

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 25th January 2026

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Anti-social and disruptive property closed down by Macclesfield Police

Police in Macclesfield have shut down a property in the town that made residents' lives a misery.

The property on Newton Street, Macclesfield, was closed down on Friday 23 January, after officers from Macclesfield Local Policing Unit were successful in obtaining a Closure Order from Warrington Magistrates' Court. During the hearing, officers submitted a substantial amount of evidence relating to anti-social and drug-related activity at the address. The occupant of the property has now been ordered to leave 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 faced with a fine or prison sentence.

PS Matthew Bassirat said: *"I welcome the news that, today, this disruptive address on Newton Street, Macclesfield, has now been closed down. Hopefully, those living in the community will feel reassured that these are issues we take seriously. We will always listen to concerns from residents in relation to criminality and anti-social behaviour in their communities. If you, or anyone in your local community, has any concerns about troubling behaviour, contact your local beat team and let us do the rest."*

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

Ellesmere Port drug dealer jailed

A man from Ellesmere Port has been jailed for six years for selling crack cocaine across the town.



Mason Mallon, 23, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Monday 5 January where he was sentenced to five years and seven months in prison. The sentencing comes after Mallon, of Wellington Close, Ellesmere Port, pleaded guilty to being concerned in the supply of crack cocaine and possession of cannabis.

The court heard that in late 2025, officers from Ellesmere Port identified a phone number regularly sending out flare messaging that advertised the sale of class A drugs from a number of addresses within the town. On Thursday 4 December 2025, officers conducted a section 8 warrant at an address in Ellesmere Port, finding Mallon inside. In his possession were two mobile phones, one of which was identified as being the device that had sent out the flare messaging, and a quantity of cash. Also found within his address was a quantity of class A drugs, believed to be crack cocaine, as well as cannabis.

Mallon was subsequently arrested and taken into custody to be interviewed by officers, during which he mostly responded with 'no comment' to all evidence presented to him. He did, however, admit to being in possession of the cannabis that was found during the property search. He was subsequently charged with the aforementioned offences and pleaded guilty to them at the first opportunity in court.

PC Adam Critchley, of Ellesmere Port CID, said: *"Mason Mallon really had no choice but to plead guilty to the supply of class A drugs across Ellesmere Port, due to the substantial amount of evidence we had against him. It was this evidence that was vital in helping us secure this conviction against him, which in turn now means that we have removed a key player in the local drug trade. We will always do our utmost to remove drug dealers like Mallon from our local communities, but we cannot do this with information from residents. With that in mind, I would urge anyone with any concerns relating to drug dealing in your area to contact your local officers and let us take it from there."*

Man sentenced for rape, neglect, and controlling and coercive behaviour

A man who failed to attend court has been sentenced in his absence after he was found guilty of rape, neglect and controlling and coercive behaviour in Crewe.



Foisal Ahmed, of West Street, Buckingham, was sentenced in his absence to eight years in prison at Chester Crown Court on Monday 19 January. The 34-year-old was earlier found guilty of two counts of rape, engaging in controlling and coercive behaviour and child neglect, following a 9-day trial in September 2025.

In November 2023, Cheshire Police were called to an address in Crewe and spoke with the victim who disclosed Ahmed had assaulted her and raped her multiple times over several months. He also assaulted the victim's young child during this time. He was subsequently arrested and interviewed in relation to the offences and later charged. Ahmed failed to appear at court on the final day of the trial, and a warrant has since been issued for his arrest. Detectives are now urging anyone with information as to his whereabouts to contact us.

DC Simon Knowles, who led the investigation, said: *"After all he put his victim through, Ahmed continues to torment her by failing to take any accountability for his actions and serve the sentence handed to him by the courts. Despite his cowardice, I am grateful for the sentence which reflects the severity of his despicable crimes, and I hope the conclusion of this case will bring the victim some closure. I would like to thank the victim for her bravery in talking to police about what happened to her, and I would encourage anyone who has experienced or been victim of an offence of this nature to please get in touch with us by calling 101 or visit our website."*

Anyone who sees Ahmed, or has any information as to his whereabouts, is urged to contact Cheshire Police [via the website](#) or call 101 quoting IML 2178396. Alternatively, information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Winsford man jailed for dealing class A and B drugs

A man who attempted to evade officers during a police stop check in Winsford has been jailed.

