

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 4th January 2026

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Police Constable recruitment opens in Cheshire – information sessions available

Applications to join Cheshire Constabulary as a Police Constable are open now.

Cheshire Constabulary has opened recruitment for new Police Constables, offering people the opportunity to begin a meaningful and challenging career serving communities across the county.

To support those considering applying, a series of information sessions will take place in January, giving people the chance to speak directly with recruitment teams, ask questions and learn more about the role, entry routes and training. The sessions are open to all and will run as follows:

- Recruitment Information Evening at Cheshire Police HQ – Wednesday 7 January, 6pm-8pm
(advanced booking required)

Attendees will be able to meet police officers from a variety of specialist teams, speak directly with the recruitment, training and vetting teams about the application process and even take part in a practice fitness bleep test.

- Drop-in session at Crewe Police Station – Thursday 8 January, 10am–2pm
- Drop-in session at Macclesfield Police Station – Tuesday 13 January, 10am–2pm

(Members of the public are asked to book a place on these, but can still drop in at a time that suits them)

- Online Information Session – Wednesday 14 January, 6pm–8pm *(advanced booking required)*

Cheshire Constabulary's Talent Acquisition Team will be on hand at the sessions to answer any questions about the Police Constable recruitment process.

- All events can be pre-booked here: [Recruitment Events - Cheshire Police](#)

Assistant Chief Constable Alison Ross said: *“Becoming a police officer is a challenging but hugely rewarding career, offering the chance to protect the public, support those in need and make a lasting difference in local communities. Cheshire Constabulary continues to be recognised as a high-performing force - praised for keeping people safe, reducing crime and delivering an effective service to victims. We encourage anyone who has ever considered becoming a police officer to come*

along to one of our sessions, speak to our teams and find out more about what a career as a police officer with Cheshire Constabulary could mean for them.”

Applications to join Cheshire Constabulary as a Police Constable are open now. Full details, role information and sign-up for the online session are available on the Cheshire Constabulary website: [Police Constable Entry Programme - Starting June 2026 - Cheshire Police](#)

Widnes man charged with assault offences

A man from Widnes has been charged with assault offences.

Stephen Purcell, 42, was arrested at around 12.45am on Tuesday 30 December. Purcell, of Foxcote, Widnes, has since been charged with assault by beating. He has been remanded in custody to appear at Warrington Magistrates’ Court on Wednesday 31 December.

Woman charged with theft in Ellesmere Port

Officers investigating reports of theft in Ellesmere Port have charged a woman in relation to the incident.

Hilary Lewis, of Barford Road, Liverpool, was arrested on Monday 22 December 2025. The 43-year-old has since been charged with theft. She will appear at Chester Magistrates’ Court on Friday 30 January 2026. The charge relates to reports of theft of rings from a residential property in Ellesmere Port in October 2025.

Immigration operation conducted at Chester delivery depot

Officers from Chester LPU have conducted an immigration operation at a delivery depot in Waverton.

On Tuesday 23 December, officers from the Western Exploitation Team and Immigration officers conducted an immigration and welfare operation at a parcel delivery depot in Waverton. Prior to the operation, known as Operation Sledding, officers had found that the some of the deliveries from the premises were being subtracted to illegal workers. The workers in question did not have the right to work in the UK and subsequently did not have the correct insurance to drive delivery vehicles.

The operation yielded a number of positive results in relation to both illegal workers and delivery vehicles being driven, including:

- A man from Brazil being arrested on suspicion of immigration offences
- An overstayer was located and reported to immigration
- Two vehicles with no insurance were being used for parcel deliveries
- A vehicle with no MOT was identified
- A defective brake light was identified on a vehicle

