

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 15 March 2026

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

East Timor man jailed for sexually abusing child in Winsford

A man from East Timor who groomed and sexually abused a child in Winsford has been jailed.



Tomas Sarmiento appeared at Liverpool Crown Court today, Friday 13 March, where he was sentenced to 17 years in prison. The 43-year-old of the Winsford area, was previously found guilty of rape of a girl under 13 and causing a girl under 13 to engage in sexual activity, following an eight-day trial at Liverpool Crown Court which concluded on Wednesday 21 January.

During the trial, the court heard how Sarmiento groomed and sexually abused the victim between 2022 and 2023, starting when the girl was just 8 years old. Sarmiento would lure the victim to his home under the pretence that she could use his Wi-Fi. Once the victim was inside the address, he would sexually abuse her. The victim later bravely confided in a friend about what Sarmiento had done to her, and the abuse was subsequently reported to police. Following the reports an investigation was launched by detectives and Sarmiento was questioned in relation to the allegations, where he denied any wrongdoing. Despite his denial, he was charged with the offences.

Following the sentencing, Detective Constable Ann Muldowney, who led the investigation, said: *“Sarmiento is a dangerous predator, who is yet to show any remorse for the sexual abuse he forced a vulnerable child to endure. He deliberately abused his position as a trusted adult to isolate and manipulate the victim in order to subject her to obscene acts of sexual violence, and I welcome today’s sentence, which ensures he can no longer pose a risk to other innocent children.”*

In addition to his sentence, Sarmiento was also handed a 10-year Sexual Harm Prevention Order (SHPO) and ordered to sign the Sex Offenders’ register for 10 years.

DC Muldowney added: *“I commend the victim in this case, for the courage she has shown throughout the entirety of this investigation, despite having to relive her trauma during a trial, is truly remarkable. It is thanks to her exceptional strength and bravery that we were able to gather the evidence needed to bring this case before the courts and ensure Sarmiento will never again have the opportunity to harm another child. I’d also like to thank the prosecution team for their efforts in securing justice for the victim and her family, and I hope today’s outcome provides them with some sense of closure as they continue to rebuild and move forward with their lives.”*

Cheshire Constabulary remains committed to protecting children and ensuring that those who pose a risk to them are identified, investigated, and brought before the courts. Anyone who has been a victim of sexual abuse, or knows someone who has, is asked to contact us [via the website](#) or call 101. Information can also be reported anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Police warn teenagers to be wary of social media scam

Police are warning young people to be on their guard over a social media scam.

Teenagers and students are being targeted on social media with so called 'lucrative' opportunities to get rich quick, which are actually very likely to make them lose money quick. Cheshire Constabulary's Economic Crime Unit are aware of reports from teenagers who have been conned out of hundreds of pounds or tricked into 'money muling' - laundering criminal funds through their own bank accounts – on the promise of easy money.

The scammers place 'job adverts' on social media, generally on TikTok, to make initial contact with victims before they are invited into a WhatsApp chat. They provide their bank details and are paid a small amount, normally £5, for liking an online video before the conversation moves to messaging service Telegram. They are then given 'jobs' as either traders or cashiers. Traders are asked to complete several tasks earning £2-3 each time and their earnings appear to be accumulated in an investment or cryptocurrency account.

In order to receive the funds they must pay a release fee of between £80 and £300 to account details provided by the fraudsters. Some victims have made two or three payments before they realise they have been tricked and will never see any money. Cashiers are encouraged to provide their bank account details and falsely believe they are working for TikTok. They receive funds, which appear to be the 'release fees' paid by other victims, before passing these onto the fraudsters' accounts, while also paying £5 'reward' payments to unsuspecting victims joining the scam. Allowing their accounts to be used in this way constitutes money muling, which is a criminal offence.

PC Jim Day from Cheshire Constabulary's Economic Crime Unit, said: *"Despite what some 'influencers' profess online, there are, unfortunately for us all, no get rich quick schemes. If it sounds too good to be true, then it's usually a scam. Online fraudsters have continued to become increasingly sophisticated in the ways that they target victims, particularly teenagers, to gain their trust and trick them into parting with their money or allowing their bank accounts to be used to launder criminal funds. If you're bombarded by stories of influencers and others making money online, it's understandable that you might begin to believe them. These scams lure you in on the promise of easy money but prey on you and leave you significantly out of pocket or at risk of further consequences. We urge teenagers and their parents or carers to be alive to the risks of such scams and to steer well clear and avoid being taken in."*

Incidents can be reported to Report Fraud, the UK's national reporting centre for cyber crime and fraud, on 0300 123 2040 or by visiting its website <https://www.reportfraud.police.uk/> Further advice on fraud and financial crime is also available at <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fa/fraud/online-fraud/>

Successful first deployment of Live Facial Recognition in Chester city centre

Cheshire Constabulary has completed its first deployment of Live Facial Recognition (LFR) technology in Chester city centre.

The deployment took place on Thursday 5 March and marked the first time the LFR van has been used in Cheshire. Officers, alongside colleagues from Greater Manchester Police, spent the day

speaking with residents, visitors and business owners, explaining how the technology works, outlining the strict safeguards in place, and answering questions from the public. The day focused on public engagement, demonstrating how the technology supports local policing when it comes to safeguarding vulnerable people and identifying suspects or wanted individuals.



