

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 27 April 2025

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Cross-border operation targeting criminality across Cheshire and Flintshire sees significant results

Cheshire Constabulary yesterday joined forces with North Wales Police and partners for an operation targeting criminality across the two areas.

On Thursday 24 April, officers from specialist teams targeted a variety of crime types including serious and organised crime and road traffic offences across the border between the two counties. The operation also saw partners from several organisations working together to tackle and disrupt criminality, particularly those travelling between Flintshire and Chester, while providing a reassuring presence for the public and business owners. Significant activities across both areas included:



- Six arrests in Flintshire for possession with intent to supply, driving while disqualified and three immigration offences.
- Heavy goods vehicle stops at Ewloe Weighbridge with Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) checking for overloading offences, and Motor Insurers' Bureau identifying fraudulent driving licences.
- High visibility patrols on foot and in vehicles across both areas, resulting in several stop searches being carried out in Flintshire.
- Trading Standards, Immigration enforcement and exploitation team visits alongside the fire service, including car washes, a nail bar and restaurants.
- Drone deployment.
- Go Safe vans being deployed.
- Motor Insurers Bureau identifying people using vehicles without insurance resulting in a number of seizures.
- Licensing visits taking place across Flintshire and Cheshire to check premises were compliant with licensing conditions.
- Cheshire Police Rural Crime Team carrying out checks in relation to agricultural vehicles and trailers.
- High visibility and overt armed foot patrols carried out in Chester city centre with good engagement with the public.
- Six warrants targeting XL Bully dogs in Cheshire, resulting in two seizures.

- Taxi licensing was carried out in partnership with Cheshire West and Chester Council, involving 26 stop checks of taxis to ensure they were complying with regulations, and one seized for no insurance.
- The Cyber Crime Team engaging with the public in Chester city centre.
- The North West Underwater Search Unit was deployed to Cow Lane Bridge for a proactive search of the canal for illegal items that may have been discarded. Three mobile phones were recovered and officers also carried out a patrol of the canal to provide a reassuring presence and deter any criminality.
- Two speed detection vans deployed in the Chester area carrying out speed enforcement activity, with a static ANPR capability.
- British Transport Police County Lines Task Force deployed with Chester Proactive Team at Chester Railway Station and into the wider Chester area.
- Vehicle stops by the Roads and Crime Team targeting cross border criminals along the A55, M56, M53 and surrounding roads.

Over the course of the day, a significant number of vehicles stopped across both areas. Traffic offences included three overloaded vehicles travelling on the roads, including one carrying a Ferrari



on the back of a low loader in North Wales. Another five vehicles were seized during the day, including two cars being driven with no insurance, a road bike seen 'wheelieing' in front of officers, an off-road bike and an e-scooter. Two were arrested for drug driving in Chester, while there was an immediate revocation of a driving licence for poor eyesight in Flintshire. A total of 22 traffic offence reports (TORs) were

issued across both areas, for reasons including mobile phone use, no seatbelt, vehicle defects, speeding, and driving without insurance.

A number of illegal vapes were seized from one Flintshire store, before a large amount of illicit hand rolled tobacco and cigarettes were discovered in the loft. That followed one woman being dealt with for immigration offences at a nail bar in Flint, three arrests for overstaying a VISA, and two arrests for working illegally. A referral notice was also served for a potential civil penalty against the business.

Insp James Wilson, of Chester Local Policing Unit, Cheshire Police, said: *"Throughout the day we used a whole host of tactics to disrupt criminal activity in Chester and North Wales, but it is important to note that both police forces use these regularly as part of our everyday policing tactics. As well as being there to detect and deter crime, the operation was an opportunity to engage with the public and highlight what we are doing to keep our communities safe. Operations and partnership working with other police forces is so important and demonstrates that we are committed to doing all we can to tackle criminal behaviour head-on and ensure the Cheshire/North Wales border remains a hostile place for criminals. I look forward to further operations like this in the future."*

Flintshire North Insp Wes Williams, North Wales Police, said: *"This operation was launched to tackle serious and organised crime across North Wales and Cheshire and to reassure the public that we are*

out there and we're available. Through combining resources, intelligence, and the enforcement powers of the police and partner agencies, we achieved our main objective of working closely with our colleagues in Cheshire Constabulary to disrupt cross-border criminals. We remain absolutely committed to working with neighbouring forces to pursue offenders and, together, we will continue to make North Wales the safest place to live, work, and visit. I hope the success of this operation has reassured residents that we will do all we can to protect the public we serve and take those who commit crimes off our streets."

Man jailed for controlling and coercive behaviour

A 42-year-old man has been jailed for controlling and coercive behaviour towards a former partner.

Ben Carr, of Freeman Street, Stafford, was jailed for 30 months after appearing at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 15 April. He was previously found guilty of the offence following a trial. On top of his sentence, Carr will serve an additional eight weeks for the activation of a suspended sentence previously imposed in June 2022 by Staffordshire Magistrates' Court.



