

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 4th October 2026

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Winsford man sentencing for dealing cocaine and ketamine

A man from Winsford has been sentenced after he pleaded guilty to being involved in the supply of Class A and B drugs.

Charlie Joyce appeared at Chester Crown Court on Friday 2 October where he was sentenced to 200 hours unpaid work and handed a community order. He was also ordered to pay £114 fine and ordered to surrender his mobile phone and £305 cash. The 19-year-old of Beeston Drive, Winsford, had previously pleaded guilty to two counts of being concerned in the supply of class A drugs and B drugs and two counts of possession with intent to supply class A and B drugs.

The investigation began in early 2025 when officers became aware of a mobile telephone number which was being used to sell cocaine and ketamine in the Winsford area. The number was not registered to anyone, but following enquiries officers recovered CCTV footage from a shop on Cheviot Square which showed Joyce purchasing a top-up card for the device. Following the discovery, a warrant was undertaken at Joyce's home on Friday 27 June 2025 where he was arrested. Two mobile phones were recovered from his bedroom, along with a quantity of cash. Officers also discovered £70 worth of ketamine and £755 worth of cocaine, which were all packaged for onward sale. Joyce replied no comment to all the questions put to him by officers during questioning. Despite his silence, he was later charged with drugs offence.

Following the sentencing, Detective Constable Chris Forrest, of Northwich Proactive CID, said: *"Illegal drugs have a hugely detrimental impact on our communities, and we're committed to doing all we can to ensure all those responsible are held accountable. In this case, the messages recovered from Joyce's phone, along with the drugs seized from his home, proved overwhelmingly that he was actively involved in the sale of cocaine and ketamine and left him with no option but to admit his guilt. Our fight against illegal drugs remains ongoing and I urge anyone with any information in relation to the supply of drugs to get in touch. Information can be reported directly on 101 or at www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us, or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."*

Man charged with drugs offences in Widnes

Detectives from Widnes Proactive CID have charged a man with drugs offences following a stop-check in Widnes.

Callum Humphries was arrested on Wednesday 30 September after being stopped by officers on Deansway, Widnes. Following questioning, the 23-year-old has since been charged with being

concerned in the supply of class A and B drugs (cocaine and cannabis), and possession of criminal property. Humphries, of no fixed abode, appeared at Chester Magistrates Court on Thursday 1 October where he was remanded in custody. He is next set to appear at Liverpool Crown Court on Thursday 12 November 2026.

Man involved in supply of drugs in Warrington jailed for more than five years

A man has been jailed for more than five years for drugs offences in the Warrington area.

Michael Boardman, of Mersey Street, Warrington, was jailed for five years and seven months on Friday 25 September after appearing at Liverpool Crown Court. The 36-year-old had pleaded guilty to possession with intent to supply cocaine, possession of cannabis, and possession of criminal property. In July 2026, a drugs warrant was executed at Boardman's address. Boardman was located in the bathroom and appeared to be attempting to flush items down the toilet. He was detained and told officers, 'it's in the cupboard in the kitchen'. The cupboard contained a quantity of cash, around £1,600 worth of cocaine, digital scales, snap bags, and personal amounts of cannabis. He was later charged with the offences.



Detective Sergeant Alexander Reeves said: *"Boardman has been handed a significant custodial sentence for his involvement in the supply of cocaine, something which he had no choice but to admit to. Illegal drugs have a devastating effect on our streets, and we are committed to bringing those who exploit this to justice. Anyone with any information about drug-related activity in their community should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or report information through our website and we will do the rest."*

Man charged following fatal collision in Warrington

Detectives investigating a fatal collision in Warrington have charged a man in relation to the incident.

On Wednesday 19 February 2025 police were called to a collision near to the junction of Southworth Lane and Delph Lane in Croft. Officers attended and found there had been a collision between a silver Peugeot 2008 and a blue Ford Fiesta. Sadly, the driver of the Peugeot, 86-year-old Gordon Cooper, later died as a result of the injuries he sustained. Following enquiries, the driver of the Ford Fiesta, a 62-year-old Robert Gilbert, has now been charged with causing a death by careless/ inconsiderate driving. Gilbert, from Widnes, is set to appear at Warrington Magistrates Court on Tuesday 10 November.

OCG sentenced for supplying cocaine and ketamine in Chester and North Wales

Members of an organised crime group (OCG) responsible for the supply of cocaine and ketamine in Chester and North Wales have been jailed for a combined total of more than 13 years.