Throughout the deployment, the system processed over 34,000 faces, and in line with national guidance, biometric data belonging to members of the public, who were not part of a pre-approved watchlist, was automatically and immediately deleted.



Live Facial Recognition (LFR) deployment in Chester city centre

Chief Inspector Darren Griffiths, who oversaw the operation, said: *“This first deployment was all about engaging with our communities and being open about the technology we use. It was really encouraging how many people took the time to speak with us, ask questions and see the LFR van in action. The technology alerted officers only when necessary and demonstrated how LFR can be used in a targeted and proportionate way. This learning will help shape how we use the technology going forward, particularly during major policing operations and events where it can provide an additional layer of safety for the public.”*

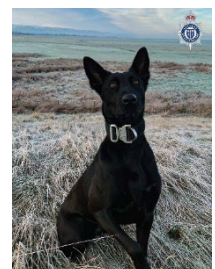
More information about Live Facial Recognition, including how it works and the safeguards in place for every deployment, can be found on the [Cheshire Police website](#).

PD Freya helps arrest four burglary suspects in Ellesmere Port

Officers have arrested four people following a burglary in Ellesmere Port thanks to support from PD Freya.

Shortly before 9pm on Thursday 12 March, police were called to reports of a burglary at a commercial premises on Garth Road, Ellesmere Port. The caller reported that there were four men on the site who appeared to be stealing batteries. Local officers were deployed to the site, with support of the Armed Response Unit and the Police Dog Unit, and on arrival they quickly provided a containment of the site.

Police Dog Freya then conducted a thorough search of the area, where she located four people hiding in bushes. The two men, 39 and 19, from Rossendale, and two teenage boys, one aged 17 from Accrington, and one aged 16 from Rossendale, were all arrested on suspicion of burglary other



than a dwelling. All four suspects have been remanded in custody and are currently assisting officers with their enquiries.

Following the arrests, Inspector Sam Lovatt, of the Constabulary's Dog Unit, said: *"This is a fantastic result and a special thanks must go to PD Freya who was quick to sniff out the suspects as they attempted to hide in the bushes. Despite the suspects' best efforts, they were no match for PD Freya, who took just minutes to locate them, and they will now be dealt with. I hope these arrests will reassure residents and businesses of our commitment to tackling this type of crime."*

Man jailed after pleading guilty to Northwich burglary

A man who burgled a commercial premises in Northwich has been jailed.

Paul Matei appeared at Chester Magistrates' Court on Friday 27 February where he was sentenced to 12 months in prison. The 37-year-old of Liston Close, Luton, had earlier pleaded guilty to one count of burglary. During the evening of Thursday 19 February, several unknown offenders gained unauthorised access to a commercial premises on Griffiths Road, Northwich, and stole £50,000 worth of power tools and copper cabling before fleeing the scene. The incident was reported to police the next day.



Following enquiries, officers from Northwich Proactive CID identified a white Ford Transit van involved in the incident. The van had travelled from Luton to Northwich and back again on the day of the burglary. After establishing Matei was insured on the vehicle, officers attended his address in Luton and conducted a search of his home where they recovered a significant quantity of the stolen tools. Matei was arrested and subsequently charged with the offence of burglary. Four other men were also arrested and charged in relation to the incident and have since pleaded guilty at Chester Magistrates' Court on Friday 6 March. They are due to be sentenced at Chester Crown Court on Friday 17 April.

Detective Sergeant John Lyons of Northwich Proactive CID said: *"I welcome the sentence handed to Matei, and I hope this result assures residents and local businesses that we will always go the extra mile to protect our communities. In this case, our team travelled to Luton to put Matei and his associates before the courts, and in doing so we recovered a substantial amount of the stolen equipment. Anyone who chooses to come to Cheshire to commit crime should be in no doubt, we will track you down, and you will be brought to justice."*

Man charged with theft after more than £10,000 worth of cigarettes stolen

A man from Birmingham has been charged following an investigation by Congleton Local Police Unit into the theft of more than £10,000 worth of cigarettes from shops.

Michael Mongan, 26, from Heather Road, Birmingham appeared at Chester Magistrates on Wednesday 11 March to face six charges of theft from a shop. The charges relate to thefts in Middlewich, Knutsford, Wrexham, Ely, Audlem, and Sandbach. He was remanded in custody to appear at Chester Crown Court on 9 September.

A 15-year-old boy from Cambridge has also been charged with five counts of theft from a shop relating to thefts in Middlewich, Knutsford, Wrexham, Audlem and Sandbach. The teenager, who can't be named for legal reasons, was bailed with conditions not to enter Cheshire and will appear at Crewe Youth Court on 23 April.

The thefts occurred between 7 February 2026 and 7 March.

Manchester man charged following burglary in Prestbury

Detectives investigating a burglary in Prestbury have charged a man from Manchester in relation to the incident.

