

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 19th January 2025

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Man jailed for seriously injuring three women in a Widnes collision

A 26-year-old man has been jailed for three years and four months for causing serious injury by dangerous driving in Widnes.

Anthony Campbell, 26, from Abbey Close in Widnes appeared at Liverpool Crown Court on Tuesday 7 January to be sentenced after pleading guilty to three counts of causing serious injury by dangerous driving, driving while disqualified, no insurance and failing to stop after a collision. He was also disqualified from driving for four years and four months and will have to pass an extended driving test.



On 11 October 2024 at around 11.45pm a black Mercedes AMG A45 driven by Campbell was in collision with a grey Audi A1 on Kingsway in Widnes. The occupants of the Mercedes got out of the vehicle and fled the scene. The occupants of the Audi were taken to hospital with serious injuries.

At 1.30am on 12 October Campbell called police to say he was the driver of the Mercedes and would hand himself in on the Monday. Then subsequently made a couple of calls but had yet to hand himself in. Officers made enquiries to establish his location and tracked him down to a hotel in Liverpool. They attended and arrested him while he admitted that he was the driver and that he was already banned from driving.

Sgt Russ Sime said: *"The fact that he was already disqualified from driving when he crashed into the other car and left the scene leaving three women badly injured shows his disregard for others and the law. I hope that he now understands impact of his actions."*

Two men charged with sex offences in Crewe

Two men have been charged with sex offences following an investigation into an incident at a hotel in Crewe.

Jack Turley, 25, from Beswick Drive in Crewe was charged with rape and John Dawson, 36, from Ernest Street in Crewe was charged with two counts of rape, causing a female to engage in a penetrative sexual activity, assault and threatening to share photograph or film of a person in an intimate state. They were remanded to appear at Warrington Magistrates Court on Thursday 16 January. The charges relate to incidents which occurred between 8 January and 11 January at the hotel in Beswick Drive.

Man appears in court to face Macclesfield assault charges

Police investigating a series of assaults on a woman in Macclesfield have charged a 51-year-old man.

Craig Vernon, from Pickford Street, Macclesfield was charged with three counts of assault, engaging in controlling and coercive behaviour, two counts of intentional strangulation, sexual assault on a female, and criminal damage. The incidents occurred between 1 June 2024 and 11 January this year. He was remanded into custody to appear at Warrington Magistrates Court on 13 January. He was further remanded in custody to appear at Chester Crown Court on 10 February.

Reassurance issued in relation to social media post

Over recent days, police have been made aware of a post circulating on social media platforms suggesting that three men have been seen acting suspiciously near schools in the Cheshire East area.

The post includes an image of three Asian men and includes the crime reference number 2662. Officers can confirm that they have received no reports of any incidents of this nature and the reference number is not used by Cheshire Police.

CI Zoe Bowden, of Macclesfield LPU, said: *"We understand the concern posts like this can cause, but I would like to reassure parents that we have received no reports of any incidents of this nature. Our officers regularly patrol the areas surrounding schools to help safeguard children, but if you do see anything that does not look right you can speak to officers directly or contact the Constabulary via 101 or the website. We would also like to remind residents to remain cautious when sharing any information from unverified sources on social media and to avoid any speculation."*

As always, we would like to remind residents that, if they do see anything that does not look right, to contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via the [website](#).

Man arrested following Northwich altercation

Officers have arrested a man following an altercation on a canal in Northwich.

At 2.50pm on Wednesday 15 January police were called to reports of an altercation between two boat owners on the Trent & Mersey Canal in Lostock Gralam. The caller reported that one of the men was possibly armed with a weapon. Local officers, supported by the firearms unit and the police helicopter, were deployed to scene and a man was subsequently arrested in Marston. The 25-year-old man from Winsford was arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence.

Insp Paul Heatley, of Northwich Local Policing Unit, said: *"We would like to reassure residents that this is an isolated incident and there is no risk to the general public. There were no reports of any injuries during the incident one man is currently in custody at this time where he is assisting us with our enquires. Officers remain in attendance at the scene to provide reassurance and searches are also ongoing in the area. Anyone with any concerns is urged to speak to an officer."*

Anyone with any information in relation to the incident is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101, or visit www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us, quoting IML 2005977.
















Men sentenced to total of more than 80 years for drugs offences

A total of 16 men have been sentenced to a combined total of more than 80 years for their involvement in the large-scale supply of cannabis in Ellesmere Port and Chester.