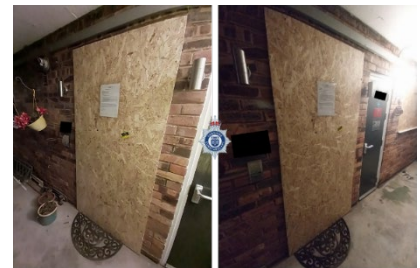
DCI Chris Williams, of the Western Exploitation Team, said: *"We know that the demand for delivery and postal companies increases considerably around Christmas, but those involved in the employment of illegal workers often have links to wider organised immigration crime, modern slavery, and human trafficking. That is why we are committed to conducting regular operations like this and doing everything possible to identify those involved. I hope that the results from this operation will provide some reassurance to our communities and also act as a warning to those who are considering taking part in this type of organised crime. Information submitted to us from members of the public is vital to our investigations and operations such as this, so I would encourage anyone with any information or concerns about illegal activity in their area to get in touch."*

Anyone with concerns about organised immigration crime can contact Cheshire Police via 101 or visit <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/tua/tell-us-about/soh/seen-or-heard/> and a member of their local PVP Exploitation Team.

Disruptive address shutdown by Macclesfield Police

Police in Macclesfield have closed down a disruptive address following the successful granting of a closure order.

The property on Ivymeade Road, Macclesfield, was issued with a three-month closure order on Monday 29 December. The order follows the gathering of substantial evidence of criminality linked to the property and its occupant by officers from the Macclesfield Beat team, who successfully applied for the order at Warrington Magistrates' Court.



The property, which forms part of a wider apartment complex, was linked to incidents including anti-social behaviour and public order offences and the property being used for drug-taking by large groups of people. The occupant of the property, a 45-year-old man, was also linked to a number of incidents that required police involvement, which included dogs being let loose in the apartment communal areas, criminal damage, fighting, violence and general threatening behaviour.

The Beat team worked alongside the residents within the complex and the housing association linked to the address to gather evidence relating to the occupants' behaviour and how their lives had been negatively impacted by it. Following the successful application for the closure order, the property will now be shut down for a period of three months, with the occupant ordered to find alternative accommodation for that period. Anyone who enters the property during that period could face a considerable fine or even a prison sentence.

Macclesfield Neighbourhood Beat Manager PC Jon Williams said: *"This property on Ivymeade Road and its occupant have been a consistent drain on police resources, as well as a general nuisance for residents in the apartment complex for as far back as 2021. Which is why I am glad that, thanks to the support of the residents and our partners at Peaks and Plains housing in gathering evidence of the occupants' very poor behaviour, this address has been closed down for the next three months. I*

know that now this troubled property has been closed down and its occupant ordered to leave, residents within the wider complex will be able to breathe a much-needed sigh of relief and will be able to go about their daily lives again without any further disruption.”

Two men arrested following deliberate collision in Middlewich

Detectives from Cheshire Police have arrested two men after a car was deliberately driven into a house in Middlewich on Christmas Eve.

At 11.45pm on Wednesday 24 December police were called to an incident on Hulme Square, Middlewich. Officers attended the scene and on arrival the found that a white Kia Sportage had deliberately collided with the front of a residential address several time. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and two men have since been arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to commit criminal damage with intent to endanger life.

DI Stephen Hill, of Eastern Proactive CID, said: *“Thankfully, there were no reports of any injuries, however the outcome could have been far worse. In addition, the collision caused substantial damage to the property and several nearby residents had their Christmas festivities disrupted, after being evacuated from their homes while emergency services dealt with the incident. Enquiries in relation to the matter are ongoing, and at this stage we believe that this was a targeted attack. Two men, aged 29 and 33, from Crewe, have already been arrested in relation to the incident and enquires are continuing.”*

A 33-year-old man was arrested on Friday 26 December, he has since been released on conditional bail. The 29-year-old man was arrested on Tuesday 30 December, he remains in custody at this time.

Anyone with any information in relation to the incident is asked to call Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML2240046.

37 offenders jailed for more than 90 years in 2025 thanks to Northwich Proactive CID.

Northwich Proactive CID is celebrating another successful year after helping to bring to justice 37 offenders who have been jailed for more than 90 years.

The unit is based at Northwich Police Station and consists of three police constables, two detective constables and one detective sergeant. Between them, the team is responsible for investigating burglaries, thefts, vehicle crime and drugs offences within Northwich Local Policing Unit, which includes Northwich, Winsford, Tarporley and the surrounding villages. Despite only being a small unit, the team have been punching well above their weight, and over the past year they have convicted 37 offenders who have been jailed for a total of 93 years.