At around 3.30pm on Monday 23 February 2025, police were called to reports of a burglary at an address off London Road, Prestbury, where approximately £4,000 worth of pens, watches and jewellery were stolen. Following enquiries a 33-year-old man from Manchester was arrested on Wednesday 11 March. Lorenzo Campbell, of Pullman Close, Manchester, has since been charged with one count of burglary dwelling. Campbell appeared at Chester Magistrates' Court on Thursday 12 March where he was remanded in custody; he is next set to appear at Chester Crown Court on Friday 10 April.

Detectives to appear on Crimewatch as part of search for missing Northwich

Detectives investigating the disappearance of a man from Northwich are set to appear on Crimewatch Live to appeal for information.

Ronald Ellis was last seen almost 16 years ago on the May bank holiday weekend in 2010, when he left his home on Winnington Lane. At the time of his disappearance Ronald was described as 5' 9" tall, of proportionate build, with brown eyes and short brown hair. The 32-year-old was later reported missing by his close friends in July 2010, after failing to return home and an investigation was launched by officers in Northwich. Despite a thorough investigation and multiple leads from members of the public, Ronald has never been located.

Now, as part of a renewed efforts to locate Ronald, Detective Sergeant Paul Davis, who is leading the search, is set to appear on BBC Crimewatch Live at 10.45am on Friday 13 March.

Detective Sergeant Paul Davis said: *"Ronald was a family man, he absolutely adored his brother and had a number of close friends, so for him to just disappear and never return has left all those close to him totally heartbroken, and we're committed to doing all we can to find out what has happened to him. He was also a well-respected employee at Sauna Sauna, in Northwich, and was also well known amongst the LGBTQ+ community in Cheshire, Manchester, and Blackpool."*



“As part of our investigation, I’m appealing for information from anyone who knew Ronald, or anyone who worked at or visited Sauna Sauna at the time of his disappearance. I’d also like to hear from any residents in the Northwich area, who believe they may have any information that could aid the investigation. Even the smallest lead could prove vital.”

Information can either be reported online at <https://mipp.police.uk/operation/07CH19D14-PO1>, or by contacting Cheshire Constabulary on 101 quoting CC10199486. Alternatively, it can be reported anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.



Three people charged with high value shoplifting in Northwich

Three people who were arrested in relation to high value shoplifting offences in Northwich have now been charged.

At around 5.30pm on Monday 9 March, police were called to reports of shoplifting at Waitrose on London Road. The caller reported that more than £1,700 worth of stock had been stolen from the store. Following enquiries, officers stopped a Black Citroen Berlingo Van on the A556 at 5.48pm leading to the arrest of a 27-year-old man and two teenage boys.

All three suspect were taken to custody and have since been charged in relation to the incident. Jonathan Collins, 27, of Corbiewynd, Madelene, Edinburgh, has since been charged with handling stolen goods. He has been bailed to appear at Chester Magistrates Courts on Friday 10 April. A 16-year-old boy and a 15-year-old boy, both from Preston, were both been charged with theft from a shop. The pair were remanded in custody and appeared at Chester Magistrates on Wednesday 11 March.

They were bailed by the court and are next set to appear at Chester Magistrates Court on Tuesday 31 March.

Man found guilty of rape

A man is set to be sentenced after he was found guilty of multiple counts of rape.

Aaron Furnival, of Hunter Street, Chester, was convicted of four counts of rape at Chester Crown Court on Monday 9 March. The 31-year-old had previously pleaded guilty to one count of controlling and coercive behaviour. He will be sentenced at Chester Crown Court on Friday 1 May.



The female victim in this case contacted police to report violent behaviour, emotional abuse and sexual abuse committed by Furnival. The woman reported Furnival would take advantage of her while she was asleep, and she would awake to find him raping her. He would also ignore the victim whenever they were having consensual sex and she withdrew her consent. She would ask him to stop and he would refuse.

Furnival was controlling and jealous. He transferred money from the victim’s bank account, threw water over her while she was asleep, and monitored her movements with constant phone calls and messages. Furnival used foul and abusive language towards her, made threats to kill her and even

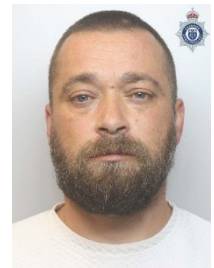
wrote degrading words on her skin in marker pen. Officers arrested Furnival on suspicion of the offences but during interview he denied the allegations against him. Following an investigation, he was charged.

Detective Sergeant Andy Manson said: *“Firstly, we would like to recognise the bravery of the victim in this case for reporting what happened to her. We hope the conclusion of this trial will provide her with some sense of closure, knowing that the jury saw through his lies. Furnival’s cruel and abusive behaviour showed how he clearly had no regard for the welfare of his victim, instead doing whatever he wanted, no matter the consequences to her. He then put the victim through the stress of a trial after he refused to accept what he had done. Thankfully, he was found guilty of these crimes, and he will no doubt be facing a considerable length of time behind bars.”*

Man jailed for 11 years for sexual abusing a child

A sexual predator has been jailed for 11 years after sexual abusing a child.

Daniel Walker, of Plumley, was handed the custodial sentence on Friday 6 March at Chester Crown Court. The 42-year-old had previously been found guilty of three counts of assaulting a girl under 13 by touching, two counts of assaulting a girl under 13 by penetration, and three counts of inciting a girl under 13 to engage in sexual activity.



