

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 26 05 2024

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Winsford woman sentenced for controlling and coercive behaviour

A woman from Winsford who physically and psychologically controlled the life of her former partner has been handed a suspended sentence.

Sarah Rigby appeared at Chester Crown Court on Friday 3 May where she was sentenced to 20 months in prison, suspended for two years. She was also handed a five-year restraining order and ordered to complete 35 days of rehabilitation. The 41-year-old of Sunningdale Close, Winsford, had previously pleaded guilty to controlling and coercive behaviour.

The court was told that the couple's relationship first began in July 2021 and initially everything was good between the pair. However, Rigby quickly became very controlling and within months she had forced her partner to move into her home in Winsford. As soon as he arrived at the address, he was made to store all his belongings in the garage and she ordered him pay £700 a month rent, despite the fact Rigby's father already owned the house.

Her behaviour continued to escalate further, and she soon took full control of all his finances, cut him off from his family and friends, and stopped him from being in the house alone – despite the fact he needed to work from home. As the relationship continued, Rigby also stopped the victim from showering or defecating at the house, meaning that he had to go to a local gym to wash. She also searched him as he was entering and leaving the house to ensure he wasn't taking anything that she didn't approve of. If he didn't comply with her orders, Rigby would punish him by physically assaulting him, preventing him from eating, and making the victim sleep on the floor with no duvet and the windows left open.

As a result of her actions, the victim lost four stone in weight during the couple's nine-month relationship. As well as the physical abuse, Rigby also verbally and psychologically abused him, constantly putting him down and bombarding him with messages, calling him fat, ugly, and disgusting. Thankfully, the victim found the courage to speak out and in March 2022 he contacted Cheshire Police after seeking help from a men's domestic abuse helpline. Following the call, an investigation was launched by detectives in Northwich CID and Rigby was subsequently charged in relation to the incidents.

Following the sentencing, Detective Constable Sophie Ward said: *"Firstly, I would like to praise the victim for having the courage to speak out, as well as the bravery that he has shown throughout the investigation. This is the worst case of controlling and coercive behaviour I have ever seen. Rigby had a stranglehold on the victim. Through her coercive behaviour she was able to control everything*

he did, cutting him off from everyone he knew and leaving him trapped, feeling like he had nowhere to turn. Her actions left the victim both physically and emotionally scarred, and even now, two years after their relationship ended, he is still receiving psychological counselling to help him recover. Even after she was charged, Rigby continued to taunt her victim, refusing to return his belongings, and constantly delaying the trial by failing to notify the court of holidays and appointments. Although she eventually pleaded guilty to her offending, she has shown no remorse for her actions. While the victim will never be able to forget what happened to him, I hope that the conclusion of this case will help him to move forward and start to rebuild his life."

Detective Constable Ward added: *"Many people think that only women can be victims of controlling and coercive behaviour, but as this case demonstrates, that is not always the case and there is help available. We treat all reports we receive seriously and will investigate thoroughly to ensure that those responsibility are brought to justice. If you, or someone you know, are a victim of this type of behaviour then please speak out."*

56 suspects rounded up during Operation Hunted

An operation targeting wanted offenders across the county saw 56 suspects locked up for a range of offences over a two-day period.

This past week, officers and staff from local policing units, the Special Constabulary, and specialist departments from across the force concentrated their efforts and combined their expertise to track down people suspected of committing crimes in the county. A specific list of individuals officers wanted to speak to and deal with was drawn up. They then had the assistance of specialist units such as the Economic Crime Unit, Roads Policing, and the Serious Organised Crime Unit.

Across the county, shoplifters, burglars and domestic abuse perpetrators were arrested alongside those suspected of firearms offences, criminal damage, serious assaults, aggravated burglary, robbery, rape, and stalking. Four suspects were immediately returned to prison as they had been recalled for breaching prison release conditions. A 23-year-old man who was wanted in connection with a murder in south Yorkshire was also arrested in Chester. 56 suspects were arrested in total, with a number handing themselves into local police stations after two-days of arrest attempts and the serving of harbouring notices at their known addresses.