Between December 2019 and December 2022, Carr engaged in controlling and coercive behaviour towards the victim in the Willaston area of Nantwich. This included physically assaulting her on several occasions which caused bruising, as well as biting her and grabbing her throat to restrict her breathing. He was also verbally abusive, would throw items at her, and damaged her laptop on one occasion. Even when the relationship ended Carr continued to try and contact the victim with unwanted calls and messages. The victim reported the incidents to police in April 2023. Carr was subsequently arrested and interviewed in relation to the reports and was charged following an investigation. He is now also subject to a restraining order to protect the victim in this case.

Following the sentencing, a spokesperson for Cheshire Police said: *"No-one should have to live in fear when just going about their daily life, especially when the perpetrator is someone they should be able to trust. Carr both physically assaulted the victim and verbally abused her, even bombarding her with unwanted contact once the relationship ended. I would like to commend the victim's bravery throughout this investigation. This sentence should serve as a reminder that Cheshire Constabulary takes all offences of this nature and domestic abuse extremely seriously. Any allegation will be thoroughly investigated, with the needs of the victim always being our main priority."*

Youths undertake educational training following spate of fire in Winsford

Five youths suspected of being involved in a spate of recent fires across Winsford have undertaken an educational training session.

Over recent months officers have been aware of deliberate fires across the town. Following an investigation, five youths who were suspected of being involved. After speaking to their parents,

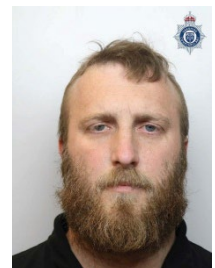
officers decided to give the youths an opportunity to receive some education on the dangers of setting fires and the consequences if the behaviour continues. On Thursday 24 April, the youths attended "Safety Central", a specialist fire educational training centre in Lymm, accompanied by Winsford Beat Manager PC Barlow and a member of Cheshire Fire and Rescue. While there they received an input on ASB, fire awareness and how a "minor fire" can escalate into something more serious. This included a mock court room exercise where they were informed about what the consequences could be should there offending continue.

PC Daniel Barlow, of Winsford Beat team, said: *"We understand the frustration caused in the local community following the recent spate of fires and we're committed to doing all we can to tackle the issue. As part of this work, we would much rather work with young people in this town to make it safer for everybody that lives, works and visits here. If there's an opportunity to prevent future incidents by arranging education, it can only be of benefit to all involved. However, if the behaviour continues, we'll have no option than to go down the route of building a file of evidence for CPS and the Courts, which will impact them for the rest of their lives. These youths have been given an opportunity to choose a different path, we hope that they take advantage of this and don't end up in our cells. We would like to thank all the staff at Safety Central Lymm and Cheshire Fire & rescue for their support."*

Man jailed for drugs supply offences

A man who was travelling with over £168,000 worth of cocaine hidden in his car has been jailed.

Nathan O'Hare appeared at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 16 April where he was sentenced to nine years and seven months. The 32-year-old of Littler Road, Haydock, had previously pleaded guilty to possession with intent to supply class A drugs following an earlier hearing.



At around 1.50pm on Thursday 30 May 2024, officers on patrol stopped a Jaguar F-Pace travelling on the M6 northbound between junction 18 and junction 19.

Officers stopped the car and seized 12 blocks of an unknown substance, believed to be a quantity of class A drugs, that had been concealed in a AdBlue bottle. Following examination, officers confirmed that 12kg of cocaine had been found hidden in the bottle, with an estimated value between £168,000 and £432,000. O'Hare was arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply class A drugs and subsequently charged with the offence.

Following the sentencing, DC Jas Kaur said: *"I welcome the custodial sentence handed to O'Hare. Not only is he now facing the consequences of his criminal activities, but we have stopped a quantity of illegal drugs getting onto the streets of Cheshire. I hope this serves as a warning to those who think they can travel to our county to commit crime and peddle illegal drugs. You will be caught, and you will be prosecuted."*

Runcorn woman admits supplying illegal drugs

A woman from Runcorn has pleaded guilty to supplying crack cocaine and heroin in the town.

Sindy Hope appeared at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 24 April 2025 where she admitted two counts of possession with intent to supply class A drugs. The 62-year-old of Castle Rise, Runcorn, has been released on bail and will be sentenced at the same court on Tuesday 17 June. The court heard how on Friday 30 June 2023, plain clothed officers in Runcorn stopped a man who was seen acting suspiciously after leaving Hope's house. Upon searching the man, he was found in possession of a number of wraps of crack cocaine and heroin.

Following the discovery, officers attended Hope's address and she was arrested on suspicion of supplying class A drugs. During a search of the address where they recovered a plastic bag containing 7.77grams of heroin concealed in Hope's bra and a small quantity of crack cocaine. A number of other items were seized including scales, empty plastic wraps, £1,730.40 in cash, a list of customers and a number of mobile phones. Following her arrest Hope initially claimed that she was looking after the drugs for somebody else. However, her DNA was also found on the drugs recovered from the man who was arrested after leaving her address – indicating that she had supplied the drugs. Despite her denial, Hope was later charged with possession with intent to supply class A drugs.

