

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 15th February 2026

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

County Line smashed and children safeguarded in joint operation to tackle drug dealing

Cheshire Constabulary joined forces with British Transport Police's (BTP) County Lines Taskforce to tackle drug dealing in Chester in a two-day operation this week.

Working together, a team of around 60 officers executed five warrants across the city and carried out 39 stop searches. Six children were identified as being at risk of exploitation and immediate safeguarding measures were taken to ensure their protection. An active drug line was also dismantled and 13 people were arrested for a range of offences, including cultivation of cannabis and possession with intent to supply. Quantities of cannabis, Class A drugs and pills were also seized as well as mobile phones and cash.

The BTP Taskforce's safeguarding team is made up of social care experienced professionals, along with local agencies. They raise awareness, engaging with young people and businesses. They are also ready to offer immediate support to those identified by officers as potential victims.

Inspector James Wilson, of Chester Local Policing Unit, Cheshire Constabulary, said: *"Operations like this are so important in highlighting how different forces work together to tackle issues like County Lines drug dealing. But remember this is just a snapshot of the tactics we have at our disposal – and use every day - to tackle criminal activity in Chester. The work which has been carried out across the past few days with BTP was all about disrupting the supply of drugs and safeguarding vulnerable people, while raising awareness of County Lines drugs offences and how to report any information to police. Drug-related activity will not be tolerated in Chester and we will continue to work with BTP to stamp down on such behaviour."*

BTP County Lines Taskforce Detective Inspector Brian Buddo said: *"Drugs destroy lives. Every day we're at stations and on trains across the country using a range of resources to target offenders involved in drug supply, as well as identify and safeguard children exploited by gangs to move drugs between locations. "Six children have now been identified as being at risk of exploitation and fast track referrals are now in place to ensure their safety. That's six lives potentially saved from the clutches of drugs gangs. Along with the dismantling of an active drugs line and drugs and weapons taken off the streets, joint operations like these prove that working together leads to real time results."*

"Passengers who spot the signs of child exploitation or drug supply on the railway are urged to report it to us by texting 61016."

Man jailed for selling cannabis after previously being spared prison

A man who continued to sell cannabis after being spared jailed for similar drugs offences has been put behind bars.

Kaya Scullion was sentenced to 16 months in custody on Tuesday 10 February at Chester Crown Court. The 24-year-old, of Cedar Close, Lostock Gralam, Northwich, had earlier pleaded guilty to possession with intent to supply cannabis and being concerned in the supply of cannabis. Scullion was previously given a suspended sentence after being found in possession of a large quantity of cannabis in 2023. He was sentenced to six months suspended for 12 months in April 2025 for the offence. Following this sentencing hearing, officers became aware of a Snapchat account which was advertising cannabis for sale. Numerous enquiries were carried out in relation to the account, which subsequently linked it to Scullion.



In July 2025, a warrant was executed at his home address and during the search cash and a mobile phone were seized. Analysis of the phone showed Scullion was involved in the supply of cannabis, with messages showing a 'menu' of items and arranging to meet buyers. Scullion was later charged. On top of his custodial sentence, he has also been ordered to forfeit more than £20,000 which he had gained through his criminal activity.

Police Constable Andy Collict said: *"Scullion showed a clear disregard for the law, carrying on with his criminal activity after the courts spared him jail time. Even after being arrested a second time and being faced with irrefutable evidence, Scullion showed arrogance and even laughed at the exhibits put before him. I welcome the custodial sentence handed to him and hope that this will show him that he cannot get away with this type of behaviour."*

If you have any information about drug-related activity where you live, please contact us or 101 or through our website and we will do the rest."

Officers appeal for information to help tackle anti-social e-bike riding in Winsford

Officers are appealing for information from the public as part of ongoing efforts to tackle anti-social and dangerous riding of e-bikes in Winsford.

Over recent weeks, there have been several reports of Surrone e-bikes being ridden dangerously in the town and surrounding areas endangering both the riders of the bikes themselves and other road users. The riders wear face coverings in an effort to hide their identity.

Inspector Paul Heatley, of Northwich Local Policing Unit, said: *"The behaviour of these riders is not only illegal, but also dangerous and could cause a serious accident. To help us stop this, I'd urge anyone who sees these bikes being ridden in an anti-social and dangerous manner around Winsford to contact police and provide as much detail as possible. If you have dash cam footage, please share this with us so that we can find those responsible. The same goes for anyone with CCTV or doorbell footage. I'd also urge anyone who has any information on those riding these bikes dangerously to get in to touch. The more information we have, the more we can do to deter this dangerous behaviour."*

Anyone with any information is asked to contact Cheshire Police via www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us, or call 101.