The following individuals were sentenced at Chester Crown Court on Monday 28 September 2026 after pleading guilty to conspiracy to supply cocaine and ketamine:

- Lewis Stenhouse, 27, of Chaucer Road, Fleetwood, Lancashire – Five years and six months.
- Jason Bascombe, 34, of Liverpool Road, Huyton, Liverpool – Five years and four months.
- Ciaran Lavelle, 24, of Seller Street, Chester – Three years.
- Georgia Palin, 28, of Glynne Street, Queensferry – Two years suspended for two years.

The following individuals pleaded guilty to participating in the criminal activities of an organised crime group:

- Emily Hetherington, 33, of Bron-y-Wern, Bagillt – 14 months suspended for two years.
- Alice Woodhouse, 35, of Glan-yr-afon, Garden City – 18 months suspended for two years.
- Kim Johnson, 47, of Padeswood Road North, Buckley (She also admitted possession with intent to supply cocaine) – Two years suspended for two years.

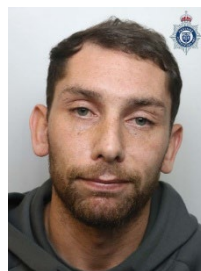
Kim Johnson



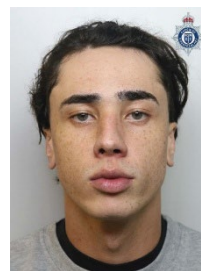
Lewis Stenhouse



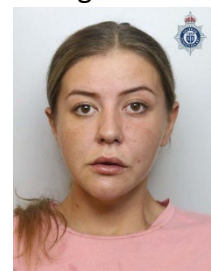
Jason Bascombe



Ciaran Levelle



Georgia Palin



Emily
Hetherington



Alice Woodhouse



Operation Cliffhanger relates to a drug supply investigation by Cheshire Police, targeting an OCG based primarily in Chester and North Wales, with links to Liverpool and Fleetwood, between June 2024 and October 2025. The group ran a drugs line advertising the sale of cocaine and ketamine via flare text messages, as well as Snapchat. The messages advertised working hours of 11am to 11pm, with drop-offs anywhere in the CH postcode areas of Cheshire and North Wales.

Stenhouse was the controller of the drugs supply line. He also controlled others who were employed to supply drugs to users both in Chester and North Wales. Lavelle assisted in controlling the drugs line and street dealers, as well as being an active street level supplier himself. Bascombe was a regular controller of the graft phone number. Meanwhile, Hetherington was identified as helping the OCG as a street level supplier, alongside Johnson, Woodhouse and Palin.

Operation Cliffhanger began in April 2025 when a bag was located hidden in a bush in Seller Street, Chester, which contained white powder, phones, and drugs paraphernalia. The phones were analysed by police, which revealed evidence of drugs supply offences. The drugs recovered included up to £11,860 worth of cocaine and £1,760 worth of ketamine. Stenhouse, Bascombe and Lavelle

were linked forensically to the drugs packaging. One of the documents located was a 'dealer list' which had a blood stain on it; this was swabbed and also provided a match to Stenhouse. The names of Hetherington, Woodhouse, Johnson and Palin were found in a notebook, linking them to the offences. The notebook showed a sophisticated, busy operation, with numerous daily sales of cocaine and ketamine by multiple street-level runners who were being paid wages and petrol money. It was noted that the location of the bushes where the evidence had been found was within meters of where Lavelle lived. One of the windows in the address looked out directly towards the hedge where the drugs were found.

In June 2025, an initial search warrant was carried out at Lavelle's address, and he was arrested and bailed pending further enquiries. Following these, in October 2025, a series of warrants were carried out, resulting in the arrests of Bascombe, Hetherington, Woodhouse and Johnson. Palin was arrested in the Chester area on the same day, while Stenhouse was arrested after arriving back at Manchester Airport from a holiday. Lavelle was also arrested when he arrived back at Manchester Airport two weeks later after leaving the country shortly after his first arrest. All defendants were later charged.