Insp Lee Connor, from the Northern Area Investigation Team said: *"This is a great result which shows the importance of the police's power to stop and search people they suspect to be breaking the law. As a result of an officer's intuition, we were able to remove a large quantity of drugs from the streets of Runcorn and catch a dealer in the act. These drugs cause untold damage to the lives of both those who use them and the wider community who suffer from the resulting crime. While this investigation has now concluded, our fight against illegal drugs, and those who supply them, continues. Intelligence supplied by members of the public is crucial to this fight and I urge anyone with any information about suspected drug-related activity in their community to get in touch. You will be listened to, and we will investigate the matter."*

You can report suspected drug dealing to Cheshire Constabulary directly by calling 101 or giving the details online via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>. Alternatively, information can also be given anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

Man jailed for operating cannabis farm in Warrington

A man has been jailed for 15 months after a discarded toothbrush left in a cannabis grow identified him as the farmer.

Huba Armarildo, 20, was jailed for 15 months on Thursday 24 April following pleading guilty to the production of cannabis and the abstraction of electricity. The case began on 18 March 2024 when Warrington officers forced entry into an address, a former commercial premises, on Barbould Street. From the very beginning officer's suspicions were raised as they found the door had been reinforced and the letterbox had been blocked. There were also planks of wood



positioned diagonally from the stairs behind the door to the rear, acting as barricade to prevent the door from being forced open. Once inside the building, officers found a bar and bathroom area with a homemade shower system in a small cubicle behind the bar and a large selection of fresh food and drinks on the shelves and in a fridge. It was clear that the building was currently being lived in. Officers also found long corridor next to the bar area lined with used pots containing soil, several large packs of compost and stones. At the end of this hallway was a large room containing around 120 cannabis plants at various stages of growth.

Upstairs, officers found further signs of life with food-making facilities, holdall bags of clothes, unmade beds and several wallets containing cash, along with phone that was plugged in and charging. There was also a wall full of electrical transformers, plugs, timers and other equipment, with it later being confirmed that electricity within the building was being abstracted for the production of cannabis. Moving through the building into another room, officers found around 470 more plants, with around 420 of these being smaller plants in the early stages of growth within propagators. The remaining 50 were adult plants.



In the room next door to the left of the upstairs living area, there were a further 104 cannabis plants, which appeared to be almost fully grown. On the third floor, which appeared to be an attic space that had converted into a cannabis growing room, a further 35 cannabis plants which were almost fully grown were found. In total, officers recovered 729 plants from the property, with an estimated street value of £512,880.



Whilst no one was found within the building at the time of the warrant, it was clear to investigating officers that it was being lived and used as a base of operations to grow and distribute cannabis. CCTV enquiries would result in the uncovering of footage showing a man jumping out of the top floor window at the rear of the building when officers forced entry and fleeing on foot.



Forensic teams would also locate a toothbrush in one of the converted bathroom areas of the building and fingerprints from one of the growing rooms were also found. This forensic evidence resulted in an identification match for Huba Armarildo, who was subject of arrest attempts and found in London around a year later. When interviewed by police, Armarildo denied any involvement in the production of cannabis, claiming he had responded to an online cash-in-hand job request asking for furniture to be moved within the disused building. He claimed he took his toothbrush with him as he was suffering from pain in his mouth and regularly needed to clean his teeth with a form of medicine. In response to why his fingerprints were found one of the growing rooms, he could not provide an answer other than stating that he may have been in the room and touched the equipment but was not aware that cannabis was being grown inside. Despite his claims, he was subsequently charged with the production of cannabis and the abstraction of electricity.

Following his sentencing, PC Jen Harrison, of the Northern Problem-Solving Team, said:

“Armarildo’s costly mistake of leaving behind a toothbrush in one of the living areas of this multifloored cannabis-growing operation led us straight to him and has resulted in him spending the next 15 months behind bars. Not only is the cultivation of cannabis and the abstraction of electricity illegal, but it is also very dangerous as the tampering of electrical devices and DIY wiring can result in serious injury and the malfunction of appliances that can result in the outbreak of a fire – and in a place full of dried out plants there is plenty of fuel for that fire to spread quickly. Our work in dismantling this site resulted in a considerable disruption in the illegal supply of cannabis within the northern area of the county. If you have any concerns about the cultivation or supply of drugs in your area, I would urge you to contact your local beat time or report any information you have to Cheshire Police via 101 or on our website.”

Man jailed for 14 years for sexual offences against women and children

A man has been jailed for 14 years for multiple sexual offences against women and children.

Simon Arden appeared at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 17 April where he was handed the sentence. The 41-year-old, of Macclesfield, had previously been found guilty of multiple offences. These included rape, sexual assault, exposure, sexual assault of a child under 13, engaging in sexual activity in the presence of a child and inciting a child under 13 to engage in sexual activity.



In April 2024, police received reports of rape and sexual assault committed by Arden between 2011 and 2021 against multiple victims. A woman told police she had been sexually assaulted by Arden multiple times when she was a child. He also exposed himself in front of her and engaged in sexual activity in her presence. Further victims also spoke to police. Another woman told officers Arden had raped her in 2013. He had also sexually assaulted her and exposed himself to her. A further victim disclosed Arden had exposed himself to her in 2016. Meanwhile, a teenager told police she had also been sexually assaulted by Arden as a child in 2021.

