

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 6 July 2025

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Man convicted of raping a woman in Chester

A man has been convicted of raping a woman at a home in Chester.

Paul Rowlands was found guilty of rape and assault by penetration following a trial at Chester Crown Court which concluded on Wednesday 2 July. The 55-year-old of York Street, Chester, has since been remanded in custody and is set to appear at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 24 July where he will be sentenced. During the trial, the court heard how the victim met Rowlands while she was at a friend's house in Chester on Wednesday 3 May 2023. Later that evening, the victim and a friend attended Rowland's then address, on Saint Anne Street, Chester. The victim later fell asleep on the sofa.



She was woken by Rowlands who had grabbed the collar of her coat to drag her onto the floor. He then raped and sexually assaulted her multiple times over the course of an hour. He also threatened to kill her unless she was quiet. The victim managed to free herself from the address and eventually made her way to Chester Railway Station. There, she told two on duty officers what had happened to her. Rowlands was later arrested on Friday 5 May 2023. During his interview, he stated he couldn't remember any sexual activity and specifically denied having anal sex with the victim. However, forensic enquiries later proved otherwise. Rowlands was subsequently charged with the offences. Despite pleading not guilty, the overwhelming amount of evidence meant he was found guilty on all counts by a jury following a 7-day trial.

Following the verdict, DS Chester Ward said: "Firstly, I would like to commend the victim for the courage and bravery that she has shown throughout this investigation. Rowlands is a sexual predator who took advantage of the victim while she was in a vulnerable and disoriented state, and what he subjected her to was nothing short of sickening. While the victim will never be able to forget what happened that night, I hope that the verdict reached will provide her with some reassurance and help her to move forward."

DS Ward added: *"Nobody should have to experience what the victim has been through and if anything can come from this case, I hope that it encourages other victims of sexual offences to come forward and report them to us. Cheshire Constabulary takes any allegation of sexual offences extremely seriously, and any allegation will be thoroughly investigated, with the wishes and needs of the victim as our main priority."*

To report any sexual offence, call Cheshire Constabulary on 101 or [visit the website](#). In an emergency always call 999. Information can also be given anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

Man jailed for drugs offences in Chester

A man who was found with class A drugs at his address has been jailed.

Sheldon Holland was sentenced to 45 months at Chester Crown Court on Monday 30 June. The 61-year-old, of Myrica Grove, Chester, had previously pleaded guilty to possession with intent to supply heroin and crack cocaine. On 30 May 2025, a warrant was carried out at an address in Heathcote Place, Chester, which was Holland's address at the time. Numerous wraps of brown and white powder were located at the address, along with a large quantity of cash, a burner 'graft' phone and drug paraphernalia. Holland was subsequently arrested and admitted that the powders – confirmed as heroin and crack cocaine – were his, as well as the cash. Following further investigation, he was charged with drugs offences.

PC William Morgan-Griffiths said: *"I welcome the sentence handed to Holland who was left with no choice but to plead guilty to the offences. I hope this sends a stark warning that we will continue to crack down on this behaviour and protect the communities we serve from illegal drugs. We would urge anyone who has any information about drug-related activity to contact us and we will do the rest."*



Crewe county lines drug dealer jailed

A county lines drug dealer from Crewe has been jailed.

George Iveson appeared at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 2 July, where he was jailed for three years and seven months after pleading guilty to being concerned in the supply of crack cocaine and two counts of being concerned in the supply of heroin. The court heard how officers from Crewe Proactive CID had identified a mobile phone number that was routinely sending out bulk flare messages advertising the sale of class A drugs.



Subsequent enquires would reveal 24-year-old Iveson, of Wheelman Road, Crewe, was working as part of the recently identified 'Jack' county line group, as the owner of the device and was later observed entering a shop and buying £10 worth of credit. Shortly after this, another group of bulk messages were sent from the number. Later enquiries into the device would result in officers finding numerous messages relating to crack cocaine and heroin along with videos of Iveson bagging up packages of drugs for onward supply and showing other paraphernalia such as weighing scales.