Detective Sergeant Roy Wellings said: *"Operation Cliffhanger is the culmination of a lengthy investigation by our dedicated officers into the supply of drugs in Chester and North Wales. Our enquiries clearly linked each defendant to the OCG, either through forensic evidence, phone enquiries, or even through their names being mentioned in drugs-related material which was recovered. Thanks to the evidence against them, the defendants were left with no choice but to plead guilty to the offences. This investigation has also meant thousands of pounds worth of drugs that would have been destined for the streets has been seized. Although this operation has seen a number of individuals sentenced for their crimes, our fight against illegal drugs is never over and we would urge anyone with information about drug-related activity to contact us."*

Sheffield man arrested and stolen car recovered following pursuit in Cheshire

Officers from Cheshire Police have arrested a man from Sheffield and recovered a stolen car following a pursuit near Knutsford.

At around 11pm on Tuesday 29 September, officers became aware of a white Volkswagen Taigo Life travelling in Monks Heath area which was believed to be displaying false number plates. Additional officers attended and following a short pursuit the vehicle was abandoned in the Chelford area and the driver made off on foot. During a search of the car officers located a lump hammer along with two sets of number plates on the back seat; it was also established that the car had been stolen from the Sheffield area. The Cheshire Dog Unit, Armed Response Unit and the Drone Unit were also deployed and following a search of the area a 58-year-old man was subsequently located hiding near to the railway track. The man was arrested at the scene on suspicion of theft of motor vehicle, use of false number plates, handling stolen goods, failing to stop for officers, driving without insurance, driving without a licence and failing to provide a sample. He remains in custody at this time.

Chief Inspector Cameron Taylor, Head of the Roads and Crime Unit, said: *"This was a real team effort, and all the officers involved played key roles in locating and arresting the suspect; including*

the Police Dogs, Armed Response Unit and Drone Unit. Whilst the initial consideration was for a vehicle using fake registration plates, we often find that this is used as an attempt to mask other criminal activities. In this case the driver did not even hold a valid driving licence and the vehicle he was using also appears to be a stolen. I hope this arrest will reassure residents of our continued commitment to tackling this type of crime."

Third man sentenced in relation to theft from cars in Northwich

A third man has now been sentenced following a series of thefts from motor vehicles in the Winnington area of Northwich.

Jonathan Pardoe appeared Crewe Magistrates' Court on Monday 21 September where he was sentenced to three weeks in prison. The 51-year-old, of no fixed abode, Northwich, initially pleaded not guilty to his involvement in a series of thefts from motor vehicles in the Winnington area. However, he subsequently changed his plea and admitted one count of vehicle interference, one count of fraud by false representation and two counts of theft from a shop.



Two other defendants, Daryl Cobain and Jamie Clarke, had already admitted their involvement in the incidents at earlier hearings. Clarke, of Farm Road, Weaverham, appeared at Chester Magistrates Court on Tuesday 18 August where he was sentenced to 34 weeks in prison. The 39-year-old pleaded guilty to five counts of theft from a shop, four counts of breaching a criminal behaviour order and two counts of fraud by false representation. Cobain, 50, of no fixed abode, Northwich, attended Chester Magistrates on Wednesday 19 August, where he pleaded guilty to one count of theft from a motor vehicle, three counts of vehicle interference, two counts of fraud by false representation and possession of cannabis.

The court heard how between Wednesday 12 and Friday 14 August officers received numerous reports of a group of men who were attempting to access insecure vehicles on Alderley Road, Penrhyn Road, Woodlea Court, Foxendale Close and Blossom Heights. A number of items were stolen, including a large quantity of cash and several bank cards. An investigation into the incidents was launched by officers from Northwich Proactive Policing Unit. Following enquiries, officers recovered CCTV footage which linked Cobain to four incidents on Penryn Road, Foxendale Close and Blossom Heights, along with footage linking Pardoe to attempting to access a car on Woodlea Court.

In addition, they also recovered footage which showed Cobain, Pardoe and Clarke using the stolen cards to make a number of fraudulent transactions. In total the trio spent more than £400 on the stolen cards. After identifying the trio as being involved in the incidents, all three men were quickly located and arrested. Clarke was detained by an off-duty Special Constable in Weaverham, whilst Pardoe was also detained by an off-duty detective inspector, who stopped him whilst he was trying to steal £170 worth of meat from Waitrose on Monday 17 August.

Following the convictions, Police Constable Ed Whalley, of Northwich Proactive CID said: *"These men were relentless in their offending, targeting innocent people's belongings for their own selfish gain. I have no doubt that had they not been arrested they would have continued to offend. However, within days of these incidents being reported we were quickly able to identify the trio as*

the offenders, and they are now being held accountable for their actions. This is a great example of the teamwork between Northwich Proactive CID and the local Neighbourhood officers, who all played key roles in helping to secure these convictions. I hope that the swift conclusion of this case will provide reassurance for local residents."