Arden was subsequently arrested and later charged in relation to the offences. He was found guilty on Friday 21 February following a two-week trial at Chester Crown Court. On top of the custodial sentence, Arden has also been issued with indefinite restraining orders against the victims and is subject to a Sexual Harm Prevention Order.

DC Brett Oliver said: *“Arden’s 14-year prison sentence reflects the severity of his crimes, and highlights that he is a sexual predator, thinking only about his own twisted desires and not the impact and the hurt caused to his victims. I would like to thank the victims in this case for speaking to police about what happened to them. It is thanks to their bravery and evidence that this dangerous individual is now behind bars, where he cannot subject anyone else to these crimes.*

“We treat all reports of sexual offences seriously, with the wishes and needs of the victims as our main priority, and any allegations will be thoroughly investigated. Anyone who has been a victim of sexual abuse – no matter how long ago the incident took place – is urged to come forward and report it to Cheshire Police on 101 or through our website.”

Man jailed for sexual abuse of child in Warrington

A 53-year-old man has been jailed for sexual abuse against a child in Warrington.

Andrew Mackintosh was previously found guilty of six counts of sexual activity with a child, which occurred between 2016 and 2022. Mackintosh, of Moorside Gardens, Halifax, appeared at Liverpool Crown Court on Wednesday 23 April 2025 where he was sentenced to 11 years with an additional four years on extended licence.



In November 2022, a woman reported she had been sexually assaulted by Mackintosh throughout her teenage years in Warrington. This included sexual assault by touching and penetration. Mackintosh was subsequently arrested and denied the allegations during interview. However, following a thorough investigation, Mackintosh was charged with the offences. On top of the custodial sentence, he is subject to the sex offenders register for life and an indefinite Sexual Harm Prevention Order was granted.

DC Cadman said: *"The sentence handed to Mackintosh reflects the severity of his sickening actions. He is a sexual predator who exploited an innocent young girl for his own selfish and twisted gratification. I would like to again thank the victim for her courage in coming forward to tell police what had happened to her, and her subsequent bravery throughout this investigation."*

"I hope this will encourage anyone who believes they have been a victim of sexual abuse to contact us. We treat all reports of this nature extremely seriously. You can report to us through our website or by calling 101."

Winsford man banned from owning dogs for five years

A man from Winsford, who claimed he killed his dog in self-defence, has been banned from owning dogs for five years.

Ian Williams, 19, appeared at Chester Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 22 April where he was handed an order that disqualifies him from owning, keeping or controlling a dog for five years. The court heard on 25 May 2023, Cheshire Police received an anonymous phone call reporting that Williams had stabbed and killed his American Bulldog after it had attacked him at an address in Chester where he had been staying.

Later that day, officers from Cheshire Police attended the address on Clover Place and, during a search of the area, came across a disturbed area of turf in the garden. After digging down, officers located a deceased dog that had been wrapped in a bloody duvet sheet. Following this discovery, Crime Scene Investigators searched the address. They found traces of blood on a door handle to the bedroom at the top of the stairs and apparent blood staining on the carpet in the doorway of the bedroom. Partially bloodstained footprints on the floor in the hallway at the top of the stairs were also found.

Officers would then locate Williams at his address on Nixon Drive, Winsford, where he was arrested. During this, he showed officers the clothes he had been in at the time of the killing, told them that he had thrown the knife he had used to kill the dog away and that he did not have a

choice to kill the dog as it had attacked him. He denied causing the animal any intentional suffering. Despite this, in custody, Williams answered "no comment" to all questions posed to him but did provide a written statement confirming that he did stab the dog but did so as he had no choice as it was attacking him.

He was released while officers conducted further enquiries, which included assessing his phone and conducting a necropsy on the deceased animal. Phone data would reveal that Williams had a number of detailed dog anatomy images stored on his device. Williams voluntarily attended a police interview to discuss this new evidence. However, he would, again, respond with "no comment" to everything he was asked. Officers did notice, however, that on several occasions Williams was seen smirking and rolling his eyes in response to their questions.

He would be subsequently charged with causing unnecessary suffering to a protected animal and, after realising there was an overwhelming amount of evidence against him, pleaded guilty to the offence in court on 21 March. On top of his ban from owning dogs, Ian Williams was also given a Community Order and must now complete 200 hours of unpaid work.

Following his sentencing, DS Helen Newman said: *"Animals are reliant on their owners to ensure their needs are met and they are kept safe and healthy. Owning an animal is a privilege and ensuring appropriate care is a key part of the responsibility we have when looking after them. Despite his initial denials that he killed his pet in self-defence, the evidence we found against Ian Williams proved otherwise, and that Williams killed the animal in what was a deliberately cruel attack. Our evidence gathered left him with no choice but to plead guilty and I am glad to see that Williams has today been held accountable for his actions. Alongside his community service, most importantly, he will be unable to own or keep any breed of dog until the year 2030."*

Cheshire remains a hostile environment for criminals as crime continues to fall for a third consecutive year

In the past 12 months Cheshire Constabulary's robust and proactive policing approach in arresting and securing charges against offenders has resulted in crime falling for the third year in a row.