The victim in this case disclosed she had been abused by Walker between the ages of seven and 12. Walker was arrested in relation to the allegations and was dismissive in interview, even laughing and appearing amused at the officers’ questions. Following a thorough investigation, Walker was charged with eight counts of sexual abuse against a child.

Detective Sergeant Chris Jackson said: *“The significant custodial sentence handed to Walker demonstrates the severity of his crimes and I am grateful that he is facing many years behind bars where he cannot do this to anyone else. He subjected a child to horrific abuse, something no child should have to endure. I would like to acknowledge the victim’s bravery in reporting these offences and I sincerely hope that the lengthy sentence handed to Walker will be of some reassurance to her. I also hope her courage in speaking to police will also help others who may wish to report similar offences to come forward; you will be listened to, and we are committed to investigating every report thoroughly and sensitively.”*

Man charged with drugs offences in Widnes

Officers have charged a 64-year-old man with drugs offences.

John Geraghty, of Blundell Road, Widnes, was arrested at around 8.12am on Thursday 5 March. The 64-year-old has since been charged with possession with intent to supply class A drugs (cocaine) and two counts of possession with intent to supply class B drugs (amphetamine and cannabis). Geraghty appeared at Chester Magistrates’ Court on Friday 6 March and has been remanded in custody to appear at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 7 April.

Men charged with burglary and theft

Two men have been charged with multiple offences following incidents in Handforth and Wilmslow.

Louie Mellor, 21, of Bath Road, Buxton, and William Hassel, 25, of Lullington Close, Manchester, were arrested on Tuesday 10 March. Mellor has since been charged with theft of a motor vehicle, and burglary dwelling and theft. Hassel has been charged with burglary dwelling and theft, theft of a motor vehicle, driving without insurance, and driving otherwise than in accordance with a licence.

The pair will appear at Chester Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 11 March. The burglary charges relate to reports of a burglary in Marthall Way, Handforth, on Tuesday 10 March. The theft and driving charges relate to reports of the theft of a BMW M-Sport from outside an address in Daveylands, Wilmslow, on Saturday 28 February.

Man charged following Northwich business burglary

Detectives investigating a burglary at a bar in Northwich have charged a man in relation to the incident.

At 2.30pm on Friday 6 March, police were called to reports of a break in at a bar on the Bull Ring. The caller reported that an unknown offender had forced entry into the premises after smashing a window. Once inside they stole a quantity of cash, a Samsung tablet and a CCTV hard drive.

Following enquiries, detectives from Northwich Proactive CID arrested a 49-year-old local man in relation to the incident. Jonathan Heron, of John Brunner Crescent, Northwich, has since been charged with one count of burglary other than a dwelling. He has been remanded in custody and is set to appear at Chester Magistrates' Court today, Tuesday 10 March.

Two men charged in relation to assault in Warrington

Officers investigating reports of an assault in Warrington have charged two men in connection with the incident.

Madalin Dragan, 23, of Oldham Street, Latchford, and George Grancea, 35, also of Oldham Street, Latchford, were arrested on Monday 9 March. They have since been charged with wounding/inflicting grievous bodily harm without intent. The pair appeared at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 10 March and have been remanded in custody to appear at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 7 April. The charges relate to reports of an assault in Oldham Street, Latchford, on Monday 9 March, in which a 54-year-old man suffered serious injuries.

Trio arrested following Cuddington pursuit

Three men have been arrested following a pursuit through Cuddington and a subsequent collaborative effort to locate them.

At around 7.25pm on Thursday 5 March, a Cheshire Police officer was on patrol on the A556 near Sandiway when they were overtaken by a Ford Transit van travelling at considerable speed. The officer followed the van and instructed the driver to pull over; however, they failed to do so. The

vehicle continued at high speed and was seen driving through multiple red lights. After the vehicle turned back on itself and began travelling the wrong way down the carriageway, officers were forced to stand down the pursuit. The van was later found abandoned, with its three occupants having fled the scene.

A 47-year-old man and a 54-year-old man were located within 100 metres of the vehicle by PD Logan and his handler, who had been deployed following the decampment. They denied being involved in the incident and actively resisted arrest. The 47-year-old from Northwich was arrested on suspicion of dangerous driving and failing to stop. The 54-year-old from Cuddington was arrested on suspicion of dangerous driving, drink driving and failing to stop. A 36-year-old man from Cuddington was located by the Constabulary Drone Unit as he ran across a field near where the vehicle had come to a stop. He was arrested on suspicion of drug driving, dangerous driving and failing to stop. All three men have since been released on bail.

<https://youtu.be/nLoOfN2rYc4>

Following the incident, Police Sergeant Anthony Gallagher, of the Roads and Crime Unit, said: *“It is never a good idea to try and outrun police officers who have already signalled for you to pull over, as dangerous manoeuvres and high speeds—such as those we saw here today—only increase the likelihood of a serious collision occurring. It is also never wise to think you can outwit our colleagues in the sky or on four legs—especially when those legs belong to PD Logan. I would like to thank all involved for their swift and professional response, which resulted in three arrests being made. When our teams combine their efforts with a common goal in mind, it will never end well for those who think they can flout the law without facing consequences.”*

Motorcyclists attend Cheshire Constabulary’s International Women’s Day bike safety event

Around 100 riders from across the region came together in Chester on Sunday 8 March for a free safety event hosted by Cheshire Constabulary’s Motorcycle Unit.