On 12 November 2024, Iveson was arrested for being concerned in the supply of Class A drugs, later being released on bail as the investigation into him continued. Whilst enquiries continued, further phone numbers linked to the supply of Class A drugs (crack and heroin) were identified, with officers suspecting they were being controlled by Iveson on new devices. On 12 March 2025, officers conduct a second warrant, this time at an address on Timbrell Avenue, Crewe, and arrested Iveson suspicion of being concerned in the supply of Class A drugs. During his interview, Iveson was shown the video footage of him packing the drugs at his home that was recovered from his device, to which he became angry and claimed officers had edited it to incriminate him. He was also asked about the messages organising the sale of the drugs, to which he answered "no comment".

Following sentencing, DS Kevin Williams, of CID Proactive East, said: *"I welcome the sentence handed to George Iveson today and I would like to thank all those involved in the investigation into his offending as it has resulted in a considerable blow to those bringing illegal drugs into Cheshire from elsewhere. Even after he was released under investigation for drug dealing offences, Iveson foolishly continued to make arrangements to distribute both crack cocaine and heroin across the Crewe area – thinking he was flying under the radar by exploiting taxi services to deliver the illicit substances - was something we would not tolerate and let him get away with. I hope that he will use the next three and a half years behind bars to reflect upon his actions and begin to understand that crime really does not pay."*

Crewe drug dealer jailed after being caught red handed by detectives

A man selling heroin and crack cocaine on the streets of Crewe has been jailed.

Cameron Jones, from Earle Street in Crewe appeared at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 3 July to be sentenced after he pleaded guilty to possession with intent to supply Class A drugs (heroin) and possession with intent to supply class A drugs (crack cocaine). He was sentenced to 30 months in prison.



On 5 March 2024 proactive CID officers from Crewe Local Policing Unit were on patrol in the Underwood Lane area when they spotted a group of people heading to a pathway that leads from Underwood Lane to Ford Lane. They followed them and saw Jones on a bike, he disappeared from sight but returned a short time later to where the group were waiting. The two detectives stopped Jones to search him and he admitted he had drugs in his possession which were then found and seized along with two phones.

DS Williams said: *"Our detectives are actively patrolling the streets of Crewe to track down County Lines dealers peddling illegal drugs in the town. Every time we make an arrest like this and seize drugs, we are disrupting the supply of highly addictive drugs that can destroy people's lives and negatively impact the community they live in. That's why we're so determined to keep up the good work by seeking out the dealers and putting them before the courts."*

Update - Four people charged in relation to high value burglary series

Detectives from Cheshire Police have arrested four people in the Midlands in connection to a high value burglary series across the UK.

Endrit Nikolli, aged 27, Kristian Gropcaj, aged 30, George Pepa, aged 30, and Jade Tubb, aged 33, have all been charged with Conspiracy to commit burglary between November 2024 and March 2025 and Conspire to possess criminal property. These relate to 20 offences in Cheshire, Staffordshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, and Cleveland.

Endrit Nikolli has also been charged with one additional count of burglary in relation to a burglary in Staffordshire on Friday 1 March 2024. Nikolli, Pepa, and Tubb, of Crabtree Road, Walsall; and Gropcaj of Gas Street, Birmingham have all been remanded in custody and are set to appear at

Chester Magistrates Court on Friday 4 July. A further Albanian male aged 28, who was arrested in London on Thursday 3 July, remains in police custody.

Community boxing club gets Constabulary and Crimebeat boost

Cheshire's Chief Constable Mark Roberts made a trip to Crewe to see how the Constabulary has supported a new £2.5m boxing facility for the community.

Cheshire Constabulary and Crimebeat have been supporting South Cheshire Amateur boxing club (SCABC) for over a decade. They have helped purchase new equipment, subsidise junior membership costs and support joint campaigns like knife crime, child exploitation, county lines awareness and safeguarding. SCABC is also the home of Cheshire Police's boxing team. Cheshire Crimebeat invests in projects right across the county, supporting young people up to the age of 25 to get involved with crime prevention, community safety or citizenship projects in their local communities.