The latest figures have revealed that, for the third consecutive year, crime has decreased in Cheshire by nearly 2% (-1.7%), with 77,791 crimes recorded in the past 12 months, compared to 79,152 in 2023-2024. The figures, which cover the period between April 2024 and April 2025 and are compared to the previous year, show there have been reductions across many categories of crime, including big drops in vehicle offences (down by 14%.7), burglary (down by 12.7%), criminal damage (down 11.2%) and an overall reduction of -11.1% in serious acquisitive crime. There have also been further reductions in the number of thefts (-3.7%) and violent crimes against people (-0.8%).

As well as reducing crime in Cheshire, the force has also seen an increase in the number of offenders brought to justice. Over the past 12 months, the percentage of offenders brought to

justice has increased to 20% compared to 19.4% in 2023-2024. This overall increase has included increases of offenders being brought to justice for robbery (up by 7.7% to 17.9%), burglary (up by 1% to 11.4%), theft (up by 2% to 17%) and criminal damage (up by 1.1% to 15%).

Chief Constable Mark Roberts said: *"I take great pride in seeing that crime has fallen within Cheshire, for what is now the third year in a row. We want to keep crime coming down and this further decrease is the direct result of our dedicated officers and staff members who work tirelessly around the clock, 365 days a year to keep the county a hostile environment for criminals."*

"At the same time we are bringing more offenders brought to justice. In the last 12 months, several large-scale operations have been conducted across the county's local policing units to tackle a variety of crime types, including the anti-social and dangerous riding of e-bikes that has seen well over 60 illegal bikes removed from Cheshire's streets, modern-day slavery offences occurring in nail bars and car washes, business crime and shoplifting and even joint taxi licencing operations with our partner agencies from local councils."

"These local operations, alongside the national campaigns we support annually such as Operation Sceptre targeting knife crime, gang culture and street robbery, all play a key role in keeping everyone who lives, works and visits Cheshire safe."

"I am incredibly proud of these figures, which shows that Cheshire remains the safest place in the North West and I hope members of the public will also be reassured of the action we carry out to prevent our residents, businesses, and communities from becoming victims of crime."

More recently, the Constabulary has received a £4m boost in funding as part of the governments Neighbourhood Policing Plan. This money will go towards beefing up our neighbourhood teams, who will spend their time out on the beat in Cheshire, patrolling our towns and city centres to provide further reassurance to our communities. Along with this, the force has also secured a further £1m funding for this financial year to tackle anti-social behaviour in hotspot areas across the county, known as "Operation Sidelines".

Chief Constable Roberts added: *"I am delighted to hear that the force will be getting this extra funding to support our ongoing efforts in tackling crimes such as ASB, drug dealing, street theft and robbery. This funding will also help us recruit a number of new officers who will be out on the beat at peak times such as Friday and Saturday nights, keeping people safe as they enjoy the numerous events such as night-time economy venues across the region."*

"We already have a real focus on neighbourhood policing in Cheshire, with named officers in each ward along with as with a number of proactive initiatives and ongoing operations in place to tackle crimes such as these head-on, and we are now looking at how we can best utilise this funding to give our neighbourhood teams the further resources they need. Ensuring our local policing teams are dedicated to making our public spaces be safe and feel safe for those who live, work, and visit Cheshire is a top priority and we will use this funding to make Cheshire's communities even safer."

Man jailed for voyeurism in Winsford

A man who filmed indecent videos of women in Winsford without their permission has been jailed.

Richard Halck appeared at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 24 April where he was sentenced to 55 weeks in prison. He was also ordered to sign the sex offenders register for ten years, handed a ten year sexual harm prevention order and handed a restraining order to prevent him contacting his victims. The 38-year-old, formally from Winsford, and now of Landor Way, Stafford, had previously pleaded guilty to eight counts of voyeurism. He was also handed restraining orders against him and ordered to pay court costs.



The court heard how on Tuesday 22 August 2023 a woman was in a changing room at Winsford Lifestyle Centre when she saw a hand holding a mobile phone coming from underneath the neighbouring cubicle which she believed was filming her while naked. The woman calmly got dressed before approaching staff for help, while also asking a member of the public to prevent the suspect from leaving the cubicle.

Police were also called to the scene and on arrival Halck was identified as the man in the cubicle. He was arrested and taken to custody, where his mobile phone was also seized. During subsequent analysis of the phone officers discovered a number of other videos of women which Halck had filmed without their knowledge. The videos were all filmed between Thursday 7 July 2022 and Tuesday 22 August 2023 at various locations across Winsford. While officers were able to identify three of the victims, a number of others have never been identified.