Superintendent Sam Billington, who led on the operation, said: *"There has been some speculation that police are to reduce the number of people arrested, and I hope this operation shows that is simply not the case here in Cheshire. I'd like to reassure members of the public that Cheshire Constabulary will not stop arresting those who commit crime, and we will continue to do everything possible to make Cheshire a hostile place for criminals and bring perpetrators to justice, continuing with our commitment to keep the residents of Cheshire safe. We went out there furnished with information that would help us track down the suspects and where possible put them before the courts. This is something our officers and staff do every day as part of their daily business, but we wanted to highlight that when we identify those who are a priority for us to find, we have the use of specialist departments to help us in our search. Teams across the county worked together and successfully located those who are denying victims the justice they deserve. We will continue to work together to prevent crime, locate suspects and keep you safe."*

Man charged following serious assault in Nantwich

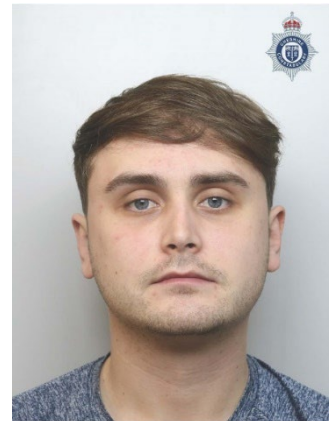
Detectives investigating a serious assault in Nantwich have charged a man in relation to the incident.

Nathan Johnson was arrested on Saturday 18 May. The 20-year-old of New Bridge Street, Maryport, has since been charged with section 18 assault and public order. Johnson has been bailed to appear at Chester Crown Court on Monday 17 June. The charges relate to an incident on Welsh Row, Nantwich on Saturday 18 May, where a woman was allegedly assaulted.

Man jailed for dangerous driving in Ellesmere Port

A man who led police on a dangerous pursuit, reaching speeds of more than 100mph in a 40mph zone, while driving a stolen vehicle, has been jailed.

Leo Meek appeared at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 22 May, where he was sentenced to 22 months for dangerous driving and handling stolen goods. The 25-year-old, of no fixed abode, had previously pleaded guilty to the offences.



During the afternoon of Wednesday 19 July 2023, an officer was in an unmarked police vehicle when he sighted a stolen vehicle, a white BMW M135i, on Rivacre Road, Ellesmere Port. As the officer caught up to the vehicle, the driver – later identified as Meek - made a sudden turn and started increasing in speed and refusing to stop, despite the police vehicle's blue lights being activated.

The stolen BMW overtook multiple vehicles, tailgating them to force them to pull over, and picked up speeds of more than 100mph along winding narrow roads, more than double the 40mph speed limit. Having lost sight of the vehicle due to the excess speeds, the officer rounded a corner to find the BMW had crashed on the bridge above the M53. The car had hit the barrier with such force it had dented it, and in doing so prevented it from falling onto the motorway below. The driver had already fled the scene, abandoning their front seat passenger. There was extensive damage to the front end of the vehicle, which was confirmed to have been stolen the previous week from the Manchester area. Officers discovered three sets of registration plates in the boot of the car.

Meek was confirmed as the driver after his DNA was recovered from the steering wheel airbag, which had been deployed in the crash. He was subsequently arrested and charged in relation to the incident. Meek's DNA was already registered on the Police National Computer System following a previous conviction in 2021 for death by dangerous driving. Meek had been speeding when he collided with a 15-year-old boy who was riding his bike in the Upton area of Merseyside. Meek failed to stop at the scene. The teenage victim sadly died the next morning from his injuries.

On top of his latest sentence, Meek is disqualified from driving for 47 months.

