.56pm on Monday 12 May. Grocott, of no fixed address but of Congleton, has since been charged with aggravated burglary and two counts of criminal damage to property valued under £5000. He was also charged with assaulting a person, causing actual bodily harm. Grocott appeared at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 14 May, where he was remanded in custody.

### **Man charged with attempted murder in Congleton**

Police have charged a man with attempted murder following an incident at an address in Congleton.

The charges relate to a man breaking into a house in Dale Crescent on the afternoon of Monday 12 May and threatening a man and woman in the address. The man was also assaulted with an axe. Stuart Whittaker, 48, of no fixed address was arrested at the scene and later charged with Attempted murder, burglary, attempt section 18 assault, breach of a restraining order and possession of an offensive weapon. Whittaker was remanded in custody to appear at Warrington Combined Court on Wednesday 14 May.

### **Man jailed for luring motorbike seller to Warrington and stealing his bike**

A man from Speke has been jailed after admitting to robbery in Warrington.

Anthony Price, 38, from Hale Drive, Speke appeared at Liverpool Crown Court on Tuesday 13 May to be sentenced to 18 months in prison. Price had contacted a man who was selling his green Kawasaki motorbike on Facebook Marketplace and





eBay for £7,000. He said he was interested in purchasing the bike and suggested they meet up on Rushton Close in Warrington.

On the evening of 10 March the two men met, the victim having transported the bike in a van as it was a motocross bike and not street legal. Price arrived dressed in hospital scrubs and said he worked at Warrington Hospital and lived on Rushton Close. As the victim sat on his bike talking to Price, Price pushed off his bike and the victim fell to the floor. Price got on the bike and quickly rode away down a ginnel making his escape. The victim reported the robbery to police. Officers from Warrington CID identified Price as the suspect through some exceptional detective work, and he was arrested on suspicion of robbery and later charged.

DC Martyn Huyton-Berry said: *"Price went to great lengths to deceive the victim and gain his trust. Price didn't work in the hospital and didn't live on Rushton Close. He lured the victim to a town neither of them lived in with the sole purpose of stealing the bike. He tried to cover his tracks, but our investigation led to his door and we were able to prove his guilt."*

#### **Four men jailed as part of continued crackdown on burglary**

Dale Fitzpatrick, Geoffrey Pearson, Chris Carter and Ryan Beevers have all been sentenced to a combined total of more than 13 years in prison after they all admitted carrying out a series of burglaries across the area.

The four men have all been sentenced at Chester Crown Court over the past two weeks following a crackdown on burglary in Wilmslow and Macclesfield. The convictions relate to three separate incidents which occurred between 4 March and 29 March 2025.



Dale Fitzpatrick, of no fixed abode, and Geoffrey Pearson, of Nelstrop Road, Heaton Chapel, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 23 April where they were sentenced to a combined six years and eight months in prison after breaking into a home on Mobberley Road, Wilmslow. During the incident on Sunday 23 March 2025, the pair stole a Range Rover Evoque, a Range Rover Velar, and a Ford Ranger, along with high value jewellery. Fitzpatrick, 40, was jailed for three years, while Pearson, 47, was sentenced to three years and 8 months behind bars.

Then on Friday 28 April, Chris Carter, aged 51, of Great King Street, Macclesfield was sentenced to two years and seven months in prison after he admitted breaking into a home on George Street West, Macclesfield on Tuesday 11 March 2025. Carter was identified as the suspect in the case after traces of his DNA were found at the scene of the crime.



On Wednesday 7 April, Ryan Beevers, of Hindsford Close, Manchester, was jailed for four years after he admitted burgling a house on Hawthorne Lane, Wilmslow on 29 March 2025. The 36-year-old prolific offender was caught after officers recognised him in CCTV images from the scene.

Following the sentencings, DS Laura Fox, of Macclesfield Proactive CID said: *“Burglary is a horrific offence, to know that an intruder has been inside your home is something nobody should have to experience and as these results demonstrate, the team here within Macclesfield Proactive CID are committed to doing all we can to ensure that those responsible are held accountable for their actions. The offenders in these cases are prolific. They clearly targeted these affluent areas and properties with the intention of stealing high-powered motor vehicles, high-value jewellery and items, with little regard to the subsequent emotional impact such offences have upon its victims. However, they all underestimated the tenacity and determination of the team here at Macclesfield who continue to work tirelessly to ensure that those responsible for committing burglaries in our communities are dealt with robustly. The due diligence of the team with their investigations ensured that the offenders had no option but to admit their guilt.*

*“I hope that the sentences handed to these offenders will provide some closure to the victims in all the cases, and I welcome the fact they are all now back behind bars. I hope this also provides some reassurance to our local communities. Our message is clear, no matter where you travel from, if you come to Cheshire to commit crime, you will be caught and you will be brought to justice.”*

## Latest Cheshire Appeals

### **Appeal to trace missing teenager from Winsford**

Officers are appealing for information from the public to help locate a missing teenage girl from Winsford.