<https://youtu.be/NSV77LC7S4I>

Their success began in January when Northwich criminal Jonathon Maddock was jailed for 54 months after he admitted three burglaries in the town.

Meanwhile, in June, Samuel Watts was jailed for four years and four months after he was caught dealing drugs from his prison cell in Lancashire. The 34-year-old, of Thornley Green, Northwich, was arrested by officers from Northwich Proactive CID as he left HMP Kirkham following his release for his previous offences, dealing Class A drugs, which the team had investigated previously and resulted in his original prison sentence.

Over in Winsford, the team also managed the case of Alfie Drummond who was sentenced to 32 months in prison after he admitted being concerned in the supply of Class A drugs (cocaine) and two counts of possession of offensive weapons. The 23-year-old, of School Road, Wharton, wasn't the brightest criminal, filming himself handling large amounts of illegal drugs, weapons, and cash on his mobile phone.

The team were also responsible for the conviction of Gary Clifton, a prolific offender from Manchester, who was jailed for more than eight years after he was convicted of 11 counts of burglary, one count of attempted burglary and two counts of theft in the Northwich area.

Another Winford case resulted in the convictions of Iain Alexander, Helen Reynolds, Archie Kettle and Leonard Hunter, who were sentenced to over 17 years in prison after they admitted being members of a county lines gang who were dealing Class A drugs in the town.

In July, the team brought down an organised crime group - Thomas, Edward and Christopher Stokes - responsible for theft from motor vehicle offences, resulting in a loss of approximately £65,000 worth of tools from hard working members of the public. Their offending spanned across the North West of the country, with the team at Northwich pursuing offences in North Wales and Greater Manchester, as well as the offences in Chester, Northwich, Winsford and Tarporley. Five stolen caravans were also recovered during the investigation. The trio were subsequently sentenced in November to a combined total in excess of eight years in prison.

In addition to their own cases, the team often support colleagues with the hunt for wanted offenders. A recent example of this work came in September 2025, when members of the team travelled over 150 miles to Bristol, to help locate Jamie Grudger who was wanted by Northwich Reactive CID for domestic abuse offences. Thanks to the investigation conducted by the team in Bristol, Grudger was located and arrested in a hotel in the city centre. He has since been jailed for more than five years.

Following the successful year DS John Lyons, who leads the team at Northwich Proactive CID said, said: *"I'm truly proud of the results we've achieved over the past 12 months, and I hope that they provide reassurance to the local community. The team here at Northwich are committed to doing all that we can to make our communities safer and I would like to thank all the officers for their dedication, often going above and beyond what is expected of them."*

"As a geographical area, Northwich sits between Manchester and Liverpool, which means we're targeted by offenders from outside the area who think that it's an easy place to target. However, as

these results demonstrate, this is simply not the case. Of the 37 offenders we have jailed in the past year, 13 of them were from outside the area and between them they are now in prison for more than 35 years.

“While these offenders are now behind bars, our fight against criminals continues and I would appeal to anyone who has any information about illegal activity taking place in their communities to contact us on 101, or at www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us, and we will do the rest.”

CI Leeroy Moss, head of Northwich Local Policing unit added: *“It’s great to recognise some of the work that Northwich Proactive CID, supported by Northwich Beat team, have done over the past year, and I’d like to thank all the officers involved. Cheshire Constabulary was recently rated as one of the top forces in the county following the latest inspection by His Majesties Inspectorate of Constabulary, and the team here played a key role in helping to achieve this ranking.*

“Thanks to their work, along with the work of the rest of the team at Northwich, we have some of the highest charge rates for acquisitive crime, and the area is often seen as a no-go area for drugs offenders, due to the reputation we have garnered amongst the criminal community.

“Moving forward to the new year, we’re already planning a number of operations and have more offenders currently on remand awaiting sentence in January 2026, and others who will be sentenced later into the year. My advice to any criminals in the local area is watch your back, as you never know when we’ll be knocking down your door.”