HGV driver sentenced following cross-county pursuit

A man from Wrexham has been sentenced after leading police on a near 25-mile chase from Cuddington to Whitchurch in a flatbed truck.

Ieuan Griffiths, 21, appeared at Chester Magistrates' on Tuesday 22 September, where he was sentenced to eight months imprisonment, suspended for two years. He was also banned from driving for two years, must complete an extended test before he is able to drive again, must complete 200 hours of unpaid work and is required to pay over £270 worth of fees.



The sentencing comes after Griffiths, of Bedwell Road, Wrexham, pleaded guilty to dangerous driving, driving otherwise than in accordance with a licence, driving without insurance and failing to stop for police. The case began on shortly before 11am on Monday 10 August in Cuddington, when a Cheshire Police Roads and Crime Officer stopped a flatbed lorry in the Norley Road area. However, as the officer left their vehicle to speak to the driver, the HGV drove away at speed. A pursuit was subsequently authorised, with the officer keeping the flatbed in sight as it repeatedly drove through red lights, crossed road markings and drove at excess speed for approximately 50 minutes as it travelled out of Cheshire and into the West Mercia area. Following a coordinated response, officers stopped the vehicle on a narrow country lane in Whitchurch, with the driver then decamping from the vehicle and fleeing on foot.

Officers quickly caught up to the fleeing driver, a man, and found him hiding behind a shed in a nearby caravan park. Subsequent checks revealed him to be Griffiths and showed that he did not possess a driving licence nor any insurance to drive the flatbed lorry. Griffiths was then arrested and taken into custody. When interviewed by officers, Griffiths said that he had no idea why he led officers on the near hour-long chase and that he did not know why he failed to stop when requested to do so, despite being fully aware that a number of police cars were behind him. He also admitted that he had no consideration for any other road-users during the pursuit, that his driving licence had been revoked and that he had no insurance at the time of the offence.

Police Constable Michael Clark, of the Roads and Crime Unit, said: *"It is a miracle that Griffiths' blatant disregard for safety whilst driving did not result in himself, the pursuing officers or any other road users or pedestrians sustaining any serious injuries during this pursuit through Cheshire and out into West Mercia. His choice to not only fail to stop for police, but to also take considerable safety risks in an attempt to flee from officers, has now resulted in him being banned from the roads for two years and needing to take an extended test to ensure he is fully fit to get back behind the wheel again. This case shows that regardless of the size of the vehicle you drive, we will not discriminate and will always seek to take action against anyone flouting the rules of the road and putting others at risk of harm."*

Man charged with drugs offences following stop check near Northwich

Detectives from Northwich Proactive CID have charged a man following a stop check in Weaverham.

At around 7.30pm on Thursday 24 October, officers stopped a BMW M135 series on the A49 in Weaverham. During a search of the vehicle officers recovered a large quantity of cocaine and the driver of the car was arrested at the scene. Stephen Lewis, from Leyland, Lancashire, has since been charged with possession with intent to supply class A drugs (cocaine). The 33-year-old appeared at Chester Magistrates Court on Saturday 26 September he was remanded in custody. He is next set to appear at Chester Crown Court on Monday 26 October.

Woman sentenced following Ellesmere Port nursery collision

A woman who crashed into a nursery school playground in Ellesmere Port has been sentenced.

Jayne James appeared at Chester Magistrates' Court on Thursday 24 September, where she was sentenced to four months imprisonment suspended for 12 months. The sentencing comes after the 63-year-old, from Great Sutton, previously pleaded guilty to dangerous driving at the same court on Wednesday 26 August. Alongside her suspended sentence, James was also handed a two-year driving ban.



The court was told that on Tuesday 16 June, James drove a grey Omoda people carrier into the car park of the nursery just off Vale Road, Ellesmere Port, on a school drop off. The vehicle then moved forward at pace and collided with a wooden fence separating the car park from the nursery playground, which was currently occupied by 22 children aged between two and three years old. The vehicle continued through the playground before colliding with a brick wall, pinning a two-year-old boy between the front wheel of the vehicle and the wall itself. Two other children were also injured by flying debris as the Omoda crashed through the fence, sustaining minor injuries.