Ibrahim Rahman, of St Georges Road, Winsford, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 22 January, where he was sentenced to 40 months in prison. The 21-year-old had earlier pleaded guilty to being concerned in the supply of class A drugs (cocaine), possession with intent to supply class A drugs (cocaine), being concerned in the supply of class B drugs (ketamine), possession with intent to supply class B drugs (ketamine), and possession of criminal property. He also admitted driving without a licence and driving without insurance.



<https://youtu.be/C9nxuECHPPo>

At around 1.50pm on Saturday 29 November, officers were on patrol in Winsford when they spotted a white Seat Leon which was being driven dangerously. Police attempted to stop the vehicle, but the driver made off at speed and officers lost sight of the car on Cinder Hill in Whitegate. A short time later, at 2.08pm, police were called to reports that an Asian man wearing grey clothing and carrying a black man bag, had abandoned his car near the River Weaver in Whitegate and made off on foot.

Officers attended and it was confirmed that it was the same vehicle which had made off from officers. A search of the area was undertaken and a short time later officers located a man near Vale Royal Abbey who matched the description of the driver. The officer attempted to speak to the man, but he again made off and ran into a wooded area, throwing his mobile phone and man bag away as he ran. Despite his best attempts to evade officers, the suspect was quickly arrested and identified himself as Ibrahim Rahman. Following a search of the area officers also located the man bag, mobile phone and keys to the Seat Leon. During a search of the bag officers discovered 180 bags of cocaine, 20 bags of ketamine and £587 cash. The drugs recovered had an estimated street value of up to £3,600.

Following the sentencing, Detective Constable Chris Forrest of Northwich Proactive CID, said: *“Thanks to the work of an eagle-eyed officer and information from a member of the public, we’ve been able to remove a large quantity of illegal drugs from the streets of Winsford and another dealer is now behind bars. Rahman made multiple attempts to evade our officers, but as this case shows we will never give up.*

“Drugs have a hugely detrimental impact on our communities, causing widespread misery, which is why we’re committed to cutting off supplies of illegal drugs and removing dealers from our streets. I welcome the sentence handed to Rahman and I hope it acts as a warning to others involved in the sale of illegal drugs. While Rahman is now behind bars, our fight against criminals continues and I would appeal to anyone who has any information about illegal drug activity or any other criminal activity taking place in their communities to contact us on 101, and we’ll do the rest.”

Former Northwich man jailed for drug dealing in Sandbach

A former Northwich resident has been jailed again after he was found in possession of hundreds of pounds worth of illegal drugs in Sandbach.

Luke Faulkner-Ellis appeared at Chester Crown Court on Friday 16 January where he was sentenced to 12 months in prison. The 21-year-old, of HMP Berwyn, had previously pleaded guilty to two counts of possession with intent to supply Class A drugs.



The court heard how on Saturday 4 October 2024, officers attended Linden Bank Hostel in Sandbach to arrest Faulkner-Ellis for an unrelated matter. On arrival, he was immediately arrested and placed in handcuffs. Following his arrest, officers spotted that he was clutching his hand and appeared to be hiding something. Officers forced open his hand and found a bag of illegal drugs. In total officers discovered 38 wraps of cocaine and 38 wraps of heroin, which had an estimated value of up to £890. Faulkner-Ellis was further arrested at the scene on suspicion of drugs offences.

During questioning he claimed that he had picked a package up in the street, after witnessing it being thrown from a car. On inspecting the package, he realised that it was drugs and was planning to hand it in at the police station. Faulkner-Ellis was later charged with two counts of possession with intent to supply Class A drugs. He later pleaded guilty to all the charges.

Following the sentencing, CI Dave Levins, of Congleton LPU, said: *“Despite only being 21 years old, Faulkner-Ellis already had a substantial criminal record and clearly has no regard for the law. Following his arrest in October, he has already been handed a five-year prison sentence for an aggravated burglary in Northwich, and the sentence handed to him today will keep him off the streets of Cheshire for even longer, helping to keep our communities safer.”*

Two arrested following attempted business burglary in Warrington

Officers have arrested two men from Leeds on suspicion of theft after an angle grinder was used to cut a hole in the fence of a business premises.