Following the sentencing PC Cooling said: *“Despite already causing the death of an innocent teenager through reckless driving and speeding, Meek clearly had not learnt from this tragic incident. It is a miracle that no other collisions occurred as a result of Meek’s driving on 19 July. He put innocent members of the public at risk, reaching alarming speeds in excess of 100mph and eventually losing control of the stolen vehicle. Thankfully the bridge barrier prevented the vehicle from falling onto the motorway below, but the damage to the car and the barrier shows just how dangerous Meek’s driving was. Even after the collision, Meek continued to try and evade police by fleeing the scene, showing no regard for the safety of his passenger. Just as he fled the scene after hitting the young cyclist in 2021, he again failed to stop and was only concerned with getting away. “However, his efforts were to no avail. Thanks to DNA left on the airbag, officers from the Roads and Crime unit along with crime scene investigators confirmed Meek had been driving, tracked him down, and he is now behind bars for his actions. This highlights that there really is nowhere to hide – we will use every resource available to us to hold people to account. I hope this also serves as a reminder to those who commit crimes on Cheshire’s roads that you will be caught.”*

Operation Sceptre: Cheshire Police recover more than 450 knives during week of action

Cheshire has seen a sharp increase in the number of knives taken off its streets following a county-wide campaign tackling knife crime.

Operation Sceptre, a week-long campaign intensifying efforts in tackling knife crime, ran from Monday 13 May to Sunday 19 May. During the week of action, officers from multiple specialist departments from across the Constabulary worked in partnership with residents, community groups and partner organisations in an effort to reduce the impact of knife crime across the county.

Cheshire is the ninth lowest police force for knife crime incidents in England and Wales, but despite this, the Constabulary has seen a 5.9% increase in knife-related offences in the 12 months to March 2024 compared to the previous year. The Constabulary remains determined to reduce the number of knives carried across the county, and this past week efforts in tackling knife crime have been intensified through enforcement and engagement initiatives as the force continues to push towards creating a weapons-free county.

Superintendent Andy Blizzard, Force Knife Crime Lead for Cheshire Constabulary, said: *“We are very proud of the fact that when compared to our fellow 42 forces in England and Wales, knife crime in our county remains relatively low. However, in the 12 months to March 2024, we have seen a 5.9% increase in knife-related offences when compared to the previous year. This increase is partially the result of our officers’ dedicated and proactive approach toward stop and search. Last week alone we intensified our stop search efforts, with our officers conducting over 140 stop searches; this increase in searches means that more people are being arrested for possessing bladed weapons. Over the course of Operation Sceptre week, we conducted 70 weapons sweeps in parks, towns and residential areas across Cheshire and saw more than 450 knives surrendered to police through knife surrender bins that were placed across the county. We have also seen eight arrests directly related to Op Sceptre activity. These great results are a testament to the excellent proactive police work put*

in by our dedicated officers and has led to a sizable number of lethal weapons being removed from Cheshire's streets."

This Operation Sceptre week has also seen some great engagement from our wider Cheshire community and partner organisations. Officers from the Constabulary have held over 50 community engagement events, including knife surrender bin events, local surgeries and Beat Meetings, talking to local community residents about how they can work with police to tackle knife crime. 65 school engagements have also taken place across Cheshire, with officers educating young people about knife crime, gang culture and why no one needs to pick up a blade to feel protected.

In Crewe, the current home of the Anti-Violence Bee sculpture, officers from the Local Policing Unit have been working Crewe Town Council, the Safer Cheshire East Partnership and their partners in providing a programme of activities during the Bee's residency in the town, in which Operation Sceptre week fell. Events at the Bee included free self-defence demonstrations for members of the public, powerful testimonies from victims of knife crime and their families, moments of song and reflection, children's sessions promoting the importance of kindness and non-violence and regular visits from the Safer Streets Bus for members of the community to speak to officers about any concerns or to just charge their phones and grab a bottle of water.

Superintendent Blizard added: *"Over this past week, we have seen some great examples of community engagement and partner relationship building that, moving forward, will help us in our efforts to promote the idea that Cheshire is a hostile environment for anyone who chooses to carry a knife. We have been working with partner organisations, including local authorities, charities, third-sector organisations, youth representatives and community groups in conducting a number of activities. They have included community knife sweeps, outreach and engagement, the deployment of knife surrender bins and knife arches, and visiting over 40 of the county's retailers in test purchase operations to ensure that potentially lethal weapons are not falling into the wrong hands. Knife crime is not an issue police can tackle on their own, which is why engagement between your local policing teams, schools, youth organisations, community groups and businesses alike is incredibly important when it comes to pushing for a wider societal change."*

Last week, the Constabulary also announced that it has launched an ongoing partnership with the Warrington Wolves Rugby Club, who have helped deliver our message of anti-violence and aggression. Since the start of the week, officers from Warrington LPU have been out across the town with members of the squad, engaging with the local community, and visiting Warrington's young people at schools and colleges and within youth organisations. The squad also kindly agreed to host a knife surrender event at their home at the Halliwell Jones Stadium as well as joining officers for several important safety talks delivered at their Youth Zone.