The event, centred around this year’s International Women’s Day theme ‘Give to Gain’, brought together a wide range of partner organisations - all united in promoting safer riding, improving skills and supporting the wider biking community, particularly for women riders.

Held at Halliwell Jones Motorrad Service, the event welcomed riders of all abilities - from new licence holders to seasoned bikers - offering them the opportunity to take part in professional observational rideouts, meet other women riders and connect with groups who champion safety and wellbeing.

<https://youtu.be/Od-jbt1SqHg>

A wide range of partners also contributed to the event:

- Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service were providing bike safety support and engaged with riders on broader road safety awareness.
- National Highways were providing valuable information on road safety and offering attendees a discount code for BikeSafe workshops to encourage continued training.

- North Wales Police Motorcycle Team brought along a dramatic mannequin display demonstrating the potential injuries caused by inadequate protective gear.
- Mental Health Motorbike charity spent the day speaking with attendees supporting the bikers with their wellbeing.
- Women Riders World Relay were there bringing together women riders from across the world. They showcased their mission to connect, empower and celebrate female motorcyclists internationally.
- Blood Bikes riders from Cheshire, Merseyside, Shropshire and Staffordshire highlighted the lifesaving voluntary work they carry out transporting urgent medical supplies across the region.
- IAM RoadSmart shared their goal of improving riding standards through advanced training and offered advice and guidance to attendees interested in progressing their skills.
- Curvy Riders Motorcycle Club, a national women's only motorcycle club, were supporting riders to connect socially and grow in confidence.
- Evolution Women's Motorcycle Club, another women's only motorcycle group, were there helping bring women riders together through social rideouts and community events

Throughout the day BikeSafe assessors spoke to attendees about the benefits of professional rider training and offered demo observational rideouts, giving participants instant feedback and support to help them develop safer riding habits.

One attendee who took part in a rideout said: *"It was brilliant. This is the first day of the season for me on my bike and has given me some really good pointers. It has also instilled in me a belief that my riding is safe, progressive and on the right track. I really enjoyed it, and it's really worth doing."*



PC Jen Whelan, Cheshire Constabulary's only female Motorcycle Unit officer and organiser of the event, said: *"It was fantastic to see so many riders come together to celebrate International Women's Day and to focus on riding smarter, safer and more confidently. The support from our partner organisations made this a truly collaborative event, all with the shared aim of helping motorcyclists enjoy their ride, own their ride, and ride safely. The turnout shows just how many women are passionate about biking and by improving awareness, honing technique, and learning from experienced professionals, riders can help keep themselves, and others, safer on the roads. We hope riders left feeling encouraged, inspired, and empowered."*



Motorcyclists are encouraged to continue developing their skills by booking a place on a Cheshire Constabulary BikeSafe workshop, where they will receive a full observational ride and tailored feedback from highly trained motorcyclists. Cheshire BikeSafe workshops are held at Cheshire Police headquarters between 9.00-11.00am, followed by a 90 minute assessed rideout, and will take place on:

- Saturday 20 June
- Saturday 25 July
- Saturday 5 September

[Visit the BikeSafe website for further information and to book onto a workshop.](#)

Salford man jailed following drunken taxi driver robbery

A man from Salford has been jailed after robbing a taxi driver of his vehicle at knifepoint in Sandbach.

Daniel Eckersley, also known as “Daniel Brein” and “Daniel Bryan”, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Friday 6 March, where he was sentenced to six years and eight months’ imprisonment. The 39-year-old had previously pleaded guilty to robbery, possession of a knife in a public place, drink driving, and driving without insurance.



The court heard that at around 9.51pm on 6 December 2025, an unknown man knocked on the door of an address in the Dragon’s Lane area of Moston and asked the occupant to order him a taxi. The man was under the influence of alcohol at the time and left the address when the taxi arrived. Moments later, the woman heard screaming from outside. Looking out of the window, she saw the man punching the taxi driver. During the violent confrontation, the man managed to take control of the vehicle and drove away from the scene in the direction of Middlewich. The woman contacted Cheshire Police to report the incident. Shortly afterwards, the taxi driver also called officers, saying he had been the victim of a robbery and had been stabbed in the leg by the passenger.

Officers were deployed to the scene and located the vehicle less than three miles from where it had been stolen. A knife was found inside the passenger footwell. The taxi driver confirmed that the man who attacked him had been wearing a grey tracksuit and a baseball cap. Officers began searching the area for a suspect matching that description. Forty minutes after the initial incident, officers from the Constabulary’s Firearms Unit were stopped by a member of the public who said a man matching the description had been seen around 15 minutes earlier at a pub in Middlewich.