T/DCI Chris Morris (SCABC Trustee & Asst head coach – CPBS Head coach) said: *"On behalf of Lisa Haughton (Cheshire police boxing Chairlady) and Nathan Clarke (SCABC Chairman and head coach)*



and all the team down at SCABC we would like to extend a very warm thank you to CC Mark Roberts and Crimebeat's Mark Watson, for their continued and generous support over many years. The club is very proud of our transition to the new 2.5-million-pound purpose built boxing facility in Crewe in the heart of South Cheshire. The new facility will help us double our footfall to 200 members per night (Many of those between 5 years and 16 years old), within 12/18 months, giving more

opportunities to all residents in the local and surrounding area. The support we've received has been the bedrock of forging strong relationships within the boxing community in South Cheshire, with many of the residents viewing the Police force as not just those that uphold the law, but chief officers, local officers and police staff alike having a genuine interest in the development of youth provision in their area."

For more information about the club, or to enquire about membership, visit the [website](#).

Operational day of action marks start of Safer Streets Summer initiative in Cheshire

From 30 June to 30 September 2025 Cheshire Constabulary is joining police forces across England and Wales in supporting the government's Safer Streets Summer initiative.

The initiative is part of the ongoing neighbourhood policing work, with officers increasing their presence in hotspot areas and working with partner agencies to keep town centres across the county safe. Our focus for the Safer Streets Summer initiative will be on the following areas:

- Anti-social behaviour (ASB)
- Crime and enforcement



- Diversion and support
- Visibility and engagement

To rollout the initiative in Cheshire, representatives from Cheshire Police, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and partner organisations including local councillors, youth services, Environmental Protection Agency, Trading Standards and Home Office teams, came together for a launch event at Warrington Borough Council offices on Monday 30 June.

Assistant Chief Constable for Neighbourhood Policing Ali Ross said: *“In Cheshire we have a real focus on neighbourhood policing and will continue this work throughout the summer to support this initiative and keep our communities safe. This will be done alongside partners, who our dedicated local officers will continue to work with to protect, support and reassure residents and businesses across the county. By working together we are able to go further in tackling the issues that matter the most to our communities and ensure Cheshire remains a safe place for everyone who lives, works and visits here.*



“Over the summer there will be a number of activities taking place across Cheshire that fall under Safer Summer Streets, including further operations tackling retail crime, street robbery and anti-social behaviour in our town centres and local communities. Antisocial behaviour, retail crime and street crime have a big impact on local communities and will not be tolerated in Cheshire. Those who commit these offences can expect to face the consequences of their actions.”

Following the inputs a day of policing activity took place in Warrington town centre, led by Sergeant Matt Salmon. Actions included a joint operation with teams from trading standards relating to the sale of illegal tobacco and vapes, surveying retail staff across the town in regards to their experiences with shoplifting, anti-social behaviour and staff safety and commercial waste checks on licenced properties and shops. The day also saw representatives from Warrington Youth Zone joining officers on the beat across the town, engaging with members of the public of all ages and familiarising them with the services on offer to them. Results from the day included:

- The seizing of over 750 illegal vape products that did not adhere to recently introduced legislation
- Approximately 100 retail staff (including those from shops, licenced premises and commercial properties linked to historic anti-social behaviour) being surveyed by officers and representatives from the Business Improvement District (BID) about their experiences of retail crime and shoplifting, anti-social behaviour, general staff safety and how police can work with them to improve this – with many retailers expressing interest in signing up for the localised Link Radio scheme to tackling retail crime
- Officers and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) representatives conducting commercial waste checks at 44 properties across the town, finding 13 had no licence whatsoever, with appropriate enforcement being considered as a result.

PS Matt Salmon, who oversaw the day of action, said: *“With Warrington having the largest town centre population in the county, it was an ideal location to demonstrate the commitment the*

Constabulary has to the Safer Street Summer project with a high degree of uniformed visibility. The day also provided an opportunity for the Constabulary's partner agencies to meet one another, discuss engagement opportunities, and most importantly, engage in relevant activity across Cheshire to have a positive impact on delivering the core principles that make up Safer Streets Summer. It was great to get into Warrington town centre with our partners and actively show residents that we listen and understand the concerns they have regarding a number of issues. Throughout the summer, there will be further activities planned, such as bespoke operations designed to disrupt and deter the anti-social and dangerous riding of scrambler and e-bikes, that will run alongside the numerous ongoing operations already in place to keep our streets safe."

Month-long Ninja Sword amnesty launched ahead of legislation change

Examples of types of sword which will be prohibited by the new legislation.