At around 1am on Wednesday 21 January officers in Warrington responded to an incident in the Lockheed Road area of Burtonwood. It was reported that an unknown man broke into a business premises by cutting a hole in a metal fence with an angle grinder. Following this report, officers quickly identified that a Ford Transit van had been seen nearby travelling toward Burtonwood Services.

Attending Burtonwood Services, officers found the van parked and a 44-year-old man and a 38-year-old man inside. The two men and the van were subsequently searched by the officers, with the angle grinder being located inside a sports bag in the footwell. Both men, who are from the Osmondthorpe area of Leeds, were arrested on suspicion of attempted theft. The 44-year-old man was also arrested on suspicion of going equipped for burglary. They have since been released on conditional bail.

Insp Bradley Hughes, of the Roads and Crime Unit, said: *“Following the initial report of an angle grinder being used to forcibly access a local business premise, our officers swiftly deployed to the scene and traced a vehicle believed to be involved. After searching the vehicle, officers located an angle grinder and two suspects - both of whom were escorted to our custody suites. I hope these*

arrests will reassure residents and businesses of our commitment to tackling this type of crime, and I'd like to thank our Roads and Crime officers involved for their quick response."

Man jailed after harassing woman

A man has been jailed for more than two years after threatening to kill a former partner.

William Gurney was sentenced to 27 months at Chester Crown Court on Friday 16 January after pleading guilty to harassment with fear of violence and possession of cannabis. The 22-year-old, of Saughall Close, Davenham, Northwich, was fined £80 for the drugs offence at an earlier hearing.



Gurney had previously been in a relationship with the victim. In 2025, during a disagreement between the pair, Gurney made repeated threats to kill her and others, threatened to slit her throat, and said he would set fire to her home. He also told the victim to harm herself. In just two days, Gurney called the victim more than 100 times and sent hundreds of text messages threatening both the victim and her family. He also attended the victim's home address and tried to enter the address before entering the garden. Police were called and Gurney was arrested by officers following a foot chase during which he discarded cannabis. He was later charged in relation to the incidents.

PC Adam Clutterbuck said: *"Gurney's behaviour was unacceptable, clearly causing the victim distress and leading to her fearing that these threats would be carried out. Not only did she fear for her own safety, but also for that of her family, with Gurney bombarding her with unwanted contact."*

I would like to thank the victim for coming forward and speaking to police. No-one should have to experience this, and I am grateful that Gurney has now been jailed for his actions. Anyone wishing to report incidents of this nature can contact police on 101 or online. In an emergency always call 999."

Cheshire Police warn people to be vigilant following reports of counterfeit notes across the county

Cheshire Police are warning businesses and private sellers to be vigilant following a number of reports of counterfeit notes being offered for payment.

Since last month police have received more than 30 reports of people trying to pay for goods with fake notes across the county. From supermarkets and bakeries to pubs and fast-food restaurants people have been attempting, and in some cases, succeeding in using the notes to make payments. It is also affecting private sellers selling high value goods. The notes are all denominations, but mainly £20.

DS Jordan Trentini said: *"Many businesses have the facility to check if a note is counterfeit, but private sellers who put items on online selling platforms such as Facebook Market Place don't. As a result, we've had sellers handing over mobile phones only to find the money is fake when they try to use it or pay it into a bank. The advice is to look for genuine security features - comparing a suspect note with one that is known to be genuine. Never rely on looking for only one feature, and if you do*

have a counterfeit note make sure you report it to police and retain the notes for us to use as evidence."

Check for as many as possible of the following:

- Serial number - Genuine notes have unique serial numbers therefore if you have two notes displaying the same serial number at least one of them is a counterfeit.
- Tilt - Tilt the note to see the colour change / foil features
- Look / Feel - Look for microtext and /or tactile features and the clear window(s).
- UV Light - Additional features include those which can be seen under an Ultraviolet (UV) light check that they are the right colour(s) and in the right position on the note.
- Printing - Raised print is used in some of the features on genuine banknotes and should feel slightly rough to the touch. Lines and print should be sharp and well defined with no blurred edges. Colours should be clear and distinct – not hazy.