Evie Sheppard, also known as Evie Ormond, was last seen at around 9.20am on Thursday 15 May and officers are becoming increasingly concerned for her welfare. The 14-year-old is described as white, around 5'5" tall, of slim build, with long auburn coloured hair.



Insp Matthew Davies said: *“Several officers have been out searching for Evie and we are becoming increasingly concerned for her welfare. We believe Evie may be using public transport and has travelled to Manchester, Liverpool, and Birmingham over the past 24 hours. I'd urge anyone who thinks that they may have seen Evie since she went missing, or knows where she is, to get in touch.*



*The same goes for anyone with CCTV or dashcam footage of her since she disappeared. I would also like to appeal directly to Evie, to ask her to get in touch."*

Anyone with information should [visit the website](#), or 101, quoting IML 2090354. Information can also be reported anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

### **Police are appealing for information from the public to help locate a missing teenager from Wigan.**

Izzi Rutley was reported missing on Thursday 8 May from her home in Wigan. The 16-year-old was last seen in the Warrington town centre area on Wednesday 14 May. She is described as white, around 5'1" tall, of slim build, with brown hair and brown eyes. Izzi was last seen wearing a black crop top, a cropped denim jacket, and a denim skirt.



Insp Jimmy Walker said: *"We would urge anyone who has seen Izzi since she went missing or has any information regarding her whereabouts to get in touch with us. I would also like to ask residents and motorists to review any CCTV or dashcam footage to see if they may have picked up Izzi since she was last seen in Warrington town centre. The same goes for anyone with any information on his whereabouts or anyone with any relevant CCTV, dashcam or video doorbell footage which could help us to trace her. Izzi, if you are seeing this, please do get in touch with us as we and those who care about you are growing increasingly worried for your safety."*

To report information to Cheshire Police, you can [visit the website](#) or call 101, quoting IML-2088952.

### **Appeal for witnesses and footage following serious collision in Macclesfield**

At around 7am on Wednesday 14 May, officers in Macclesfield responded to reports of a road traffic collision on the A34 in the Siddington area of Macclesfield.

Attending the scene, officers found that the collision involved a blue Kia Sportage that had collided with a tree. The driver of the Kia, a 62-year-old man from Holmes Chapel, sustained serious injuries. Officers are in the early stages of their investigation and are appealing for any witnesses who have not already spoken to police to get in touch with them, as well as anyone with CCTV or dashcam footage which captured what happened.

Inspector Steve Griffiths said: *"Enquiries are ongoing into the circumstances, and we are now looking for anyone who witnessed what happened or may have dashcam or video doorbell footage of the incident to come forward to help us identify the vehicle involved. Anyone with any*



*information or dashcam footage is asked to contact Cheshire Police via the website or on 101, quoting IML-2089540."*

### **Police continue to appeal for information following burglary in Warrington**

Detectives investigating a burglary at an address in Warrington are continuing to appeal for information and have released a CCTV image of a man they looking to identify.

At around 6.30am on Sunday 2 February an unknown offender gained entry into an address on Roome Street. The man was disturbed by a number of dogs at the address and fled the scene empty handed. Enquiries in relation to the incident have been ongoing and officers have now released a CCTV image of a man they are looking to speak to as part of the investigation.



DC Vicky Hancox, of Warrington CID said: *"Enquiries in relation to this incident are ongoing and we're committed to doing all we can to identify the person responsible. As part of our investigation we're keen to identify the man in the CCTV image as he may hold vital information. If you recognise the man, please contact us. I would also like to appeal directly to the man in the CCTV image to get in touch."*

Anyone with information is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101, or at [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us), quoting 25000088426.

### **Appeal following incident in Chester**

Officers investigating an incident in Chester are appealing for information and footage from members of the public.