Superintendent Adam Ross, Force Area Commander for Warrington, said: *"This campaign has been a great opportunity to showcase the work our officers put in on a daily basis to keep our streets safe from knife crime. Operation Sceptre also highlights all the engagement we deliver to various local community groups and the work we do with our partner organisations. This week of action has also*

been particularly special for us as it marks the start of a long-running collaboration between the Constabulary and the team at Warrington Wolves - who have already helped us spread the message that no one needs to carry a knife in order to feel safe or protected on our streets. Moving forward, our work with the Wolves will incorporate other aspects of community engagement and policing and will allow us to strengthen our relationship with the local community throughout Warrington, particularly with the younger generation. We want everyone to feel that they can come to the police with any issues, not just knife crime, so we can take immediate action and keep them safe."

To report any type of crime involving weapons, call Cheshire Constabulary on 101 or 999 in an emergency. Anyone who knows someone that carries a knife can report it to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously> Information can also be passed to the force online via [Report | Cheshire Constabulary](#)

Op Apollo secures 112 County Line closures and 200 years of sentences in latest milestone

112 County lines have been closed and 200 years' worth of sentences have been dished out as a result of the work undertaken by Op Apollo.

Operation Apollo was launched in November 2022 by Cheshire Constabulary in a bid to combat county lines – they have since secured multiple convictions and have seized thousands of pounds worth of cash and illegal drugs. County lines drug dealing involves organised crime groups based in major cities extending their criminal enterprise into towns and rural locations. They often recruit and coerce young children and vulnerable adults to sell illegal drugs for them. In their first year, Op Apollo secured over 100 years' worth of prison sentences and tore down 70 county lines gangs. Just six months later, Op Apollo have now dismantled 112 county lines and have put 53 offenders behind bars, who are collectively facing over 200 years' worth of sentences. A further 35 people are still awaiting sentencing or trial. Over 150 people have also been charged with drug related offences as a result of Cheshire Constabulary's commitment to tackling County Lines. The team remain steadfast in their disruption of county lines and those who attempt to profit from their illegal gains, with over £60,000 in cash being seized and over £87,000 worth of illegal drugs recovered and removed from the streets of Cheshire.

Following their latest milestone, Detective Inspector Robert Balfour, from Cheshire Constabulary's Serious and Organised Crime Unit, said: *"In just six months, our team of detectives have secured an additional 100 years' worth of sentences, handed to individuals involved in county lines. Organised gangs operating county lines are known to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and supply drugs on their behalf. This lifestyle shouldn't be glamourised and can lead to serious consequences. That's why Op Apollo have been working tirelessly to dismantle county lines and put a stop to the drug dealers operating them. With 112 county lines closed and over £140k worth of cash and drugs seized, the message is clear that illegal drugs and those who supply them are not welcome here in Cheshire. Op Apollo will continue to target those who are foolish enough to believe they can establish illegal drug supply lines here in our county and go undetected. If you believe a*

county line is operating in your community, please get in touch with us here at Cheshire Police and we will take action."

If you believe drug activity is taking place in your community and have information, please contact Cheshire Constabulary [via our website](#) or you can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Three people arrested following Winsford drugs raid

Officers have arrested three men and seized a quantity of class B drugs following a police raid in Winsford.

At around 9am today, Monday 20 May, officers executed a warrant at an address on Dee Way. When searching the property officers discovered a quantity of cannabis, along with a number of weapons and mobile phones. Three men, aged 31, 37 and 47, were arrested at the address on suspicion of cultivation of class B Drugs (cannabis) They are currently being held in police custody assisting officers with their enquiries.