There are more tips and advice on how to spot fake bank notes and what to do with them [here](#).

Man handed three-year Criminal Behaviour Order

A man from Congleton has been banned from a retail park in Crewe under the terms of a Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO).



Paul Whitney appeared at Crewe Magistrates' Court on Monday 19 January where he was handed the order following reports of shoplifting. The order remains in place for three years. The 54-year-old must not enter Grand Junction Retail Park in Crewe and must also not be in possession of any open containers of alcohol in a public place. If Whitney fails to comply with the requirements, he will be committing a criminal offence for which he could be sent to prison or ordered to pay a fine.

Insp Dan Welch, of Crewe LPU, said: *"I am grateful that officers have been successful in securing this CBO and I hope it will deter any further behaviour in the future. Safeguarding our local businesses from retail-related crime and anti-social behaviour is one of our priorities and CBOs are one of the options available to us to crack down on offending. Anyone who encounters Whitney breaching the restrictions of his order is urged to contact Cheshire Police through our website or call 101 to report it."*

Two men jailed for drug dealing in Crewe

Two men from Stoke have been jailed for more than nine years after they admitted being involved in the supply of illegal drugs in Crewe.



Tahir Darr and Saeed Malik both pleaded guilty to being members of a county lines gang who were selling crack cocaine and heroin. Darr, aged 31, of Lyndhurst Street, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, was sentenced to 2,045 days in prison at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 24 January 2024. Malik, 37, of Malkin Way, Middleport, Stoke-on-Trent, was jailed for 28 months at Chester Crown Court on Monday 19 January 2026.

Both men had previously pleaded guilty to two counts of being concerned in the supply of class A drugs (heroin and cocaine) and one count of possession of criminal property. The court heard how in October 2023 officers in Crewe became aware of a county lines drugs gang from Stoke which had begun operating in the Crewe area. The gang were using mobile phones to send out bulk text messages to drug users offering to supply cocaine and heroin. Intelligence suggested that the gang were travelling from Stoke to Crewe on a daily basis.

Following enquiries, officers identified a taxi that the gang were believed to be using, and a decision was taken to stop the Toyota Pruis at 6.30pm on Wednesday 13 December 2023. Malik was driving the car, while Darr was sat in the front passenger seat. Upon searching the vehicle officers located the 'graft' phone which was being used by the gang. During further searches Darr was found in possession of £4,450 worth of heroin and crack cocaine. A bag was also located in the rear of the car, which contained a further £3,050 worth of crack cocaine, along with a small bag in the centre console of the car, which contained £1,600 cash and Malik's ID card. Both men were arrested at the scene and searches were conducted at their homes in Stoke where further around £2500 cash was located along with several mobile phones.

Following the sentencing a detective from the Op Apollo team said: *"I welcome the sentences handed to Darr and Malik and I hope that they act as a warning to those involved in the sale of illegal drugs. In this case it was clear Darr and Malik were both high-level dealers involved in the supply of illegal drugs across the Crewe area. We were able to provide a catalogue of evidence against both men, leaving them with no option but to plead guilty to the charges against them.*

"Illegal drugs can have a devastating impact on not only drug users, but the community around them. We are doing all we can to stop drug activity on our streets to make Crewe a safer place to live, work and visit, while also making it an extremely hostile place for criminals. We will always act on any information about drug activity provided to us and would urge anyone who believes this activity is happening near to them, to please contact us on 101 or visit www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us."

Man charged with assault in Widnes

Officers investigating an assault in Widnes have charged a man in relation to the incident.

Darren Jones has been charged with section 18 assault, possession of cannabis, and possession of an offensive weapon in a public place. The 39-year-old, of no fixed abode, appeared at Chester Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 20 January and will next appear at Liverpool Crown Court on Tuesday 17 February. The charges relate to reports of an assault in Victoria Square, Widnes, at around 4.40am on Sunday 18 January in which a 45-year-old man suffered a serious injury to his eye.

Operation Hummingbird - Investigation update

Today (Tuesday 20th January, 2026) the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) announced that it will not be charging Lucy Letby with any further offences after reviewing files of evidence that Cheshire Constabulary submitted in July 2025.