Shortly after 8.10pm on Monday 12 May, a 14-year-old girl was walking along Garden Lane in Chester, in the direction towards Bouverie Street, when she was approached by a man riding a bicycle. The man followed her for a short distance and asked the girl to wait for him. She declined and ran in the opposite direction. The man is described as an Asian male with black hair, wearing a jacket and carrying a brown bag. The bicycle is believed to be orange. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and officers are urging anyone with any information or dashcam footage that may aid their investigation to get in touch.

CI Paul Fegan said: *"Incidents of this nature understandably cause concern within the local community. I would like to reassure residents that at no stage did the man attempt to touch the girl. She did the right thing by ignoring him and walking away. We have not received further reports of*



*similar incidents in the area, but we take any incident of this nature extremely seriously and are working hard to identify the man and establish the circumstances. Enquiries are ongoing, and I urge anyone who was in the area and witnessed anything that may be relevant to our investigation to get in touch. The same goes for anyone who believes they may know who the man is or have dashcam footage of him or the bicycle he was riding.”*

Anyone with information or dashcam footage that may help the ongoing investigation is asked to call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 2088560, or give the details [via the website](#)

### **Police release CCTV following arson and criminal damage in Wilmslow**

Police have released a CCTV image of a man they would like to speak to following a series of criminal damage at a block of flats in Wilmslow.

Between 15 April and 10 May there have been two incidents of graffiti being daubed on the walls of the White House flats in Spath Lane and paint thrown over cars. Then in the early hours of 10 May, three cars were set on fire. No one was injured. The incidents occurred overnight and into the early hours.

PC Matt Rowbotham said: *“I would urge anyone who recognises this man or the man himself to come forward to help us with our enquiries into the circumstances. We have increased patrols in the area to provide reassurance and have been carrying out a number of enquiries into the incidents. I’d urge people to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity, if you have ring doorbells or CCTV please check it and get in touch if you have captured anything that may help us find the person responsible.”*

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via the [website](#) quoting 25000385260. Alternatively, information can be given anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

### **Appeal for witnesses and footage following collision in Disley**

Police are appealing for witnesses and dashcam footage following a collision in Disley.

Police received reports of a collision involving a car and a pedestrian in Buxton Road, opposite The Albert Hotel, which is believed to have taken place shortly before 11.45pm on Saturday 10 May. The pedestrian, a 51-year-old woman, is believed to have suffered serious injuries. The car failed to stop at the scene and was travelling in the direction of New Mills, Derbyshire.

Sgt Jon Dixon said: *“We are appealing for any witnesses to this collision to please get in touch with us. The same goes for anyone with any relevant CCTV or dashcam footage in the area between*



11.30pm and midnight on Saturday 10 May which could help us to trace the vehicle involved. You can report information via [cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://cheshire.police.uk/tell-us) or call 101, quoting IML-2087354.”

### **Police continue to appeal for witnesses and footage following fatal collision in Chester**

Police are continuing to appeal for witnesses and footage following a fatal collision in Chester.

At 11.45am on Saturday 10 May, police were called to reports of a collision on A41 in Chester, Backford Dip, between Church Lane and the A5032. The incident involved a motorcycle and a grey Audi. The motorcyclist, a 58-year-old man from Ellesmere Port, was sadly pronounced dead following the collision. His family are currently being supported by specialist officers.

The driver of the Audi, a 23-year-old man, has since been arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving, failing to stop after a road accident and failing to report a road accident. He has been released on bail pending further enquiries. As part of their enquiries, officers would now like to speak to two people who were travelling in a car and who spoke to the driver of a grey Audi shortly after the collision.

Insp Steve Griffiths said: *“Firstly, our thoughts are with the motorcyclist’s family and friends at this incredibly sad time. As we continue our investigation into the circumstances of this incident, we are continuing to appeal to any witnesses or anyone with dashcam or CCTV footage to get in touch with us. To aid our enquiries, we’re also urging anyone who believes they match the description of the people we are looking to speak to, to contact us.”*

You can report information to us via [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us) or call 101, quoting IML-2086875.

### **Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)**

c/o Corporate Comms | Cheshire Constabulary HQ | Clemonds Hey | Oakmere Road | Winsford | Cheshire | CW7 2UA

Email: [cheshirenw@outlook.com](mailto:cheshirenw@outlook.com)

Website: <https://www.cheshirenw.org>

Facebook: [facebook.com/groups/cheshirenw](https://facebook.com/groups/cheshirenw)



In partnership with



Cheshire  
Constabulary



Scan to visit [website](https://www.cheshirenw.org)

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: [www.cheshirenw.org](https://www.cheshirenw.org)