Following the warrant Inspector Dave Levins, said: *"Today's warrant is part of our ongoing efforts to tack the supply of illegal drugs in the Winsford area and I hope it provides reassurance to local residents. Drugs have a hugely detrimental impact on our communities, causing widespread misery. As such, cutting off supplies of illegal drugs and removing dealers from our streets is of paramount importance. As part of our efforts to bring those responsible to justice, we also need support from the local community. 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, or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."*

Two people charged in relation to county lines drug dealing in Northwich

Detectives from Northwich Proactive Policing Team have charged two men in relation to county lines drug dealing.

Keenan Hughes and Vincent Potter were both arrested at around 3pm on Friday 17 May after officers conducted a stop check on Winnington Street. Hughes, 18, of Cable Street, Connah's Quay, and Potter, 19, of no fixed abode, have both since been charged with possession with intent to supply Class A drugs (crack cocaine), possession of criminal property and possession of a knife in a public place. The pair appeared at Chester Magistrates Court on Saturday 18 May where they were remanded in custody, they are next set to appear at Chester Crown Court on Monday 17 June.

Members of the public urged to be vigilant following 'purse dipping' incidents

Police are urging members of the public to be vigilant after a number of 'purse dipping' incidents in Cheshire East.

During the past few weeks there have been three incidents where people have reported their purses have been stolen from their bags. At 2.30pm on Tuesday 23 April, a woman reported her purse was stolen from her handbag which was in the seat of a shopping trolley in Marks and

Spencer in Coppice Way, Handforth. At 6pm on Tuesday 14 May, police received reports that a woman's purse had been stolen from her bag which was in a shopping trolley at Morrisons in Dunwoody Way, Crewe. At 11.30am on Wednesday 15 May, a woman reported her purse had been stolen while shopping at Sainsbury's in Alderley Road, Wilmslow.

Chief Inspector Andy Baker said: *"As we see the return of warmer weather, with more people out and about, we have sadly seen a rise in opportunistic thieves on the lookout for an easy way to make criminal gains. These criminals can be incredibly good at distracting you and using other methods to steal your belongings, so you may not even realise the crime has taken place. This is why we are encouraging everyone to be vigilant and keep an eye out for suspicious activity. If you would like some extra reassurance, please pop into your local police station where we will be able to supply you with purse bells to attach to your purse or wallet. These are a really useful tool which will help to alert you to any potential theft."*

There are a few simple precautions people can take to deter opportunistic thieves:

- Carry your purse in a zipped-up bag, and always keep the bag close to you and where you can see it.
- Attach an audible alarm to your purse/wallet, such as purse bells.
- Never leave your bag in a shopping trolley or basket.
- Avoid withdrawing large amounts of money if not necessary.
- Be aware of people around you, following you, or getting too close to your person and your belongings.

Anyone who sees someone acting suspiciously around others or has any information about incidents of this nature is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101.

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Appeal for information following fatal collision in Oakmere

Police are appealing for witnesses and video footage following a fatal collision in Oakmere.

At around 7.40am on Wednesday 22 May, police were called to reports of a collision on the A49 Tarporley Road, in Oakmere. Officers attended the scene and found there had been a collision between a white Renault Clio and an HGV, near to the junction of Overdale Lane. Sadly, the driver of the Clio, a 31-year-old woman from Crewe, died at the scene as a result of the collision. Her family are being supported by specialist officers. The driver of the HGV is uninjured. No arrests have been made at this time and enquiries in relation to the incident are in the early stages.

Sergeant Andy Dennison, of the Serious and Complex Collision Investigation Unit, said: *"The A49 is a busy road and as part of our investigation, we are appealing for anyone who witnessed this collision to get in touch. The same goes for anyone who has any dashcam or CCTV footage that may help us determine how this incident occurred. If you have any information, no matter how small, please call us on 101, or via the website, quoting IML 1829539."*

Detectives appeal for information following serious sexual assault in Knutsford

UPDATE, released 24/5/24: Following further enquiries, a second person, a 19-year-old man, has been arrested on suspicion of rape. He has since been released on conditional bail. The 37-year-old man who was arrested previously has been eliminated from the investigation and released with no further action against him. The investigation is currently ongoing and anyone with any further information should contact Cheshire Police via the website or 101, quoting IML-1822074.