This is not the outcome that we had anticipated throughout our investigation; we were confident that we held enough evidence to take to the CPS. We submitted files for charging decisions in relation to nine babies – for consideration of nine offences of attempted murder and two of murder. We believed the evidence submitted met the CPS charging standard. The CPS did not agree and despite our representations we must respect the decision that has been made.

There will be some who will feel that this is news worth celebrating. We do not share this view and would ask that people respect the privacy and feelings of the families involved. We are deeply grateful to the experts and witnesses who have contributed to this investigation. Their input has been invaluable in answering many difficult questions on behalf of the families.

Today's announcement does not affect or undermine the convictions of Lucy Letby for multiple murders and attempted murders of premature babies following an extensive investigation and two criminal trials, including one of the longest running murder trials in British criminal history and two unsuccessful appeals.

This decision by the CPS will have no impact on Operation Duet – our ongoing investigation into corporate manslaughter and gross negligence manslaughter at the Countess of Chester Hospital. These remain separate investigations.

Our thoughts remain with the families affected by this.

Burglars jailed after targeting properties in Tarvin

Two burglars have been jailed after admitting targeting properties in the Tarvin area.

Simon Dolman and Adam Wilson appeared at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 14 January 2026 where they were sentenced after pleading guilty to burglary, attempted burglary, theft of a motor vehicle and fraud by false representation. Wilson, 28, of High Street, Nantwich, was jailed for two years and three months. Meanwhile, Dolman, 24, of HMP Fosse Way, was jailed for two years.



On the morning of Tuesday 16 September 2025, the occupant of an address in Crossfields, Tarvin, awoke to find her home CCTV had been activated overnight. Footage at 1.37am showed a man trying to open the doors to the address but no entry was gained. In the corner of the footage there was a further shoe visible, indicating there was at least one other suspect present. At 9am the same day, residents at an address in Townfield Lane, Tarvin, realised they had been burgled overnight and their car had been stolen, along with bank cards.



Enquiries revealed the car, a Citroen C3, was in the Waverton area at approximately 2.05am and was recovered a few days later in Rowton. One of the stolen bank cards had been used at a petrol station in Tarvin Road at around 2.30am, shortly after the burglary, to buy cigarettes and food and drink. Further investigations at the petrol station showed two men had been at the location at that time. A silver Peugeot registered to Wilson was spotted close to the petrol station just a few minutes before the men were seen inside and then left the area shortly after the men left the

petrol station with cigarettes and food items. The Peugeot was also shown to be in the area at the time the burglaries took place. Wilson's mobile phone had also been present at both the burglaries and at the petrol station. Dolman was linked to the burglaries from his DNA found on the steering wheel of the recovered stolen car and on a screwdriver inside the vehicle, as well as from the rear patio doors at the address in Crossfields. Both men were subsequently arrested and later charged.

DS Roy Wellings said: *"Burglary is a very serious crime which leaves a lasting impact upon victims. Both Dolman and Wilson targeted people's homes as they were asleep which is incredibly frightening. I hope the sentences handed down to the pair help to give the victims some closure and reassures communities that we are committed to tackling these types of offences and bringing people to justice."*

Man jailed for more than 11 years after raping woman in Chester

A man has been jailed after raping a woman in Chester.

Scott Buxton, of no fixed abode, was sentenced to 11-and-a-half years at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 20 January 2026. The 32-year-old was previously found guilty of rape, attempted rape, threats to kill and threats to damage/destroy property, following an eight-day trial in November 2025.



In May 2025, Buxton made several threats to kill the victim and 'blow up her car' while talking to one of her family members on the phone. Due to this, the victim contacted police. She then told police that on previous occasions she had awoken to find Buxton raping her or attempting to rape her. Buxton had also referred to 'knowing where she had been', disclosing information which the victim had not made known to him. He would also try to control her movements by making alternative plans, so the victim remained with him and didn't socialise with anyone else. Buxton was subsequently arrested and interviewed in relation to the offences, and later charged. On top of his custodial sentence, Buxton will be subject to a restraining order for 15 years and must sign the Sex Offender Register for life.