A staff member present on the playground at the time quickly intervened and pulled the pinned child out from under the car and proceeded to call emergency services. All three children were taken to hospital for treatment and, luckily, had only sustained minor injuries and have since been discharged. The child who had been pinned by the vehicle sustained a considerable friction burn on their torso, believed to be attributed to the still moving wheel that they had become trapped under.

James was arrested at the scene and taken into custody. In interview, she told officers she had been driving the vehicle at the time of the collision but could not remember any specific details as to how it occurred. She went on to say that she had been driving the vehicle for a number of months but did mention that there was a feature on the Omoda, an automatic vehicle, that meant it would begin to accelerate if a certain pedal was pressed whilst it was stationary. Following an examination of the vehicle by officers, it was determined to have no mechanical faults that could have caused or contributed toward the collision.

Detective Sergeant Amy Hollis, of the Serious Collision Investigation Unit said: *"The lives of over 20 young children were put at serious risk as a result of James' inability to control her vehicle. Three of them were injured, one of them was trapped between the vehicle and a brick wall, all of them were left scared. Despite the distressing nature of the incident, I would like to give the members of staff*

who helped get the children to safety, as well as the attending Cheshire Police and emergency service colleagues who managed the scene my profound thanks for their efforts.

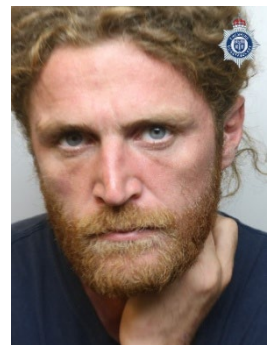
"The outcome could have been very different. I am very glad to hear that all the children injured in the collision both directly and indirectly have been discharged from hospital and have since made a full physical recovery. That being said, they and their families continue to be supported by our partner agencies as a result of the emotional and psychological impact of the collision which is likely to have a lasting result."

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Appeal renewed to trace wanted man from Widnes

Officers searching for a wanted man from Widnes have renewed their appeal for information.

Anthony Abel is wanted in connection to assault and criminal damage offences. The 41-year-old is described as white, around 6'1" tall, with blue eyes. He previously had long brown hair, but it is believed that he shaved his hair off. Abel is originally from Widnes and has links to the Halton area. However, officers believe he may be travelling around the region on public transport, possibly visiting North Wales, Lancashire and Liverpool City Centre.



Anyone with any information regarding Abel's whereabouts is asked to contact Cheshire Police via the website, or on 101, quoting incident reference number IML-2415936.

Appeal for information following incident at Crewe retail park

Police are appealing for witnesses and video footage following an incident at a retail park in Crewe.

At around 3pm on Friday 11 September, an elderly couple were approaching their car which was parked in a disabled space outside Marks and Spencers at Grand Junction Retail Park. The caller reported that he was opening the passenger door for his disabled wife when another car approached and began beeping his horn. The driver was signalling towards the couple, urging them to get out of the way so that they could park in an empty space next to the couple.

The couple were startled by the behaviour and as a result the woman fell over and banged her head. The driver of the car subsequently sped off from the scene. The woman was assisted at the scene by a number of off duty nurses, before being taken to hospital where it was found that she had suffered a bleed on the brain. The woman remains in hospital at this time.

Enquires in relation to the incident are ongoing and officers are keen to hear from anyone who witnessed the incident, or anyone with any dashcam footage which may aid the investigation. They are also keen to hear from the driver of the car which fled the scene. Anyone with any information is asked to contact Cheshire police on 101 or visit www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us quoting IML-2418994.

Police appeal following incident in Crewe

Officers are appealing for witnesses or anyone with information to come forward following an assault in Crewe.

Shortly before 10.30pm on Thursday 27 August 2026, police were called to an address in Golding Drive, Crewe. It was reported that two suspects had entered the property armed with weapons and assaulted the victim. She suffered a serious injury to her hand. The suspects are described as men, wearing balaclavas, and made off on a bike in the direction of Newdigate Street.

PC Erin Dean: *"Firstly, we would like to reassure the local community that enquiries have been ongoing since this incident took place to trace those responsible and our investigation remains ongoing. We understand this incident happened one month ago, however we are now appealing for anyone who witnessed what happened, saw anything suspicious in the area, or has any other information to please get in touch with us. The same goes for anyone who may have captured anything relevant on their video doorbell or dashcam."*

"You can report information to Cheshire Police by calling 101 or reporting information online through the Cheshire Police website, quoting IML-2405295. You can also report information anonymously through Crimestoppers."

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)

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