Predator jailed for 26 years in Northwich

A man has been jailed for 26 years after pleading guilty to sexually abusing four children in Northwich.

James Huband appeared at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 12 February, where he was sentenced to 26 years in prison. He was also subject to an indefinite Sexual Harm Prevention Order (SHPO). The 48-year-old of the Winsford area, had previously admitted to four counts of rape of a girl under 13, three counts of assaulting a girl under 13 by penetration, four counts of assaulting a girl under 13 by touching, and four counts of inciting a child under 13 to engage in sexual activity. The offences occurred between 2023 and 2025. During the investigation, specialist officers deployed a seminal detection dog to an area where some of the offences took place. The dog subsequently found Huband's semen on one of the victim's blankets.



Following the sentencing, the officer in charge of the case, Detective Constable Savy Joshi, said: *"This has been a really challenging case for a number of reasons, and so I'm relieved our hard work has paid off by securing justice for these innocent children. In the initial stages of our investigation, Huband dismissed the allegations outright, attempting to weaponise his status as an adult to portray the victims' accounts as nothing more than childish imagination. But when PD Ebony located his DNA on one of the victim's blankets, his attempts to deny responsibility fell short. Predators like Huband operate on manipulation and control, doing everything they can to silence and discredit those they harm. Thanks to the meticulous evidence gathered throughout this investigation, and the remarkable courage shown by all four victims, Huband has now been stripped of that control. We have exposed his lies, and he is now being held accountable for the atrocities he has committed."*

Detective Sergeant Laura Bradshaw, the Senior Investigating Officer, said: *"Cases of child sexual abuse are always devastating, but this one has been particularly harrowing for everyone involved. The children in this case had their lives shattered by the actions of one man who chose to exploit their vulnerability in the most appalling way. The trauma they have endured is unimaginable, yet they have shown extraordinary bravery throughout this entire investigation. Their strength has ensured that no other child will be harmed by Huband, no other child will experience what they have experienced."*

"I would like to acknowledge the dedication of my team, who have worked tirelessly to build a comprehensive case that left Huband with no option but to plead guilty. His sentence reflects the gravity of the horrific abuse he inflicted upon his victims, and whilst they will never be able to forget about what happened to them, I hope that the conclusion of this case will provide them with some closure and enables them to move forward with their lives."

“I also hope this case encourages other victims of sexual offences to come forward and report them to us. Any allegation will be thoroughly investigated, with the wishes and needs of the victim as our main priority. They will receive the help and support they need from our specialist officers, as well as from other support agencies we work alongside, and all victims of sexual offences have the right to anonymity.”

To report any sexual offence, call Cheshire Constabulary on 101. Information can also be passed anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

Two drug dealers jailed thanks to information from the public

Two men have been jailed for drug dealing thanks to information from a member of the public.

Charlie Farrell and Louis Clayton appeared at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 10 February, when they were sentenced to a total of eight years in prison. Farrell, 21, of Dingle Lane, Kelsall, was jailed for five years after he pleaded guilty to being concerned in the supply of Class A & B drugs, dangerous driving and driving while disqualified. Clayton, 32, of Maplewood, Southdene, Kirkby, was sentenced to three years in prison after he admitted being concerned in the supply of Class A & B drugs.



Farrell

Clayton

The court heard how on Thursday 14 August 2025, a local resident had taken their young daughter to the car park on Yeld Lane, so she could ride her bike. While she was at the car park, she noticed a silver Mercedes which was parked, and a man was sat inside the car. As her daughter was riding their bike, an Audi then pulled up in the car park. The occupant of the Mercedes then exited his car and got into the back of the Audi, before quickly exiting the car and returning to his own vehicle. Believing that a drug deal was taking place, the woman decided to take a picture of the Audi as the car was leaving the car park. Realising what the woman had done, the driver of the car started to verbally abuse the woman, before driving their vehicle towards the woman's daughter and knocking her off her bike. Thankfully, the child escaped with only minor injuries and the incident subsequently reported to police.