DC Max Jones said: *"I am grateful for the sentence handed down to Buxton for his despicable crimes and I hope the conclusion of this case will bring the victim some closure knowing Buxton is behind bars. I would again like to thank the victim in this case for her bravery in talking to police about what happened to her. Anyone who wishes to report an offence of this nature can contact police via 101 or through our website. We will always investigate every report thoroughly and I hope this case demonstrates how seriously we take all cases. The needs and wishes of the victim will always remain our main priority."*

UPDATE | Man charged following stop check in Prestbury

A man who was arrested following a police stop check in Prestbury has now been charged.

At around 3.15pm on Monday 19 January officers from Macclesfield Local Policing Unit were on patrol in Prestbury when they stopped a silver Volkswagen Tiguan on Shirleys Drive. A quantity of class A drugs were located in the vehicle and a large amount of cash was seized following a warrant

at a nearby address. The occupants of the car, a 58-year-old man and 59-year-old woman, both from Macclesfield, were both arrested at the scene.

Following questioning Paul Gostelow, of Duke Street, Macclesfield, has now been charged with possession with intent to supply class A drugs (cocaine). He appeared at Chester Magistrates Court on Wednesday 21 January where he was remanded in police custody. He is next set to appear at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 4 March.

Man sentenced following Northwich burglary

A man who broke into a sandwich shop in Northwich has been sentenced.

Jack Didsbury appeared at Chester Magistrates Court on Friday 16 January where he was ordered to complete six-month drug rehabilitation, 25 days rehabilitation activity requirement, and pay £664 compensation. The 31-year-old of Parkfield Road, Northwich, pleaded guilty to one count of burglary other than a dwelling, one count of criminal damage and two counts of shoplifting.

At around 2am on Thursday 15 December Didsbury forced entry into the London Road sandwich shop after smashing the front door. Once inside he stole approximately £15 from the till, along with cash from a charity box and a tip jar. He also caused £465 worth of damage to the store. The incident was later reported to police at 5am and an investigation was launched.

Following CCTV enquiries, Didsbury was quickly identified as the suspect and was swiftly arrested, just hours after the incident had been reported. In addition to the burglary, he was also arrested in relation to two reports of shoplifting in relation to incidents at Spar in Davenham on Sunday 28 December, and Home Bargains in Winsford on Tuesday 30 December. During the incidents more than £150 worth of stock was stolen.

Following the sentencing, Insp Paul Heatley, of Northwich Local Policing Unit, said: *"I welcome the swift conclusion of this case, and I hope that it provides reassurance to the businesses involved. For the sake of just £15, along with some change from a charity box and tip jar, he caused almost £500 worth of damage and disrupted trade at the sandwich shop. Thankfully, Didsbury was identified within hours of the incident and quickly arrested and has now been held accountable for his actions. The impact of that crime should not be underestimated, and our neighbourhood officers work closely with local businesses, and the local authority to tackle the issue."*

Man charged following disturbance in Macclesfield

Officers investigating a disturbance at a public house in Macclesfield have charged a man in relation to the incident.

Jamie Wright was arrested on Wednesday 31 December 2025. The 35-year-old of Barlow Hill, Winkle, has since been charged with possession of class A drugs (cocaine), possession of class B drugs (cannabis), assault, obstructing a constable in execution of duty, criminal damage, and two counts of assaulting a constable. Wright has been bailed to appear at Crewe Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 3 February.

Crewe man jailed for sharing intimate images of couple without consent

A man who shared intimate photos of a couple without their consent has been jailed.

James Ledsham appeared at Chester Crown Court on Monday 12 January where he was sentenced to 30 months in prison. The 24-year-old of Clough Walk, Crewe, had pleaded guilty to blackmail, harassment, and two counts of sharing intimate photographs without consent, at an earlier hearing.



The case began in September 2024, when a family member of the victims' received intimate images of the couple from a Facebook user called 'Jerry Saa'. The family member informed the victims of the images they had received, but the couple had no idea who 'Jerry Saa' was and initially tried to ignore the messages. However, the harassment escalated in November 2024 when 'Jerry Saa' contacted one of the victim's directly and demanded they send him more intimate photos.

Within the messages, he stated that if the victim did not comply, he would share the intimate photos he already had with the victims' family and friends as well as post them on Facebook. The victims tried to ignore the threats, however, were contacted shortly afterwards by a friend who stated she had been sent the intimate images of the couple from the same account. The incident was subsequently reported to police and following enquiries, officers identified that 'Jerry Saa' was Ledsham.