Below is a list of the 34 offenders who have been jailed in the past year thanks to the work of the team at Northwich Proactive CID -

- Richard Ennis - 12 months - Burglary and fraud offences – 14 January
- Paul Slicher - 2 years - Class A drug supply – 7 February
- Kane Farghaly - 4 years 2 months - Class A drug supply – 7 February
- Matthew Tyrer - 4 months - Burglary offences – 7 February
- Gary Bloor - 6 months - Burglary offences – 5 April
- Kirsty Watson - 2 years 4 months - Class A, B & C drug supply offences – 25 April
- Jonathon Maddock - 4 years 6 months - Burglary offences – 29 April
- Michael Acton - 4 months - Burglary offences – 12 May
- Bradley Higham - 4 years 4 months - Burglary, theft, and fraud offences - 28 May
- Masum Alom - 9 months - Burglary offences – 3 June
- Mohammed Alam - 8 months - Burglary offences – 3 June
- Samuel Watts - 4 years 4 months - Class A drug supply – 5 June
- Alfie Walls - 2 years 9 months - Class A drug supply – 6 June
- Simon Jones - 2 years 8 months - Class A drug supply - 9 June
- Tony Bloor - 7 days - Burglary offences - 18 June
- Archie Kettle - 2 years 6 months - Class A drug supply - 20 June
- Leonard Hunter - 2 years 6 months - Class A drug supply - 20 June
- Gareth Jones - 4 months - Burglary offences - 4 July
- Iain Alexander - 7yrs - Conspiracy to supply Class A drugs – 26 August
- Helen Reynolds - 5yrs 3 months - Conspiracy to supply Class A drugs - 26 August

- Jonathon Heron - 6 months - Burglary offences - 4 September
- David McElligott - 9 months - Burglary offences – 11 September
- Ben Gibney - 12 months - Burglary and theft offences – 17 September
- Alfie Drummond - 2 years 8 months - Class A drug supply – 30 September
- Harvey Smallwood - 5yrs 10 months - Burglary offences – 17 October
- Luke Faulkner-Ellis - 5yrs - Burglary offences – 17 October
- Mark Jones - 5yrs 10 months - Burglary offences – 17 October
- Christopher Stokes - 1 years 8 months - Conspiracy to commit theft - 6 November
- Edward Stokes – 3 years 6 months - Conspiracy to commit theft - 6 November
- Thomas Stokes - 3 years 4 months - Conspiracy to commit theft - 6 November
- Wayne Hassall - 2 years 4 months - Sexual Assault – 10 November
- Gary Clifton - 8 years - Burglary and theft offences – 11 November
- Robin Vaughan - 3yrs - Conspiracy to commit burglary – 11 November
- Lee Dunne - 1 year 3 months - Class A drug supply – 22 December

Further to the above, the below were given non-custodial sentences

- Joshua Wilson - Community order - Burglary offence – 3 June
- Josh Shaw - 3-year community order - Class A drug supply – 26 August
- Charlie Moore - 1 year community order - Class B drug supply – 23 September

Widnes man charged with several offences

A man from Widnes has been charged with several offences following an incident in the town.

Dean Daniel was arrested at around 1.05am on Monday 29 December. The 43-year-old has since been charged with false imprisonment, intentional strangulation, threats to kill and threatening a person with an offensive weapon. Daniel, of Bell House Road, Widnes, has also been charged with section 18 assault. He has since been remanded in custody to appear at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 30 December.

Family of man who died following collision near Wheelock pay tribute

The family of a man who died following a collision near Wheelock have paid tribute to him.

Shortly after 3am on Sunday 21 December, police were called to reports of a collision on the A534 Wheelock Bypass between Wheelock and Crewe. The collision involved a HGV and a pedestrian. The pedestrian, 45-year-old Peter Cope from Crewe, was sadly pronounced dead at the scene.



Police are seeking any witnesses to the collision, or anyone with any dashcam footage, to get in touch with them, by contacting 101 or via cheshire.police.uk/tell-us, quoting IML-2237688.