Following the report, officers were quickly able to identify that the car had been driven by Charlie Farrell. Farrell was well known to officers, and was already under investigation by detectives in Cheshire in relation to drug dealing involving Louis Clayton. Investigations had shown that the pair were in regular contact with each other and mobile phone data suggested that they had been sending flare messages advertising the sale of illegal drugs. The pair were subsequently arrested in relation to the offences. During questioning they denied any involvement in drug dealing, before refusing to answer any of the questions put to them by officers. Despite their silence, both Farrell and Clayton pleaded guilty to the charges against them.

Following the sentencing, Detective Sergeant Roy Wellings, of Chester Proactive CID said: *“Firstly, I would like to thank the member of the public for the information that they provided. While we never advise people to put themselves at risk, the information they gave proved vital in our investigation. 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 sentences that have been handed to Farrell and Clayton and I hope they provides reassurance for local residents.

"While Farrell and Clayton are 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, via the website at www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us"

Chester man jailed for stalking and assaulting a woman

A 48-year-old man has been jailed and handed a five-year restraining order after admitting stalking and assault of an ex-partner.

Stephen Dare, from Cornwall Road, Chester appeared at Chester Magistrates Court on 9 February and admitted one count of assault by beating, and stalking. He was handed a five-year restraining order and sentenced to 12 weeks in prison. Dare had been in a relationship last year with the woman, but she broke it off and he tried to rekindle the relationship. Between 28 October and 19 November 2025 he attended her property when it was unwanted and was verbally and physically abusive and threatening toward her. During this time, he also followed her and continued to be abusive towards her and phoned her repeatedly. At some point she did go back to him, but the relationship was destructive and she was subjected to an assault. The relationship subsequently ended but he continued with his abusive behaviour.

PC Lloyd Murphy said: *"I'd like to thank the victim for her bravery in coming forward and helping to convict Dare. No one should ever be subjected to this kind of behaviour in a relationship. The effects on the victim can be profound, but on seeing justice done I hope this gives her some strength and shows others that we are here to help and support you if you are in similar circumstances."*

Man charged with making nuisance calls to police

A 22-year-old man has been charged with making nuisance phone calls to the force control centre.

Bradley Whitmore, 22, was arrested at around 8.47pm on Wednesday 11 February. Whitmore, of no fixed address, but of Crewe, has since been charged with persistently making use of a public communications network to cause annoyance/inconvenience or anxiety. Whitmore has been remanded in custody and is due to appear at Chester Magistrates' Court on Thursday 12 February.

Cheshire Constabulary highlights romance fraud signs ahead of Valentine's Day

As Valentine's Day approaches, Cheshire Constabulary is urging people to stay alert to the risks of romance fraud - a crime that exploits emotional connection and can leave victims feeling isolated, distressed, and ashamed.

Romance fraud often begins online, through dating apps, social media, or gaming platforms. Offenders typically move relationships forward very quickly, build trust and emotional dependency, and then use manipulation or fabricated crises to pressure victims into sending money or sharing personal information. While financial losses can be significant, the emotional and psychological impact is often far greater and longer lasting. Cheshire Constabulary has specialist trained safeguarding officers who understand how stress, loneliness, and emotional vulnerability can affect decision making and offer necessary support for victims of this callous crime.

PC Jim Day, Financial Abuse Safeguarding Officer at Cheshire Constabulary, said: *“Romance fraud doesn’t work because people are naïve or careless - it works because it targets very real human needs for connection, reassurance and belonging. When someone is anxious, lonely or under emotional pressure, it becomes much harder to think clearly, and that’s exactly what offenders exploit.”*

Advice for family and friends:

Family members and friends are often the first to notice changes and how they raise their concerns is crucial.

PC Day added: *“If you’re worried about someone, the most important thing you can do is listen without judgement. Trying to confront or ‘fix’ the situation too quickly can push people away. Feeling heard and supported helps someone regain clarity and confidence over time. Supportive conversations that are calm, empathetic and non-judgemental are far more effective than advice, pressure or criticism. Creating a safe space can help someone reflect on their situation and, when ready, consider whether a relationship is genuine. Romance fraud thrives in secrecy and silence, but understanding, empathy and open discussion can help protect those we care about.”*

Signs to look out for:

Warning signs of romance fraud can include:

- Relationships that feel unusually fast or intense
- Reluctance to meet in person or repeated excuses to avoid video calls
- Requests for money linked to urgent or emotional crises
- Pressure to keep the relationship secret
- Sudden changes in mood, behaviour, or finances

Cheshire Constabulary is also challenging common myths around romance fraud, including the belief that only older people are the only ones affected, that victims are unintelligent, or that video calls guarantee someone is real. In reality, romance fraud relies on manipulation, coercive control and emotional pressure - and can affect people of all ages and backgrounds. AI-generated video, deepfakes, filters, and pre-recorded footage can all be used by scammers. A video call is no longer proof of authenticity.