DC Sarah Ollier, who led the investigation, said: *"Firstly, I would like to praise the courage of the victims in this case, to discover that someone has filmed you without your consent must have been terrifying, but thanks to their bravery he has now been held accountable. Halck's actions have had a lasting impact on his victims, who were simply going about their daily business. He violated his victims' personal space and privacy, filming them without their consent in places that they should be able to feel safe. This result reinforces our commitment to tackling violence against women and girls, we will prevent, deter and take action against anyone who preys on women and girls."*

Constabulary to receive £4m funding boost to keep Cheshire's communities even safer

Cheshire Constabulary will receive a total of £4m to help tackle anti-social behaviour, drug crime, shoplifting and robbery across the county.

On Thursday 10 April, the government announced new plans to improve neighbourhood policing across the country. Under these plans, every neighbourhood in England and Wales will have dedicated teams spending their time on the beat, with guaranteed police patrols in town centres and other hotspot areas at peak times such as Friday and Saturday nights.



Cheshire Constabulary is set to receive £3m of funding under the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee, adding 48 dedicated officers into Cheshire's communities. Along with this, the force has also secured a further £1m funding for this financial year to tackle anti-social behaviour in hotspot areas across the county, known as "Operation Sidelines".

This extra funding will support the Constabulary's long-standing commitment to support local communities by providing them with named officers residents can contact to discuss ongoing issues or concerns, along with a dedicated antisocial behaviour lead within the force, working with residents and businesses to develop tailored action plans to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB) within their communities.

Assistant Chief Constable for Neighbourhood Policing, Alison Ross, said: *"We're delighted to get this extra funding which will support our ongoing work to keep Cheshire a hostile environment for criminals as well as preventing and tackling crimes such as ASB, drug dealing and supplying and street theft and robbery. We already have a real focus on neighbourhood policing in Cheshire, with named officers in each ward along with a number of proactive initiatives and ongoing operations in place to tackle crimes such as these head-on, and we are now looking at how we can best utilise this funding to give our neighbourhood teams the further resources they need. Ensuring our local policing teams are dedicated to making our public spaces be safe and feel safe for those who live, work, and visit Cheshire is a top priority and we will use this funding to keep Cheshire's communities even safer."*

This will be the second year the Force has received funding for Operation Sidelines, and there have already been a number of positive results. In April 2024, 786 incidents of ASB were recorded in Cheshire, compared to 682 incidents in March 2025 - an overall reduction across all the hotspots of 13%. When it comes to serious violence, 631 incidents were recorded in April 2024, compared to 200 incidents being reported in March 2025 - an overall reduction of 68%.

Superintendent Sarah Heath, added: *"The results of Operation Sidelines show the difference that can be made with high visibility patrols in dedicated hotspot areas. This acts as a deterrent to those who cause harm and offers reassurance to our local communities. The feedback from the public and those officers deployed on this operation has been extremely positive. The success of Cheshire's approach to this has secured funding to continue this important work for another year, helping us to make Cheshire even safer."*

Sgt Gary Blackburn, of Force Operational Planning, added: *"I welcome the news that Cheshire Police is set to receive a further £1m in grant funding to target anti-social behaviour and serious violence offences across our county. Over the past 12 months there has been an increase of nearly 3,000 extra police hours deployed to identify anti-social behaviour and serious violence hotspots across Cheshire, along with an additional 10,000 additional hours of visible police patrols in the local communities. The funding we are receiving will, undoubtedly, increase these already impressive figures and continue in keeping the county and its residents safe."*

Anyone who wishes to see how their local force is performing will also be able to access a new national online as part of the guarantee.

12 charged with drugs offences following warrants in Chester

Officers investigating the supply of illegal drugs in Chester have charged 12 people.

These individuals have all been charged with conspiracy to supply a class A drug:

- Scott Ward, 36, of Burton Road, Blacon
- Lee Ward, 44, of Wordsworth Crescent, Blacon
- Amy Allman, 29, of Wordsworth Crescent, Blacon
- Katie Whitley, 42, of Wordsworth Crescent, Blacon
- Ryan Crank, 32, of Wordsworth Crescent, Blacon
- Shane Stokes, 43, of Wemyss Road, Blacon
- Shane Bright, 29, of Palgrave Close, Blacon
- Alexander Bell, 43, of Dee Park, Holt, North Wales
- Karl Eyre, 45, of Beeby Way, Broughton
- Sam Booth, 36, of Nash Street, Newcastle-under-Lyme
- Lewis Higgins, 35, of Caldecott Crescent, Whitchurch
- Peter Wiggins, 55, of Wordsworth Crescent, Chester
- Amy Allman has also been charged with conspiracy to supply nitrous oxide for wrongful inhalation and concealing criminal property.
- Lee Ward has also been charged with conspiracy to supply nitrous oxide for wrongful inhalation.

All 12 will appear at Chester Crown Court on Friday 2 May. The charges relate to a series of warrants which took place at addresses in Chester, Staffordshire, North Wales and Liverpool on Thursday 3 April.

Man jailed for attempting to smuggle illegal drugs into Cheshire music festival

A man who took illegal drugs to a music festival in Cheshire has been jailed.

Blake Holmes appeared at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 22 April where he was sentenced to 32 months in prison. The 20-year-old of Woodburn Place, Dalkeith, had previously pleaded guilty to two counts of possession with intent to supply class A drugs (MDMA & cocaine), possession with intent to supply class B drugs (ketamine) and possession of a knife.