Enquiries established that a man fitting the suspect’s description entered the premises at 10.17pm, left shortly afterward, and then headed to another nearby pub. Less than an hour after the initial robbery, at 10.45pm, an officer from the Constabulary’s Roads and Crime Unit spotted the man and approached him. The intoxicated man identified himself as Daniel Bryan. A breath test revealed that Eckersley was over three times the legal limit, and he was arrested on suspicion of drink driving. It was subsequently confirmed that he was also wanted for a robbery in Greater Manchester, and he was further arrested for this offence.

Following his arrest, detectives retrieved two SD cards from the stolen taxi’s dashcams. The footage showed Eckersley threatening the driver and stabbing him in the leg. Eckersley, of Little Hutton, Worsley in Salford, was later charged. He provided no-comment answers to all questions during interview.

Detective Constable Vickie Wallace said: *“No one should go to work expecting to go through such a terrifying situation as the one Daniel Eckersley subjected his victim to in December of last year. We may never know Eckersley’s motivation for threatening an unsuspecting taxi driver and stealing his vehicle, but it was undoubtedly fuelled by the considerable amount of alcohol he had consumed. This case highlights the importance of having dashcams in your vehicle, especially if you are involved in taxi services or any occupation that requires engaging with the public for long periods. The footage from the dashcams — capturing Eckersley’s initial threats, the stabbing, and the theft of the vehicle — was vital evidence that helped us secure this sentence.”*

Warrington man jailed following Operation Crossbow stop

A man from Warrington has been jailed after being caught with cocaine during a day of intensified police action.

Ryan Sleigh appeared at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 3 March, where he was jailed for 32 months' imprisonment. Sleigh, of Bibby Avenue, Warrington, had pleaded guilty to possession with intent to supply Class A drugs.



The court heard that on 2 February 2026, Cheshire Police launched Operation Crossbow — a collaborative policing effort aimed at disrupting criminal activity across Cheshire and its borders. The operation included officers from roads policing, armed response, motorcycles, dogs, drones, the Special Constabulary and local policing teams, all working together with the shared goal of locating wanted criminals. At around 11am, officers deployed in Warrington spotted a grey Volkswagen Golf in the Park Avenue area of Latchford. An unknown woman was seen leaning into the passenger-side window of the vehicle. The officers observed what appeared to be a hand-to-hand exchange, believed to be a suspected drug deal between supplier and customer. Following the exchange, the officers alerted other patrols to challenge the suspicious behaviour exhibited by the Golf's occupant, identified as Ryan Sleigh.

Around 15 minutes later, officers on foot patrol stopped Sleigh as he attempted to enter a shop on the Riverside Retail Park. He was detained while they conducted a search of his vehicle. Inside the car, officers found 25 snap bags containing white powder — later identified as cocaine — concealed within the centre console and door pockets. A further £150 in cash was also seized. The 34-year-old was arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply Class A drugs. A subsequent search of the 34-year-old's home resulted in the recovery of three mobile phones, further snap bags, a set of scales, and a notepad containing the names of potential drug buyers and suppliers. Sleigh provided no comment answers during interview and was later charged with the offences. He pleaded guilty at the first opportunity.

Detective Constable Andrew Dolan, of the Serious and Organised Crime Unit, said: *“Ryan Sleigh really did choose the worst possible day to be out and about in Warrington making his deliveries, and there is no doubt that, following our intervention — and now with his prison sentence — several of his customers will be going without the products they ordered. Given the amount of Class A drugs we found in his car, paired with the drug paraphernalia and list of prospective customers discovered at his address, it was clear to us that Sleigh was running a high-level operation. With that said, he will now spend two and a half years behind bars, and I hope he uses that time to seriously reflect on his life choices.”*

Warrington man charged with violence offences

Officers in Warrington have charged a local man with a number of offences.

Rory Gilchrist was arrested at around 6.10am on Sunday 8 March. The 34-year-old, of Padgate Lane, Warrington, has since been charged with inflicting grievous bodily harm without intent, threats to kill and intentional strangulation. Gilchrist appeared at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Monday 9 March, where he was remanded in custody to appear at Liverpool Crown Court on Tuesday 7 April. The charges relate to an incident that occurred on Sunday 8 March at around 4am.

Macclesfield drug dealer jailed after being stopped by officers on patrol

A Macclesfield man has been jailed after admitting dealing class A drugs.

Paul Gostelow from Duke Street, Macclesfield appeared at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 5 March to be sentenced after admitting to possession with intent to supply cocaine at an earlier hearing. The 58-year-old was sentenced to five years, seven months and two weeks in prison.



On Monday 19 January 2026 PCs Nathan Manley and Izzy Morrell were on patrol when they stopped a silver Tiguan on Macclesfield Road, Prestbury. They signalled for the car stop and when it did, the front seat passenger, Gostelow, fled from the vehicle and ran through a car park. The driver, a woman, remained in her seat. One of the officers chased after Gostelow as he ran across the bowling green and detained him. Gostelow had been seen dropping something as he fled and a search was made by the other officer resulting in blocks of white powder being recovered from the scene. Gostelow was also searched and found to be in possession of white powder. He was subsequently arrested and the car was searched. A phone was seized, and following this, a search of his address recovered drugs, phones and other items.