What to do if you're concerned:

Anyone who feels uneasy about an online relationship, or who is worried about a loved one, is encouraged to trust their instincts and talk to someone they trust.

Anyone who believes they may be a victim of romance fraud - or who is concerned about a friend or family member - is encouraged to seek help and report it.

Romance fraud can be reported to Report Fraud, the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and cyber crime:

- Online: reportfraud.police.uk
- By phone: 0300 123 2040

Reports to Report Fraud help law enforcement understand patterns of offending and prevent others from being harmed. If someone is in immediate danger, they should contact 999.

Teenagers arrested following incidents in Warrington

Two teenagers have been arrested following a series of incidents in Warrington.

On Monday 9 February, police were called to multiple reports of male suspects attempting to break into cars during the late evening. This included in the Capesthorpe Road and Ullswater Avenue areas of Warrington. A vehicle had subsequently been stolen from outside an address in Capesthorpe Road. At 11.18pm, police then received reports of a collision in Derek Avenue involving the stolen car – a grey Dacia Spring - which had collided with two parked vehicles. It was reported that the occupants of the Dacia had fled the scene. Two 15-year-old boys have since been arrested on suspicion of theft of motor vehicle, theft from motor vehicle, vehicle interference, aggravated taking without consent, possess offensive weapon in a private place, burglary, making off without payment and fraud. They have been released on bail.

Police Sergeant Kerry Barber, of Warrington Local Policing Unit, said: *"We understand the concern incidents like this cause for the local community. Behaviour of this nature is not acceptable, and I hope the fact that two people have been arrested will provide residents with some reassurance. We would continue to urge anyone who witnesses any suspicious activity in their area to report it to police via 101 or through our website."*

Man jailed for seven years for drugs offences in Crewe

A man who benefited from more than half-a-million pounds for supplying class A and B drugs in Crewe has been jailed.

Lee James, of Woodnoth Drive, Shavington, was sentenced to seven years at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 5 February. The 39-year-old had earlier pleaded guilty to being concerned in the supply of cocaine and cannabis, possession of



criminal property, and converting criminal property. On 1 July 2024, an officer was on duty when they stopped a blue BMW M5 in Bradfield Road, Crewe. A search was conducted of both James and his vehicle. He produced more than £1,000 in cash from his pocket, as well as a mobile phone. A further phone was on the passenger seat of the vehicle. James failed a drugs wipe and he was subsequently arrested. Officers undertook a search of James' address and a number of cannabis vape pens were seized. James was also found to be in possession of a gold Rolex watch worth £15,800 and a gold-plated chain worth £8,300. He was later bailed pending further enquiries.

On 11 December 2024, a second search of his address was carried out. Numerous items were seized, including a mobile phone, £2,455 in cash, an e-bike worth £4,000, cannabis vapes and gummies, receipts for high value furniture and a large quantity of designer items including clothing, footwear, handbags and perfumes believed to be in excess of £38,000. Analysis of the mobile phone and bank accounts showed evidence of drug dealing. It was established that James benefitted from more than half-a-million pounds of financial gain as a result of the supply class A and class B drugs across a four-year period between 2021 and 2025. He was subsequently charged with the offences.

Detective Sergeant Williams said: *"James has been handed a significant custodial sentence which reflects the severity of his crimes. He clearly reaped the benefits of his criminal activity, with high value and designer items being found in his address – but as this case shows, crime does not pay. Those items were seized by our officers, and he is now behind bars for a considerable number of years where he will be able to contemplate whether it was worth it. Drugs don't just have an impact on drug users, they affect entire communities, and our fight against those who choose to exploit this continues. If you have any information on drug-related activity where you live, please call us on 101 or report information online."*

Pair jailed for robbery, burglary and theft offences in Frodsham area

Two men have been sentenced for robbery, burglary and theft offences following a two-week crime spree.

Andrew Hughes, of Halton Lodge Avenue, Runcorn, and Owen Dunn, of Greenwood Gardens, Bredbury, Stockport, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Monday 2 February. Hughes, 40, was sentenced to four years and 25 days, while Dunn, 24, was sentenced to four years and 90 days for a series of incidents in Frodsham and Helsby.