ORIGINAL APPEAL, released 14/5/24:

Detectives are currently investigating a serious sexual assault in Knutsford.

At 9.08pm on Sunday 12 May police were informed that a 17-year-old girl had been raped during a night out in Knutsford, sometime between 11pm on the evening of Saturday 11 May and 5am on Sunday 12 May. The girl was in and around Knutsford town centre and the Mobberley Road area when the incident occurred. The victim is being supported by officers and enquiries are continuing to establish the circumstances.

DI Rob Lees said: *"As part of our investigation we have arrested a 37-year-old man. He remains in custody while enquiries continue. I'd urge anyone who was in the areas of the town centre and Mobberley Road between the hours of 11pm on Saturday 11 May and 5am on Sunday 12 May to contact us with any information that may help us with our investigation. We understand this may cause some concern in the community and have increased in patrols in the area to provide reassurance."*

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via www.cheshire.police.uk//tell-us quoting IML 1822074. Alternatively, information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Appeal for information following armed robbery in Runcorn

Police investigating an armed robbery in Runcorn are appealing for witnesses and information.

Sometime between 6.53pm and 8.21pm on Tuesday 14 May, a 37-year-old man was walking along the Runcorn Busway on Bridge Street in the direction of Village Square when he was attacked by four to five unknown individuals. The caller reported that one of the attackers was believed to be in possession of a knife and, during the attack, the victim's coat was slashed and his bank card stolen. The suspects involved are believed to be male and aged between 14 and 18 years old. One of the suspects was also believed to have been wearing a black North Face top and a balaclava at the time of the incident. Enquiries in relation to this incident are currently ongoing and, as part of their investigation, officers are appealing to anyone with information or video footage to get in touch.

Detective Constable Faye Nowell, of Runcorn CID, said: *"This attack has left the victim feeling considerably shaken and we are doing all we can to locate those responsible and bring them to justice. I would urge anyone with any video or dashcam footage that may aid our investigation into this attack to please get in touch. The same goes for anyone with any information which may help us with our enquiries."*

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via www.cheshire.police.uk//tell-us quoting IML-1825730. Alternatively, information can be passed anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Appeal for information following fatal collision in Widnes

Police are appealing for witnesses and video footage following a fatal collision in Widnes.

At around 4pm on Friday 19 April, police were called to reports of a collision on Deacon Road, Widnes. Officers attended the scene and found that a cyclist had fallen from an electric bike. It is not believed that any other vehicles were involved in the incident. The cyclist, a 60-year-old man from Widnes, was treated at the scene by paramedics before being taken to Aintree Hospital. His injuries were initially not believed to be life threatening, but sadly his condition deteriorated, and he passed away on Wednesday 22 May.

Sergeant Russ Sime, of the Serious and Complex Collision Investigation Unit, said: *"Our thoughts are with the cyclist's family at this time, who are currently being supported by specialist officers. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing, and as part of our investigation we're keen to hear from anyone who witnessed the incident, or anyone with any dashcam footage. The same goes for any local businesses and resident with any CCTV footage which may aid the investigation."*

Anyone with any information is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 1804116.

Appeal for information following exposure in Runcorn Hill Park

Officers investigating reports of an indecent exposure in Runcorn are appealing for information from the public.

Sometime between 3pm and 4pm on Sunday 5 May, a woman was walking her dog in Runcorn Hill Park when she spotted an unknown man standing in a nearby wooded/bushy area just off the path up the hill. The woman reported that the man then proceeded to pull down his trousers, exposing himself, and began to touch himself inappropriately - she noticed that the man was watching a group of three young girls aged around 13 while doing this. She has shouted to the girls to get their attention, telling them to come to her. The girls were not aware that they were being watched by the man, who fled the scene on foot toward a bench and viewing area at the top of the hill in the direction of Weston Point.

The man is described as white, in his mid-50s, with short blonde hair, and was wearing a navy T-shirt and jogging bottoms at the time of the incident. He was also wearing a grey beanie-style hat and was carrying a white plastic carrier bag. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and officers are appealing to anyone who has any information, or witnessed the incident, to contact police.