PC Orry Barnard said: *“This is another brilliant example of our officers out on patrol proactively stopping and searching those suspected of criminality. We are out there 24/7 acting on information and would urge anyone with information on drug dealing in your community to contact us on 101 or via website so that we can continue to put people like Gostelow behind bars and disrupt illegal drug activity.”*

Northwich man charged with drug dealing

Detectives have charged a man from Northwich in relation the supply of illegal drugs.

On Saturday 13 December 2025 officers from Northwich Proactive CID stopped a Blue Kia Sportage at Tesco on Manchester Road. A quantity of illegal drugs were seized from the car and a 38-year-old man was arrested. Following enquiries, Ryan Dingle has now been charged with one count of being concerned in the supply of Class A drugs (cocaine) and one count of possession with intent to supply class A drugs (cocaine)

Dingle of Poplar Road, Weaverham, has been remanded in custody and is set to appear at Chester Magistrates’ Court on Thursday 12 March.

Men sentenced in connection with Cheshire West drug supply

Two men have been sentenced in connection with the supply of cannabis.

Lee Lewis, 31, and Kraig Alyward, 41, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Monday 2 March for sentencing.

Lewis, of Shot Tower Close, Chester, was sentenced to 40 months’ imprisonment after pleading guilty to being concerned in the supply of Class B drugs, being concerned in the supply of crack cocaine, being concerned in the supply of



cocaine, possession with intent to supply Class B drugs, possession of criminal property, and possession of an offensive weapon.

Alyward, of Shephard Close, Ellesmere Port, was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment, suspended for 18 months, after pleading guilty to being concerned in the supply of Class B drugs, possession with intent to supply Class B drugs, and possession of criminal property.

During the hearing, the court was told that the pair were stopped by Cheshire Police officers during a routine traffic stop in the Canadian Avenue area of Chester on Tuesday 7 October 2025. A small child was also in the car at the time. Officers noticed a strong smell of cannabis and subsequently searched the vehicle. The pair were arrested after officers found a carrier bag containing cannabis in the boot. Following the arrests, officers carried out searches at both men's addresses, discovering further bags of cannabis, drug paraphernalia, and nearly £4,000 in cash at Alyward's home. A samurai sword was recovered from Lewis' property. Content recovered from devices seized from both men showed they were actively involved in the supply of cannabis, with messages discussing deliveries, cash amounts, and deal sizes.

The pair were released on bail while further enquiries continued. However, investigators later discovered that they were still facilitating the sale of cannabis, crack cocaine and cocaine, using new mobile numbers. Based on this further evidence, two warrants under Section 8 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act were executed on Friday 12 December 2025, resulting in both Lewis and Alyward being arrested for a second time. During the warrants, officers recovered the new phones, along with a large amount of cash and cocaine at Lewis' address, and further quantities of cannabis and drug paraphernalia at Alyward's home. In police interviews, both men denied involvement in the supply of drugs, claiming that any substances found were for personal use only.

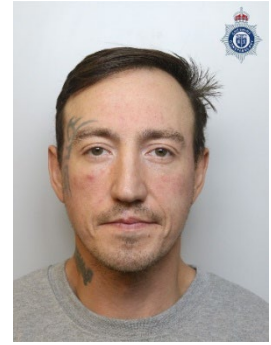
Following sentencing, Constable Jack Ryder said: *"Despite catching Lee Lewis and Kraig Alyward bang to rights with a boot full of cannabis in October 2025, it clearly wasn't enough of a wake-up call for them, as they chose to run the risk of continuing to facilitate the sale of cannabis while under investigation. However, their gamble did not pay off and resulted in our officers visiting their homes with a number of questions — including how they were sending messages to each other discussing the sizes and prices of cannabis orders when we had their phones. Cheshire Police take the sale of illegal drugs extremely seriously, and now that their sentences have been handed down, I hope Lewis and Alyward take a long look at their lives and seriously consider finding more legitimate careers."*

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Police appeal to trace wanted man from Widnes

Police in Widnes are appealing for information to trace a wanted man.

Lewis Walker, 33, is wanted in relation to an assault. Walker is from Widnes and has links to the Hough Green area of the town and the Speke area of Liverpool. Walker is described as a white, with mousey-brown hair, is around six feet 1 tall and of and slim build. Anyone with information on his whereabouts can call 101 or 999 if sighted and quote crime reference 26000137152



Police continue to appeal for witnesses following criminal damage of Chester city walls

Following an appeal for witnesses earlier this week, officers from Cheshire Constabulary's Rural Crime Team have since uncovered further information in relation to the incident.

On Monday 9 March, officers from Cheshire Constabulary's Rural Crime Team were notified of reports that the historic city centre walls had been sprayed with graffiti. It was reported that four girls had been seen spraying white paint on a section of the walls near the Cathedral and Northgate at around 4.33pm.



Following enquiries, officers have identified four girls, believed to be aged between 13 and 16 years old, who are thought to be connected to the incident. They are all described as white, all with dark brown or black hair, and were wearing blue, black, and grey tracksuits.

They were first seen at 4.07pm outside the Poundland store before heading up Eastgate Street towards the Cathedral. They then continued up Northgate Street and accessed the city walls. They are believed to have committed the damage before leaving the walls at around 4.57pm.