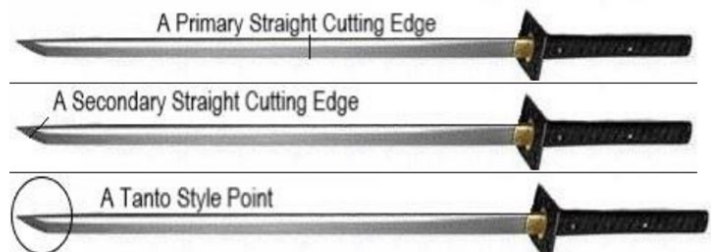
These are swords with blades between 14" and 24" a straight primary cutting edge, a straight secondary cutting edge and tanto style points.



As part of a national initiative ahead of a change in the law surrounding 'Ninja Swords', the Constabulary will be holding an amnesty event across July.

Cheshire Police are joining partner forces across the country in supporting a new Home Office surrender and compensation scheme for the soon to be banned weapons, starting on July 1 and running up to July 31.

The scheme, which is to be the largest surrender scheme conducted in England and Wales to date, is being launching ahead of new legislation which will come into effect on 1 August making it a criminal offence to possess ninja swords in private or manufacture, import, or sell them. It is already a criminal offence to carry the weapons in public and can result of a custodial sentence of up to four years. Ninja swords are defined as having a blade between 14 and 24 inches, a straight cutting edge, and a tanto-style point (angled tip).



Anyone who bought and owns the weapons will be able to hand them in ahead of the legislation change at police station helpdesks across Cheshire:

- Blacon Police Station - Blacon Avenue, Chester CH1 5BD
- Crewe Police Station - Civic Centre, Crewe CW1 2DQ
- Macclesfield Police Station - Brunswick Street, Macclesfield SK10 1HQ
- Warrington Police Station - Arpley Street, Warrington WA1 1LQ
- Widnes Police Station - John Briggs House, Gerrard Street, Widnes WA8 6BE

To be eligible to claim compensation for one of the ninja swords, you must lawfully own the item and be able to provide proof, such as a receipt, that it was bought before March 27, 2025. Only ninja swords legally bought before 27 March this year will be eligible for compensation, but we encourage everyone who currently owns one of these swords to surrender it to the police before

they become illegal, irrespective of the compensation scheme. Compensation can only be claimed at the same time as a weapon is being handed over and those doing so should download and complete a compensation form before attending one of the five designated Cheshire Police helpdesks. Possession in private, supply, sale, and importation of ninja swords after 1 August could lead to a prison sentence of up to six months, potentially increasing to two years under new measures.

Supt Cath Jones, who is leading Cheshire's response to the amnesty, said: *"Our officers work tirelessly all year round to keep the county's streets weapons free and to reduce the number of incidents involving knives and other bladed articles. As part of these efforts, we are supporting our fellow forces across the country in a national amnesty campaign relating to Ninja swords, which, from 1 August, will be illegal to possess. Anyone found in possession of one of these blades after Friday 1 August will be breaking the law and could face a six-month prison sentence. Anyone looking to hand in a blade of this kind must ensure the sword is wrapped and placed in a sealed bag or box and not carried openly in public at any time. Once inside the station, you must not take out the weapon until requested to do so. If you have any queries, please do contact your local helpdesk."*

Man charged in relation to drugs offences in Chester

A man has been charged in relation to drugs offences in Chester.

Richard Henry Roberts, of no fixed abode, was arrested on Saturday 28 June. The 51-year-old has since been charged with possession with intent to supply a drug of class A (heroin) and possession of criminal property. He has been remanded in custody until a hearing at Chester Crown Court on Monday 28 July. The charge relates to the arrest of a man following a drugs dog operation near Chester Railway Station on Saturday 28 June.

Man charged following armed robbery in Crewe

Detectives investigating an armed robbery at a phone shop in Crewe have charged a man in connection with the incident.

Steven Zehi was arrested on Friday 27 June and has since been charged with three counts of robbery, two counts of possessing a knife in a public place, criminal damage, and resisting arrest. One count of robbery and one count of possessing a knife in a public place relate to an incident in Crewe on Friday 27 June. The remaining counts relate to incidents in London which occurred between Wednesday 30 April and Tuesday 10 June. The 27-year-old of Great Amwell Lane, Hornsey, London, has been remanded in custody and is set to appear at Chester Magistrates' Court today, Monday 30 June.