Detective Constable Rhiannon Jones, of Runcorn CID, said: *"This behaviour is not being taken lightly and we have been making a number of enquiries in the area to identify the suspect. I would urge*

anyone who has any information or has seen this man, or witnessed similar behaviour in the area, to contact police. The same goes for anyone with any doorbell or dashcam footage that may help us track this man down. People should never be made to feel afraid while simply going about their daily life and if anyone has any concerns, please do get in touch."

To report information, please visit cheshire.police.uk/tell-us or call 101 quoting IML-1816137.

Appeal to trace Warrington prison absconder

Police are appealing for information from the public after a 43-year-old man absconded from HMP Thorn Cross.

Mark Yates, who was serving a sentence Section 18 wounding, was last seen at HMP Thorn Cross in Appleton at around 6.30pm on Wednesday 22 May. Yates is described as white, around 5'9" tall, of slim build with brown hair and a beard. He also has a distinctive tattoo on the left of his neck of initials 'SN'. He was last seen wearing a grey and black Berghaus coat, a cream beanie hat, grey combat pants, and black and white On Cloud trainers. He was also carrying a black sting JD Sports bag. Yates has links to Preston but could be further afield.



Officers are currently carrying out a number of enquiries in a bid to trace Yates and they are urging anyone with information as to his whereabouts to get in touch. Anyone who sees Yates or knows of his whereabouts, is urged not to approach him, but to call Cheshire police immediately on 999 quoting IML-1830104. Information can also be passed on anonymously, via Crimestoppers online <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously> or by calling 0800 555 111.

Appeal following reports of rocks being thrown from footbridge in Winsford

Officers are appealing for information following reports of people throwing rocks from a footbridge above the A54 in Winsford.

At around 8.50pm on Thursday 16 May, officers were driving a marked police vehicle along the A54 Oakmere Road in Winsford, near to the overhead footbridge. Unknown offenders proceeded to throw rocks from the footbridge, which made impact with the police vehicle and smashed the windscreen, obscuring the driver's view. Thankfully, no injuries were caused. At 4.45pm on Monday 20 May, police received a further report of three youths throwing stones and rocks from the footbridge.

Officers are now appealing for anyone with any information about these incidents to get in touch with them. They are also keen for anyone with any dashcam footage around the time of the two incidents to contact them.

Inspector David Levins said: *"This behaviour is incredibly dangerous and puts road users at serious risk. Not only can it cause damage to vehicles, but could potentially injure drivers and passengers, as*

well as cause a road traffic accident on an incredibly busy section of road. These incidents are currently isolated; however we are urging parents and carers to talk to their children about the dangers of this kind of behaviour and the serious consequences which could come from it. If anyone witnesses this type of behaviour, or has any information regarding the two previous incidents, please contact us on 101, or through cheshire.police.uk/tell-us, quoting IML-1825212."

CCTV image released following shoplifting in Macclesfield

Officers investigating a shoplifting incident at a store in Macclesfield have released a CCTV image of a man they would like to speak to.

Police are looking to speak to this man The incident is reported to have occurred at around 1.55pm on Monday 13 May at the Tesco store on Exchange Street, Macclesfield. During the incident, two unknown men exited the store without paying for around £300 worth of alcohol products. Later that day, the same two men entered the Sainsbury's store on Middlewich Road, Nantwich, and left without paying for a number of items. Officers have now released a CCTV image of a man they would like to speak to in relation to these incidents.



PCSO Melisa Mellor said: *"As part of our enquiries, we are appealing for any witnesses to these incidents to get in touch with us to help progress our investigation. The same goes for anyone who recognises the man in the CCTV image as we believe he may hold vital information. We would also like to appeal directly to the man pictured to get in touch with us."*

Anyone with information is urged to contact Cheshire Police quoting IML-1822630 via [the Cheshire Police website](https://www.cheshire.police.uk) or call 101. Information can be passed on to Crimestoppers anonymously by calling 0800 555 111 or via [the Crimestoppers website](https://www.crimestoppers.co.uk).

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)

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

Facebook: facebook.com/groups/cheshirenw



In partnership with



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