The pair had previously pleaded guilty to robbery, burglary other than a dwelling, theft from a motor vehicle, and attempted theft from a motor vehicle. Their crime spree began on 19 August 2024. At some time between 9pm and 9.30pm a 15-year-old boy was cycling along Ship Street, Frodsham, when a grey Ford Puma followed him before ramming him off his bike. The victim was flung to the ground, suffering minor injuries, and ran from the scene in fear. The passenger of the Ford Puma exited the vehicle and cycled away on the victim's bike. The stolen e-bike was worth £1,200 and was never recovered.

On 30 August, occupants of an address on Elm Rise, Frodsham, were contacted by their neighbour while they were on holiday, who informed them it looked like the lock to their garage had been forced and the door was now open. Two motorcycles and two e-bikes had been stolen from the garage. The total value was more than £14,000. These items were never recovered.

A few days later, on 3 September, occupants of an address in Sandfields, Frodsham, realised a tent box and the roof bars it was attached to on top of their vehicle had been stolen. The tent box was valued at £1,230.25 and the roof bars were valued at £110. Sadly, these were never recovered.

On 8 September, an occupant left an address in Alvanley Drive, Helsby, and disturbed two men trying to steal a tent box from the roof of a vehicle parked on a driveway. The two men fled the scene and jumped into a grey Ford Puma parked nearby.

<https://youtu.be/9tQ3NKgWwf8>

The incident was reported to Cheshire Police and an officer on patrol in a marked police vehicle sighted the Ford Puma in Chester Road, Helsby. Officers stopped the vehicle and detained the driver, later identified as Hughes, in the driver's seat, and he was subsequently arrested. Two passengers fled from the car. Inside the vehicle two head torches, a wrench and a pair of pliers were located.

Analysis of Hughes' internet search history on his mobile phone showed that he had searched for various phrases online to see if the robbery on 19 August had been reported to police. This included 'Frodsham police' and 'Cheshire Police latest incidents today' as well as viewing the 'news', 'appeals' and 'wanted' sections on the Cheshire Police website on multiple occasions. Across the period of offending Hughes also searched for bikes similar to the ones they had stolen to see how much they were worth. Further analysis revealed they had listed a tent box for sale online before the theft offence was even committed, before then arranging to steal one to fulfil the sale.

Dunn was later linked to the offences due to messages found on Hughes' mobile phone, as well as CCTV. He had fled the Ford Puma when it was stopped by officers on 8 September but was arrested on 19 January when he handed himself in at Runcorn Custody Suite following officers conducting a number of arrest attempts at associates addresses in the Runcorn area. Further evidence linking the pair to the offences included the Ford Puma being in the area at each crime, as well as the mobile phones attributed to both Hughes and Dunn being present on each occasion.

Police Constable James Wright said: *"Hughes and Dunn were relentless in their offending. Not only did they target innocent people's belongings for their own selfish gain, but they also carried out a frightening attack on a young boy to steal his bike. It's a miracle he was not more seriously injured, and I hope the sentences handed down demonstrate how seriously we take offences of this nature. Our officers were able to collect a catalogue of evidence against the pair, leaving them with no choice but to plead guilty and face the consequences of their actions."*

Widnes man charged with weapons offences

A man from Widnes has been charged weapons offences.

Daniel Campbell, of Hargreaves Court, Widnes, was arrested at around 1.40am on Tuesday 10 February in the Halton Lodge Avenue area of Runcorn. The 28-year-old has since been charged with possession of a knife in a public place. He has been released on bail to appear at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 31 March. The charges relate to an incident that occurred on Halton Lodge Avenue at around 1.30am on Tuesday 10 February.

100 years worth of Protection Orders enforced across the county

The Constabulary's Public Protection Unit have recently secured more than 100 years worth of protective and preventative orders, further safeguarding some of the most vulnerable in our communities.

The Constabulary's Public Protection Unit provides specialist legal advice and representation in cases involving public safety and risk management. A vital part of the team's work involves progressing court applications for protective orders, such as Closure Orders, Stalking Protection Orders, Sexual Risk Orders, and Sexual Harm Prevention Orders. Throughout the last two weeks of January, the Public Protection Team was extremely busy and had been before a court almost every day, advising on cases. During this period, the team has secured protection orders totalling in excess of 100 years. Several of the orders relate to individuals assessed as high risk, requiring urgent and robust legal intervention to manage and reduce the risk posed to the wider public.