During the hearing, the court heard how on Friday 25 August 2023 Holmes attended the Creamfields Music Festival in Daresbury.

However, as he was approaching the VIP entrance, he stood in the queue stating that he had something to declare. Upon speaking to officers Holmes stated that he had been paid £500 to take a black rucksack into the festival which contained approximately 50 tablets,

some cocaine and some ketamine. He was searched by officers, and upon looking in the backpack, they discovered a folding lock knife along with a pack of Irn-Bru cans, which were all sealed up and appeared to be full cans. Upon further examination by officers, they noticed one of the cans appeared to be different, as it did not feel like it contained a liquid, it also had what looked like a



false base to the can. The Irn-Bru can was later opened and found to contain 62.4 grams of MDMA, 3.6 grams of ketamine and 10.1 grams of cocaine. The drugs were found to have an estimated street value of £1990.00. Holmes was arrested in relation to the discovery, and despite initially stating that he had been paid to transport the drugs into the festival, he refused to answer any questions that were put to him in custody.

Following the sentencing, PC Neil Fleming said: *“While Holmes may have admitted his wrongdoing before he entered the festival, what he did was illegal and I welcome the sentence that has been handed to him. Creamfields festival is a huge policing operation and we work with the event organisers and security staff to prevent illegal drugs getting into the site. Be under no illusion, while a large majority of Creamfields festivalgoers are respectful, those smuggling drugs into the event will be charged and dealt with by the courts. Do not make this mistake.”*

Man charged following serious collision in Henbury

Officers investigating a serious collision in Henbury have charged a man in relation to the incident.

At 5.06pm on Sunday 20 April, officers from Macclesfield responded to reports of a collision in Henbury. Attending the scene on Church Lane, Henbury, officers found that the collision involved a silver Audi A3 and a white Dacia Sandero. Following the initial collision, the Audi then left the carriageway and collided with a tree. The occupants of the Sandero, a 60-year-old woman, a 33-year-old woman and a one-year-old boy sustained minor injuries. A 28-year-old woman, who was a passenger in the Audi, was initially treated at the scene by paramedics and has since been taken to hospital for further treatment, where she remains at this time. Her injuries are believed to be life-threatening. A two-year-old and six-year-old boy along with a five-year-old girl, who were also passengers in the Audi, sustained serious injuries and were taken to Manchester Children's Hospital after being treated at the scene by paramedics. They remain in hospital at this time. The driver of the Audi, a 29-year-old man, sustained minor injuries and was taken to hospital before being released and arrested. Rhys Farry, of Weller Avenue, Manchester, has since been charged with four counts of causing serious injury by dangerous driving, driving without insurance and driving without a licence.

Enquiries in relation to the incident remain ongoing and officers are keen to hear from anyone who may have witnessed the collision or has any CCTV or dashcam footage of the incident to contact them. Anyone with any information can contact Cheshire Police [via the website](#) or call 101, quoting 25000321003.

Cheshire Constabulary highlights the role of health professionals in spotting stalking

Cheshire Constabulary is supporting the Suzy Lamplugh Trust's campaign for National Stalking Awareness Week (22 - 26 April 2025), raising awareness about the devastating impact of stalking and the crucial role of health professionals in recognising and responding to it.

This year's theme, "spotting stalking," focuses on how doctors, nurses, and therapists can help identify signs of stalking in victims and encourage early intervention. Stalking is not just a criminal issue - It's a health crisis. Stalking has serious psychological and physical effects, often leading to depression, anxiety, PTSD, sleep disturbances, and paranoia. Many victims confide in health professionals before they ever approach the police, making their role in spotting stalking vital.

<https://youtu.be/luqJ75NTX1g>

Stalking behaviours to look out for

Victims, health professionals, and loved ones should be aware of red flags that indicate stalking, including:

- Fixation on your daily routine – this could involve following you, watching your every move, using a tracking device on you or on your vehicle.
- Constant obsessive and repeated communication – endless phone calls, messages, or contacting people known to you.
- Threatening and intimidating behaviour towards you or someone you know – threatening suicide, last resort thinking or sending death threats.
- Repeated unwanted attention or 'love bombing' – they could make unannounced visits to your home or workplace, send you unwanted gifts, or make declarations of love constantly.
- Unwanted sexual contact – sexual assault, sexual harassment, unwanted touching.
- Resorts to criminal behaviour to gain your attention or cause fear – they could break into your home or vehicle or cause damage to your property or belongings.

If you are experiencing persistent, unwanted behaviour that causes fear or distress, it is stalking - and it is a crime.

<https://youtu.be/NBI0CVrazs>

Cheshire Constabulary's Stalking Single Point of Contact, DS Dave Thomason, of the Harm Reduction Unit, said: *"In Cheshire we have a dedicated Harm Reduction Unit (HRU) that work with health services, the Probation Service, and victim support agencies to manage risk and protect victims. By collaborating with health professionals, we can identify victims sooner, ensure they receive appropriate support, and intervene earlier to prevent escalation. This helps us investigate and manage stalking cases more effectively, leading to better outcomes for victims and the public.*

I am urging both victims, and their friends and family, to report stalking as early as possible - before it escalates. If you are unsure whether you or a loved one is being stalked, you can use the "Am I Being Stalked?" tool by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust for guidance.