Peter's family have paid tribute to him, saying: *"Peter was a devoted father to his five-year-old daughter, a husband, stepfather, son, and brother, and had been out celebrating his birthday in Sandbach town centre with his friend. We are devastated by his death."*

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Appeal for information following fail to stop collision in Winsford

Officers investigating a serious fail to stop collision in Winsford are appealing for witnesses and information.

At around 12.07am on Thursday 1 January, officers were made aware of serious collision on High Street, Winsford, at the junction of Collingham Way. The collision involved a pedestrian and an unknown vehicle that failed to stop at the scene following the incident. The pedestrian, a 62-year-old local man, sustained serious injuries to his legs and was subsequently taken to North Staffordshire Hospital, where he remains at this time. His injuries are believed to be life changing.

As part of their investigation into this incident, officers are now appealing to anyone who may have witnessed the collision take place, has any information regarding it, or may have captured anything which may aid in their enquiries on dash cams or on CCTV footage to come forward.

DS Russ Sime, of the Serious Collisions Investigations Unit, said: *"This was a very serious incident that has left the victim with life-changing injuries, so in order to help us establish the circumstances that led to this collision occurring, we are appealing to anyone who may have witnessed it to please come forward. Early enquiries at the scene resulted in officers locating debris believed to have come from a car wing mirror, so I would also like to appeal to anyone who may have seen a vehicle with a missing wing mirror at around the time of the incident to also get in touch."*

Anyone with any information or video footage can contact Cheshire Police via www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us-or-on-101, quoting incident reference number IML-2243651.

Appeal to trace wanted man from Widnes

Police are appealing for help in tracing a wanted man from Widnes.

Philip Beaulieu is wanted on recall to prison. Beaulieu, 39, is described as a white, with brown hair, around 5 feet 9 inches tall and of slim build. Anyone with information on his whereabouts can call 101 or 999 if sighted and quote incident reference IML-2240044.



Appeal for witnesses following assault in Alsager

Officers investigating reports of an assault in Alsager are appealing for any witnesses to come forward.

At around 6.10pm on Friday 19 December, police were called to reports that a 12-year-old boy had been threatened by a man on Lawton Road, Alsager. Officers attended and arrested a 33-year-old man in connection with the incident. He has since been released on bail. As part of ongoing enquiries, officers are appealing for any potential witnesses to contact them.

PC Harry Beswick said: *"Our investigation into this incident is ongoing and we are now appealing for any witnesses to get in touch with us. The same goes for anyone who may have any CCTV or dashcam footage of the incident."*

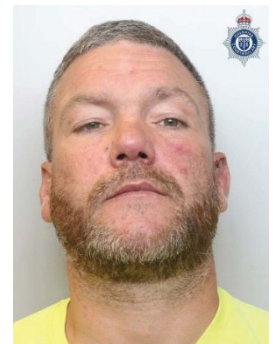
To report information, [visit the website](#) or call 101 quoting 25001035269.

Police appeal to trace wanted man from Crewe

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

Jon Scragg is wanted in connection with an assault. The 40-year-old is described as white, around 6'1" tall, with short brown, greying hair and green eyes. Scragg is from Crewe and has links to the wider town.

Anyone with any information regarding Scragg's whereabouts is asked to contact Cheshire Police [via the website](#) or on 101, quoting IML-2241430.



Appeal for information following burglary in Cuddington

Detectives are appealing for witnesses and video footage following a burglary at a residential address in Cuddington.

Sometime between 10.45am on 7.30pm on Wednesday 17 December, unknown offenders forced entry into an address on Weaverham Road, near Ivy Drive, by smashing through patio doors. Once inside they conducted an untidy search and stole several watches, hair straighteners and the keys to a VW Golf. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and as part of the investigation officers are appealing for information from the public.

DC Chris Forrest, of Northwich Proactive CID, said: *"To become a victim of burglary just days before Christmas is absolutely devastating and we're committed to doing all we can to trace the people responsible. As part of our investigation we're keen to hear from anyone who was in the Weaverham Road area on the day of the incident and believes they may have seen anything suspicious. The same goes for anyone with any CCTV or dashcam footage which may aid our investigation."*

Anyone with any information is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101 or [visit the website](#) quoting 25001029457.

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)

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