Some recent examples of these orders being enforced, that went towards the 100-year milestone, include:

- Hani Tsegai, who had been involved in numerous sexual offences across several force areas. Tsegai was set for release in early February, without any protective measures in place. The team were able to secure an urgent ten-year Sexual Risk Order against him.
- Shaun Yardley, who had failed to adhere to four Restraining Orders. The Public Protection Team were able to secure a ten-year Stalking Protection Order against him, further protecting his victim.

The most recent Operation Azelea deployment also utilised the enforcement of protective orders. The multi-department strikes on several retailers selling counterfeit and illegal tobacco and cigarette across Warrington also saw several orders issued. Following numerous warrants being executed, five urgent closure order applications were put before the court and successfully granted.

Christopher Smith, Principal Lawyer from Public Protection Unit, said: *"These cases are just a few recent examples that highlight the intensity of the team's workload, reflecting both the volume and seriousness of the work being undertaken by the Public Protection Unit. What this also highlights is the critical role the Unit plays in progressing complex, high-stakes cases where effective legal action is essential to safeguarding our communities here in Cheshire. With that in mind, as we have reached this significant milestone, I would like to thank the team for their continued dedication and professionalism when dealing with some of the most sensitive and often emotionally taxing casefiles and investigations."*

Constabulary Motorcycle Officer launching free bike and ride out event to celebrate International Women's Day

To commemorate International Women's Day 2026, the Constabulary's Motorcycle Team is co-hosting a free multi-agency bike event for women riders of all abilities.



The theme for International Women's Day 2026 is 'Give to Gain', with this year's worldwide campaign encouraging a mindset of generosity and collaboration. Whether that is through donations, knowledge, resources, infrastructure, visibility, advocacy, education, training, mentoring, or time, contributing to women's advancement helps create more supportive and interconnected communities. With that theme in mind, Cheshire Constabulary's Motorcycle Unit is hosting an event for women bikers of all abilities on International Women's Day next month (March).

With support from colleagues from Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, National Highways, BikeSafe and BMW, anyone with an interest in anything on two wheels is invited down to the Chester Motorrad Service on Knutsford Way, Chester, between 11am and 3pm on Sunday 8 March to meet like-minded riders and experienced bike technicians. Attendees can also book a ride-out session, overseen by professional riders from both the Constabulary Motorcycle Team and BikeSafe. Discounted vouchers for the police-led BikeSafe initiatives will be available on the day. Officers from the Motorcycle Unit and BikeSafe will also be on hand throughout the day to provide tips and advice on overall bike maintenance, as well as safer riding techniques.

Event organiser Police Constable Jen Whelan, of the Motorcycle Unit, said: *"This exciting event that celebrates women in the bike riding community, in policing and beyond, is being led by Cheshire Constabulary's Motorcycle Team, with the support of our community partners at Cheshire Fire and Rescue, National Highways and BMW Motorrad. Whether you're a woman who's new to biking, an experienced rider, or just want to know a bit more about what we as a force do on the road, you will be more than welcome at the day and in the company of other like-minded motorcyclists."*

PC Whelan is currently the Constabulary's only female member of the force's Motorcycle Unit, which is based at the Winsford Headquarters. The Unit is vital to the day-to-day running of the Constabulary; whether that be through assistance on roads related operations and deployments such as Operation Lawmaker, which directly targets the anti-social and dangerous riding of off-road and illegal bikes, responding to emergency incidents quicker than traditional patrol cars due to their size and agility or managing traffic incidents and escorting motorcades, they are involved in all aspects of policing.

Joining the force in 2020, PC Whelan initially worked within the Response team. It was during this time here that her tutor put her in touch with the Roads and Crime Team's Motorcycle Unit, which would eventually lead to her completing both her off-road and standard motorcycle response courses and going on to assist the team on her days off from response work. Four years later, in October 2024, Jen moved to the unit full-time and, within a year of joining the team at the Motorcycle Unit, passed her advanced motorcycle course. Not only this, but PC Whelan became the first woman with the Constabulary, and only the fifth woman nationally, to pass the National VIPEX course, which now allows her to escort high individuals such as royalty and international dignitaries.

It was this year's IWD theme of 'Give to Gain' that prompted PC Whelan to set up the event for other female motorcyclists like herself.

PC Whelan added: *"I have had firsthand experience of a lack of female representation across two wheels, which is something I am keen to change. In line with this, I have planned an event for International Women's Day 2026. The theme this year is 'Give to Gain', which encourages a mindset of generosity and ambition. This upcoming event next month allows interaction with highly trained Cheshire Police Motorcyclists in a relaxed environment."*

To sign up for the ride out event, please click [here](#). To find out more about the day itself, visit the Halliwell Jones Motorrad [website](#).