I want to reassure victims that help is available. You can report your concerns to police, contact the stalking helpline for advice, or talk to a trusted health professional - they can support you and help you to identify stalking behaviours. Don't wait, don't delay - trust your instincts."

Follow Cheshire Police on Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter), and TikTok for updates throughout the campaign. Join the conversation using #NSAW2025 #SpottingStalking For more information about stalking visit: [What is stalking? Signs and support | Cheshire Constabulary](#)

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Appeal to trace wanted man from Widnes

Police in Widnes are appealing to trace a wanted man with links to the Liverpool area.

Anthony Humpheries is wanted in connection to stalking and criminal damage offences. The 40-year-old from the Widnes area is described as white, around six feet tall, with short brown hair and blue eyes. Humpheries is believed to links to Speke area of Liverpool.



Anyone with any information regarding the whereabouts of Anthony Humpheries can contact Cheshire Police via 101 or the website, quoting IML-2065638.

Appeal for information following robbery in Warrington

Police are appealing for witnesses and video footage following an armed robbery in Warrington.

At around 7.45pm on Sunday 20 April the victim, a 66-year-old man, left the Maltings public house on Old Hall Road. As he was walking home, he was approached from behind by three unknown men, two riding e-scooters and one riding a pushbike. The men blocked the pensioner's path and demanded that he handed over all of his money. One of the men was also armed with a Stanley knife.

The first offender was described as a man, of slim build and around 6' tall. He was wearing a balaclava, a black tracksuit with his hood up and black trainers with white mark. He was riding a black mountain bike with black wheels. The second suspect, who was riding an e-scooter, was also described as a man, around 5' 10" tall and of stocky build. He was wearing black jeans, a balaclava, and a hoody puffer jacket. The final suspect was described as a man of very skinny build. He was wearing a balaclava, with a hoody tied around face and tracksuit bottoms.

Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and as part of the investigation officers are urging anyone with any information to come forward.

DC Martyn Huyton-Berry, of Warrington CID, said: *"The victim has understandably been left shaken as a result of his ordeal and we are committed to doing all that we can to identify the people responsible. Enquiries in relation to this incident have been ongoing since the robbery and as part of our ongoing investigation we are keen to hear from anyone who was in the area at the time of the incident and believes they may have witnessed anything suspicious. The same goes for anyone with any CCTV or dashcam footage that may be relevant to our investigation. If you have any information, no matter how small, please call us on 101, quoting IML 2073426 or give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us>. Alternatively, information can be reported anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111."*

Police appeal for information following serious assault in Warrington

Detectives are appealing for witnesses and video footage after a boy was seriously assaulted in Warrington.

At around 1.20pm on Monday 21 April, police were called to reports of an assault on Knutsford Road, Latchford. Officers attended and found that a 16-year-old boy had been stabbed by an unknown man sometime between 12.30pm and 1.20pm, near to the footpath onto New Road. The suspect was described as a white man with a goatee beard who was wearing a black adidas tracksuit with his hood up. The victim was taken to hospital for treatment. His injuries are not believed to be life-changing. Enquiries are ongoing to establish the circumstances of the incident and officers are now appealing for any witnesses to come forward.

DC Will Austin, of Warrington CID, said: *"I'd like to reassure the residents that this is believed to be an isolated incident and we are committed to doing all we can to establish exactly what took place. We've already spoken to a number of witnesses as part of our investigation, and I would like to thank the local community for the support provided. As part of ongoing enquiries, we're keen to speak to anyone who witnessed the incident, or anyone with any CCTV or dashcam footage which may aid the investigation. I'd urge anyone with any information, no matter how small, to contact the team here at Warrington."*

Anyone with any information is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us, quoting IML- 2073777. Alternatively, information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Appeal for information following fatal collision in Runcorn

Police are appealing for witnesses and video footage following a serious collision in Runcorn.

At around 8pm on Tuesday 22 April, officers were called to reports of a collision on Bridge Street, Runcorn. Officers attended the scene and found that a red Lexmoto Aspire 50 which was travelling towards the Old Town, had lost control and unseated the rider. The rider of the motorcycle, a 53-year-old man from Runcorn, sadly passed away at the scene.

Enquiries in relation to the collision are ongoing and as part of the investigation officers are keen to hear from anyone who witnessed the incident. The same goes for anyone with any dashcam footage which may aid the investigation.

Sgt Andrew Dennison of the Serious Collision Investigation Unit said: *"Our thoughts are with the rider'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 anyone with CCTV footage which may aid the investigation."*

Anyone with any information is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101 or [visit the website](#) quoting IML 2074714.

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)

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Email: cheshirenw@outlook.com

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

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

To find out further information about the Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association, to log into your account or for Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Literature please visit our website: www.cheshirenw.org