PC Toni Woodward said: *"Ledsham's behaviour and actions have had a significant impact on both his victims. He hid behind a fake account while subjecting them to an immeasurable amount of distress. Thankfully, they had the courage to report Ledsham, and the sentence he has received is as a result of their bravery and the subsequent police investigation."*

"I implore anyone who might be going through something similar to report this to police. While I understand how uncomfortable this can be, sharing private images is a serious offence and will be dealt with robustly. Please remember, help is here, and you do not need to suffer this in silence."

You can report offences to Cheshire Police on 101 or through [the Cheshire Police website](#).

Teenager charged with thefts from shops in Congleton and Macclesfield

An 18-year-old has been charged with four counts of theft from a shop.

Johnathan Schneider from George Street West, Macclesfield was also charged with possessing counterfeit money. The charges relate to thefts at Morrisons Local on St John's Road, Congleton between 6 January and 13 January and Tesco Extra on Hibel Road in Macclesfield on 13 January. He was remanded in custody to appear at Chester Magistrates on 19 January. He has since been bailed to appear at Crewe Magistrates Court on 18 June.

Cannabis grow seized by Congleton Beat Team officers

A cannabis grow has been shut down in Congleton by the local beat team following a tip off.

On the morning of Sunday 18 January police attended an address on Davenport Street following reports of suspicious activity there. Officers discovered a number of plants, believed to be cannabis, and that the electricity had been tampered with.

PC James Rowley said: *“Although no one was present at the address, we have disrupted the illegal drug supply by removing the plants for destruction. Criminals will use any building they can find, whether empty or for rent, in order to grow cannabis. That’s why we are urging people to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity. It’s also vital landlords carry out regular checks to ensure their properties haven’t been taken advantage of by these unscrupulous opportunists.”*

There are a number signs that could indicate that a property is being used as a cannabis farm, including:

- A strong and sickly sweet smell
- Equipment to grow cannabis being taken into a property, such as lighting and ventilation equipment
- Constantly covered or blocked-off windows – cannabis farms often have constantly closed curtains, black-out blinds or foil coverings
- People coming and going at all hours or neighbours you never see
- Strong and constant lighting day and night
- High levels of heat and condensation – cannabis farms often give off heat and the windows stay misted up
- A constant buzz of ventilation – listen out for a whirring sound as the growers try to create an ideal climate for cannabis plants to grow.
- Lots of power cables – offenders often dig underground to lay cables that hook up to things like lamp posts so they do not have to pay for the enormous amounts of electricity they use.

To report a suspected cannabis farm or any other type of drug-related offence, call us 101, give the details via our [website](#) or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Appeal for witnesses following assault in Chester

Officers are appealing for witnesses to come forward following a serious assault in Chester city centre.

At 4.13am on Saturday 24 January, police were called to reports of an assault in Watergate Street, Chester, in which a 43-year-old man suffered a serious head injury. He was taken to hospital where he remains at this time. Three men, aged 20, 21 and 22, were subsequently arrested on suspicion of section 18 assault. They remain in police custody at this time.

DS Stevie Jackson said: *“We’re currently in the early stages of our investigation and would like to reassure the community that this is believed to be an isolated incident. We would like to appeal to anyone who may have witnessed what happened to get in touch with us. The same goes for anyone*

who may have any footage. You can report information to us via our website, or please call 101, quoting IML-2257278.”

Appeal for information following serious collision in Warrington

Officers are appealing for witnesses and video footage following a serious collision in Warrington.

At around 2.30pm on Thursday 22 January, police were called to reports of a collision on Warrington Road. Officers attended and found there had been a collision involving red Volkswagen Tiguan and a silver Kia Picanto. The driver of the Kia, an 86-year-old woman, sustained serious injuries as a result of the collision and remains in hospital at this time.

Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and as part of the investigation officers are keen to hear from anyone who witnessed the incident, or anyone with any dashcam footage of the collision. Anyone with any information is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101 or [visit the website](#) quoting IML 2256199.

Appeal for witnesses following collision near Winsford

Officers are appealing for witnesses following a collision near Winsford.