Man jailed following armed robbery in Runcorn

A man who carried out an armed robbery at a convenience store in Runcorn has been jailed.

Alex Shirley appeared at Chester Crown Court on Monday 2 February where he was sentenced to 63 months in prison, with an extended period of 24 months on licence. The 39-year-old, formally of Merewood, Southdene, Kirkby, had earlier pleaded guilty to robbery and possession of a knife in a public place.



The court heard how at around 7am on Thursday 16 October 2025, Shirley entered the Morrisons Daily store in Castlefields armed with a knife. Once inside, he first approached the Post Office counter where he threatened the store worker with the knife and demanded that they handed over all the money from the till. After stealing cash from the till, he then gripped the store worker from behind and marched them across the store to the safe, from where he stole further cash. In total he stole £1,089 from the store. Shirley then went on to steal a quantity of cigarettes and vapes before fleeing the shop on foot.

The incident was quickly reported to police and officers flooded the local area searching for the offender. While searching the area officers located discarded clothing, a balaclava and the knife used in the robbery, along with cash and a large quantity of cigarettes and vapes concealed in a nearby bush. Shirley was spotted in the area acting suspiciously, paying significant interest in police activity, walking past on several occasions. Following his arrest, Shirley refused to answer any of the questions put to him by officers. Despite his silence, he was later charged in relation to the offence.

Following the sentencing, the officer who led the investigation said: *"This was a terrifying ordeal for all those involved, and I welcome the substantial sentence that has been handed to Shirley, which reflects the severity of his actions. He is a prolific offender and has showed absolutely no regard for the store workers, and no remorse for his actions. Thankfully, as a result of the great teamwork between the officers here at Runcorn, and the Roads and Crime Unit, we were quickly able to locate and arrest Shirley. I hope that the outcome of this case demonstrates to local residents how seriously we treat robbery and also acts as a warning to others who are intent on committing crime."*

Man charged with several offences following incident in Widnes

Officers have charged a man with several offences following an incident in Widnes.

Justin Sheridan, of no fixed address, was arrested at around 1am on Thursday 5 February. The 36-year-old has since been charged with rape, controlling and coercive behaviour and criminal damage. Sheridan appeared Warrington Magistrates' on Friday 6 February, where he was remanded in custody to appear at Liverpool Crown Court on Friday 6 March. The charges relate to an incident that occurred in the Baron's Close area of Widnes on Thursday 5 February.

Tributes issued to off-duty officer following fatal collision in Arclid

Tributes have been issued to a serving police officer who has died following a fatal collision in Arclid.

Police Constable Alice Mayo died on Saturday 7 February, following a collision on the A534 Spark Lane, near to the junction of Moorhead Lane. At the time of the incident, Alice was off-duty and driving a blue Fiat 500 which was involved in a collision with a white Land Rover defender. Sadly, 29-year-old Alice, an officer from Macclesfield Beat team who has served with Cheshire Constabulary for more than six years, died at the scene.



Alice's family said: "Alice meant so much to so many. She was a daughter, a sister, an auntie, a niece, a dog-mum to Ned the Cocker Spaniel, and a friend to so many. She was beautiful inside and out. She will leave a huge hole in our lives, but also a legacy of laughter, fun, and sunshine. She achieved so much in her short life, and leaves behind a heartbroken, but incredibly proud, family. Alice was at a time of her life where she was really happy. She overcame so much, but she never gave up. She was taken far too soon."

Cheshire Constabulary Chief Constable Mark Roberts QPM, MSc., B.A. (Hons), said: *"This was a tragic incident, and I know all of our thoughts are with Alice's family, friends, and colleagues at this difficult time. From speaking to colleagues who worked with Alice she was clearly very popular and well regarded by all. Her loss is felt beyond the force and I think the words of a local Headmistress speak volumes when she says Alice "approached her role with professionalism, warmth and a genuine commitment to keeping our community safe. We hope that in time, the memories of her work, the lives she touched and the difference she made will bring comfort to all who knew her." I don't think there can be a finer tribute to any police officer."*

Dan Price, Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, said: *"I am deeply saddened to hear about the death of Alice at the weekend. My thoughts are with those who knew and loved her and of course with the policing family that she was part of."*

Enquiries in relation to the collision are ongoing. A 77-year-old man who was arrested on suspicion of causing a death by dangerous driving has since been released on conditional bail pending further enquiries. Anyone with any information or footage which may aid the investigation is urged to get in touch, either online at www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us , or by calling 101, quoting IML-2266170.