Man charged following police collision in Haslington

Detectives investigating a serious collision involving a police car in Haslington have charged a man in relation to the incident.

At around 12.40pm on Saturday 7 June, a police car responding to an emergency incident was involved in a collision with a black Fiat Panda on Crewe Road, Haslington. Two police officers were injured as a result of the collision. The pair were taken to Leighton Hospital and have since been discharged. Both officers remain off work at this time. The driver of the Fiat Panda was also injured and was taken to the Royal Stoke Hospital for treatment.

Following his discharge, the driver of Fiat Panda, Joseph Sharples has since been charged with causing grievous bodily harm (GBH) with intent, attempting to cause GBH with intent, causing serious injury by dangerous driving, possession of Class A drugs, and drug driving. The 22-year-old, of Chadwick Road, Middlewich, appeared at Chester Magistrates Court later on Thursday 26 June where he was remanded in custody. He is next set to appear at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 24 July.

Woman charged following incident at Winsford Pride event

Officers from Cheshire police have charged a woman following reports of an incident at an event in Winsford.

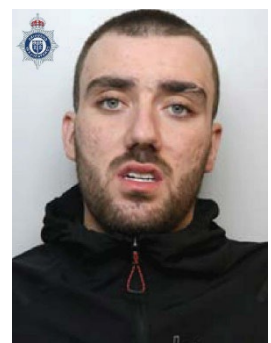
At around 4.30pm on Saturday 28 June, police were called to reports of a disturbance at Winsford Pride. Officers attended and arrested a 54-year-old woman. Amanda Clare, of Malpas, has since been charged with assault and criminal damage. Clare has been bailed and is next due to appear at Crewe Magistrates' Court on Friday 8 August. Cheshire Constabulary and the Crown Prosecution Service would like to remind everyone that criminal proceedings against Clare are live and that she has a right to a fair trial. It is extremely important that there should be no reporting, commentary or sharing of information online which could in any way prejudice ongoing proceedings.

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Appeal to trace man in relation to Widnes assault

Detectives are continuing to appeal for information from the public to help trace a man from Runcorn.

Declan Johnson is wanted in relation to an assault on Alder Avenue, which occurred on Sunday 13 April. During the incident the victims, a 23-year-old man and a 19-year-old woman, were assaulted and threatened with a knife. Enquiries in relation to the incident have been ongoing and as part of the investigation officers are keen to speak to Johnson.

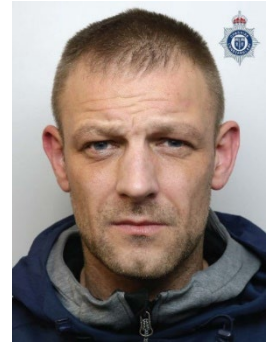


Anyone with any information in relation to his whereabouts is urged to contact Cheshire Police on 101 quoting 25000302842. Information can also be reported online at www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us.

Police appeal for help in tracing wanted Ellesmere Port man

Police are appealing for help from the public to help trace a wanted man in Ellesmere Port.

Paul Murray is wanted for a number of domestic offences in Ellesmere Port and Winsford. The 39-year-old is described as white, 5' 10" tall, of medium build, with short brown hair and blue eyes. He was last known to reside in the Ellesmere Port area, but officers believe that he may have moved to Blackpool.



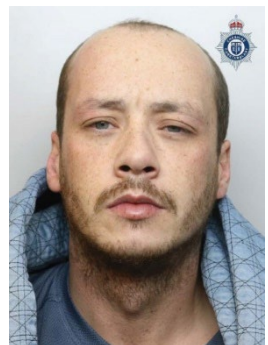
Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via the website quoting 24000158102. Alternatively, information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Police appeal to trace wanted man from Liverpool

Jamahl Garbe is wanted in connection with an assault.

The 32-year-old is described as white, of proportionate build, around 5' 5" tall, and is balding. Garbe resides in Liverpool, and also has links to Widnes and Runcorn areas.

Anyone with any information regarding Garbe's whereabouts is asked to contact Cheshire Police [via the website](#), or call 101, quoting IML-2099149.



Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)

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