Shortly before 6.30pm on Wednesday 21 January, police received reports of a collision on Chester Lane, Little Budworth, near Winsford. The collision involved two vehicles, a blue BMW M Sport and a grey Seat Cupra. The driver and passenger in the BMW were taken to hospital with potentially serious injuries. The driver of the Seat was also taken to hospital with potentially serious injuries whereas the passenger is believed to have suffered minor injuries.

A spokesperson said: “*As a result of this collision, we are now appealing for anyone who witnessed what happened to get in touch with us. The same goes for anyone with any dashcam footage as we establish the full circumstances. You can contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](#) quoting IML-2255766.*”

Police appeal for witnesses following a road rage incident in Warrington

Police are appealing for witnesses following a road rage incident in Warrington.

At 3.30pm on Friday 16 January a woman was driving along Birchwood Park Avenue when a car pulled in front of her and stopped on Birchwood Park Way. The suspect approached the woman's car and assaulted her. The victim was driving a grey Skoda and the suspect was driving a white Peugeot. As part of the investigation a 53-year-old woman has been arrested on suspicion of section 18 assault and has since been bailed pending further enquiries.

DC Anna Hull said: “*We're keen to speak to anyone who witnessed the incident to establish the circumstances. The same goes for anyone who has dash cam footage capturing it.*”

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via the [website](#) quoting IML 2252671.

Police appeal for witnesses following serious collision in Tattenhall

Police are appealing for witnesses following a serious collision in Tattenhall.

At 8.10pm on Tuesday 20 January a Jeep Wrangler was being driven along Burwaldsley Road when it mounted the verge and collided with a group of runners. Several people were injured, with hospital treatment required for a number of them. At least two people have been seriously injured. The driver of the Jeep, a 76-year-old man, has been arrested on suspicion of causing serious injury by dangerous driving.

Insp Andy Dennison said: *"Cheshire police are treating this incident as a road traffic collision. I'd urge anyone who witnessed the collision and has not yet spoken to police to contact us. The same goes for anyone who was driving in the area or Burwardsley Road and saw the runners or the Jeep."*

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via the [website](#) quoting IML 2255194.

Appeal following fail to stop collision near Middlewich

Police are appealing for witnesses and video footage following a fail to stop collision near Middlewich.

At 6pm on Sunday 18 January, police were called to a collision on the A533, Bostock Road, in Stanthorne. Officers attended and found that a pedal cyclist had been hit by a car, believed to be a black Mercedes or a black BMW, which failed to stop at the scene. The cyclist, a 16-year-old local boy, was injured as a result of the incident and taken to Leighton Hospital. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and officers are appealing for information from the public.

PC James Lasok-Smith, of the Road and Crime Unit, said: *"We are appealing for anyone who witnessed what happened and has not already spoken to police to please get in touch with us. This occurred at a busy road when there would have been a lot of traffic in the area. The same goes for anyone with any relevant CCTV or dashcam footage from around the time of the incident. You can report information to us by calling 101 or you can visit our website www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us quoting IML-2253902."*

Police appeal for witnesses following a robbery in Lache

Police are appealing for witnesses following a robbery in Lache.

At 19:13hrs on 14 January 2026 a 15-year-old boy was on his electric bike outside fast food shop Subway on Hough Green when he was approached by a man shouting police. The man punched the teenager before taking his bike. The bike is a Carrera Vulcan E-Bike and is black with light green stripes on the top frame and sides. It has 'stunt' pegs attached. The suspect is described as being white, approximately 30-35 years old, of stocky build, and has a beard and moustache. He was wearing shorts, a jacket and baseball cap.

DC Steph Bouckley said: “I’d urge anyone who witnessed the robbery or has seen this bike to contact police. The same goes for anyone who may have dash cam or doorbell footage that may help our investigation.”

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via the [website](#) quoting IML 2251623. Alternatively, information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Police appeal to trace wanted man from Warrington

Police in Warrington are appealing to the public for help in tracing a wanted man.

Dennis Chaggama is wanted in connection with criminal damage. The 47-year-old is described as around 5'10" tall, with a shaved head and brown eyes.

Anyone with any information regarding Chaggama’s whereabouts is asked to contact Cheshire Police [via the website](#) or on 101, quoting 25000111102.



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