Police Constable Jono Lightfoot said: *"This may seem like a trivial incident, but Chester's city walls are strictly protected under the law and, due to the type of paint used on the stones, the operation to properly treat and clean these sections of the walls is going to take a considerable amount of time and will cost a significant amount of money."*

"After extensive CCTV enquiries and a number of people already coming forward with information, we have now established the movements and descriptions of four teenagers believed to be involved in the incident. We are also keen to hear from anyone who may have seen them on the day, or who has CCTV or dashcam footage, and would ask them to review their videos to see if the girls have been captured. I would also like to take this opportunity to appeal directly to the four girls and ask them to do the right thing: come forward and work with us to put right what has happened."

Anyone with information in relation to the incident is asked to contact Cheshire Police via the website or on 101, quoting IML-2285695.

Appeal for witnesses and footage following serious collision on A50

Police are appealing for witnesses and footage following a serious collision on the A50.

At 11am on Wednesday 4 March, police were called to reports of a collision on the A50, Knutsford Road, Cranage, near to the junction of Goostrey Lane. The collision involved a black BMW motorcycle and a red LDV van. The rider of the motorcycle, a 27-year-old man from North Wales, suffered serious injuries and remains in hospital. Officers are appealing for any witnesses who have not already spoken to police to get in touch with them, as well as anyone with CCTV or dashcam footage which captured what happened.

Detective Sergeant Amy Hollis said: *“As part of our enquiries, I would like to ask that anyone with information which may assist our investigation to please come forward. The same goes for anyone who may have captured any dashcam or CCTV footage of the incident.”*

Information can be submitted to Cheshire Police [via the website](#) or on 101, quoting incident reference IML 2282192.

Appeal for information following fatal collision in Warrington

Detectives are appealing for witnesses and video footage following a fatal collision in Warrington.

Shortly after 4.20pm on Saturday 14 March, police were called to a collision on Penketh Road, Great Sankey. Officers attended the scene and found that a silver Ford Transit Custom van had collided with a stationary black Audi A3. Sadly, the driver of the van, an 88-year-old man from Widnes, was pronounced dead at the scene. His next of kin have been informed and are being supported by specialist officers. The Audi was unoccupied at the time of the collision. Officers are now appealing for anyone who witnessed what happened, has any dashcam footage of the incident, or any other information which could aid their investigation to get in touch.

Detective Sergeant Amy Hollis, of the Serious Collision Investigation Unit said: *“Enquiries are currently ongoing, and we are now looking to speak to anyone who witnessed what happened. The same goes for anyone who may have any dashcam footage which could help our investigation. You can report information to us via cheshire.police.uk/tell-us, or call 101, quoting IML-2288848.”*

CCTV image released following serious assault in Northwich

Detectives have released a CCTV image of a man they are looking to identify following a serious assault in Northwich.

At 4.11am on Sunday 8 March, police received reports of an assault outside the Snug on Witton Street, near to the junction of Tabley Street. Officers attended and found that a 38-year-old local man had sustained serious injuries as a result of the incident. Enquiries have been ongoing since the incident took place and officers have now released a CCTV image of a man they would like to speak to.



Detective Constable Alice Ewins said: *“Enquiries in relation to this incident are ongoing and we’re committed to doing all we can to trace the person responsible. While we appreciate the CCTV*

footage isn't the clearest, the man is wearing a distinctive jacket with a stripe across the chest. If you recognise the man pictured, please get in touch with us by calling 101, or report information to us via online at www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us-quotinq-IML-2284788. The same goes for anyone with any further information in relation to the incident. I would also appeal directly to the man pictured to contact us."

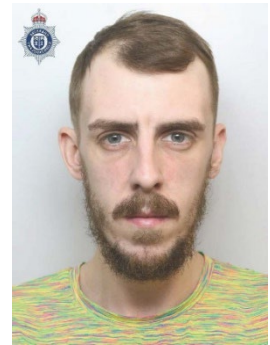
Information can also be reported anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Police appeal to trace wanted man from Widnes

Police are appealing for help to locate a wanted man from Widnes.

Ben Featherstone, 27, is wanted on recall to prison. He is described as white, approximately 6' 1" tall, of a slim build, has brown hair and a beard. Featherstone is from Widnes and has links to Runcorn and Liverpool.

Anyone with information as to his whereabouts is asked to contact us [via the website](#) or call 101 quoting IML- 2283738.



Police release CCTV image following shop theft in Alsager

Police have released a CCTV image of a man they'd like to speak to following the theft of chocolate in Alsager.

At around 7.30pm on 13 February a man walked into Sainsbury's on Crewe Road and took £54 worth of chocolate before leaving the store without paying.

PC Kate Ritchie said: "We're keen to speak to anyone who recognises the man in the CCTV image or who has any information that may help."



Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via the [website](#) quoting 26000123663. Alternatively information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)
c/o Corporate Communications | Cheshire Constabulary | Clemonds Hey | Oakmere Road | Winsford | Cheshire | CW7 2UA
Email: cheshirenw@outlook.com
Website: <https://www.cheshirenw.org>
Facebook page: facebook.com/cheshirenwa



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