Criminal Behaviour Order bans prolific shoplifter from every Co-Op in Macclesfield and nine other retailers

A man from Macclesfield has been banned from every Co-Operative store in Macclesfield as well as nine local retailers under a Criminal Behaviour Order

Ashley Whittaker appeared at Crewe Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 4 February, where he was handed a 15-week custodial prison sentence after pleading guilty to eight counts of theft from a shop. Alongside the custodial sentence, Whittaker was handed a Criminal Behaviour Order that bans him from entering Macclesfield town centre.



Under the terms of the order, Whittaker is also banned from entering the following premises:

- Majestic Wine, Roe Street
- Morrisons, Hurdsfield Green
- Tesco, Exchange Street
- Reckless Vape Company, Mill Street
- TG Jones, Mill Street
- Boots, Mill Street
- B&M, Exchange Street
- Asda, Victoria Centre, Crewe
- Home Bargains, Lyme Green
- Any CO-OP in Macclesfield



Police Sergeant Matthew Bassirat, of Macclesfield Local Policing Unit, said: *“Criminal Behaviour Orders are just one of many policing tactics we use to tackle shoplifting in our local areas and prevent disruption to our retailers. Whittaker will remain under the CBO for the foreseeable future, so I do hope that this news will allow our partners in retail across Macclesfield to breath a very welcome sigh of relief. With that in mind, if anyone witnesses Mr Whittaker breaching the terms of his CBO, please do report it to us. If he is found to be in breach, he could face a fine or even a custodial prison sentence.”*

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Appeal for witnesses following fatal collision in Barton

Officers are appealing for witnesses to come forward following a fatal collision in Barton.

At 5.50am on Saturday 14 February, police were called to reports of a collision on Barton Road, Barton. The collision involved a white Ford Transit van which had been travelling towards North Wales. A passenger in the vehicle, 24-year-old woman, was sadly pronounced dead at the scene. The driver and a second passenger, a 27-year-old man and a 21-year-old man, have both been arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving. Enquiries are currently underway to establish the exact circumstances.

Sergeant Amy Hollis of the Roads and Crime Unit, said: *“We are currently investigating the full circumstances of this sad incident and as part of our enquiries, we would like to hear from any witnesses who have not already spoken to police. The same goes for anyone with any relevant dashcam or CCTV footage of what happened. You can report information to Cheshire Police by calling 101 or [visit the website](#) quoting IML-2270726. Our thoughts remain with the family and friends of the woman who has sadly died.”*

Appeal to trace wanted man from Eccles

Police are appealing for information from the public to help trace a wanted man from Eccles.

Dominic McDaid is wanted on warrant after failing to appear at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 29 January. The 32-year-old, of Walker Road, Eccles, was due to be sentenced for drugs offences which he had earlier pleaded guilty to. McDaid is described as a white man, of heavy build, with short brown hair and blue eyes.



Anyone with any information in relation to his whereabouts is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101, or at www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us, quoting 26000061918.

Appeal to trace wanted man from Runcorn

Police in Runcorn are appealing for help in tracing a wanted man.

James Mellor is wanted on recall to prison. The 36-year-old is described as white, around 5'8" tall, with brown hair and blue eyes. Mellor is of Runcorn but has links to both the Halton and Warrington areas. Anyone with any information in relation to the whereabouts of Mellor, is asked to contact Cheshire Police via the website or on 101, quoting IML-2265701.



Appeal following burglary in Mickle Trafford

Officers are appealing for witnesses and those with footage to come forward following reports of a burglary in Mickle Trafford.

On Saturday 7 February, police received reports of a burglary at an address in Station Lane, Mickle Trafford, Chester, which is believed to have taken place at around 6.13pm. During the incident, two men gained entry to the property when it was unoccupied. It is not believed that anything was stolen.

Detective Constable Paul Boneham said: *“We are working hard to trace those responsible and would like to appeal to anyone who witnessed what happened or saw anything suspicious to get in touch with us. The same goes for anyone who may have been in the area at the time who has any dashcam footage. We would also urge people in the area to check their CCTV and video doorbell cameras to see if they captured anything relevant.”*

You can report information by calling 101 or visiting www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us quoting [IML-2266490](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us).

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)

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In partnership with



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Scan to visit website



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