Between Monday 13 January and Wednesday 15 January 2025, the 16 individuals appeared at Chester Crown Court. These included:

- Kyle Phillips, 28, of Capenhurst Lane, Ellesmere Port: A total of eight years for conspiracy to supply cannabis and importation of cannabis.
- Joshua Burns, 28, of Flint Court, Ellesmere Port: Six years and four months for conspiracy to supply cannabis.
- Jason Mayers, 32, of Princes Road, Ellesmere Port: Six years for conspiracy to supply cannabis.
- Daniel Taylor, 40, of Princes Road, Ellesmere Port: Five years and four months for conspiracy to supply cannabis.
- Adam Jones, 32, of Durham Court, Ellesmere Port: Five years for conspiracy to supply cannabis.
- Aiden Johnson, 31, of Kenilworth Court, Ellesmere Port: Six years and three months for conspiracy to supply cannabis.
- Ryan Neild, 25, of Luton Road, Ellesmere Port: Three years and eight months for conspiracy to supply cannabis and possession with intent to supply cannabis

- Daniel Neild, 33, of Luton Road, Ellesmere Port: Four years and six months for conspiracy to supply cannabis
- Gary Tushingham, 28, of Downing Close, Ellesmere Port: Six years and six months for conspiracy to supply cannabis
- Nathan Elliott, 31, of Faraday Road, Ellesmere Port: Four years and 10 months for conspiracy to supply cannabis, plus an unrelated matter of possession of criminal property
- Curtis Agarry, 26, of King Street, Ellesmere Port: Four years for conspiracy to supply cannabis
- Thomas Cooper, 23, of Bebington Road, Ellesmere Port: Five years for conspiracy to supply cannabis, plus a separate domestic-related offence.
- Ethan McLaughlin, 23, of King Street, Ellesmere Port: Four years and two months for conspiracy to supply cannabis.
- Bailey Davies, 25, of Oliver Lane, Ellesmere Port: Four years and six months for conspiracy to supply cannabis.
- Joseph Henry, 34, of Blacon Point Road, Ellesmere Port: A total of five years and six months for conspiracy to supply cannabis and production of cannabis, plus an unrelated incident of affray.
- Patrick Knowles, 32, of Joseph Groome Towers, Ellesmere Port: Two years and six months for assisting an OCG.

 Thomas Cooper	 Adam Jones	 Aiden Johnson	 Bailey Davies	
 Daniel Neild	 Daniel Taylor	 Ethan McLaughlin	 Gary Tushingham	 Jason Mayers
 Joseph Henry	 Kyle Phillips	 Nathan Elliott	 Patrick Knowles	
 Ryan Neild				

Operation Heracles is an investigation conducted by Cheshire Police's Serious and Organised Crime Unit into the supply of cannabis in Ellesmere Port and Chester between 12 April 2023 and 7 March 2024. The supply network operated at an industrial level, obtaining multi-kilo amounts of cannabis through several sources, predominately from the Manchester and Liverpool areas. Once obtained, cannabis was stored, prepared for onward sale, and later distributed to middle market suppliers, who in turn supplied the drugs to others.

Phillips, Burns, Mayers, Taylor, Jones and Johnson were classed as having leading roles in the crime group. Between them, they made direct contact with upstream suppliers and were involved in the transportation, storage, and distribution of cannabis, as well as coordinating the supply of cannabis through subordinates. Ryan Neild, Daniel Neild, Tushingham, Elliott, Davies and Agarry were evidenced as having a significant role and were trusted members of the crime group, helping to collect, store and distribute cannabis. Cooper also held a significant role in the distribution of the drugs, along with McLaughlin, whereas Henry played a lesser role in the conspiracy. Meanwhile, Knowles' involvement amounted to assisting an OCG.

Cheshire Police's investigation highlighted significant quantities of cannabis and cash was being stored in multiple storage units at Indigo Business Park, Ellesmere Port, with members of the OCG visiting the location almost daily, as a base for their operation. This resulted in search warrants being conducted by officers at the business park on 13 November 2023. The total amount of cash seized from the units was almost £11,000. Meanwhile, a total of up to £59,000 worth of a cannabis was seized. Following this, further warrants as part of the investigation were carried out on 6 March 2024. The day involved more than 250 officers from Cheshire Police, targeting a number of addresses linked to the members of the OCG across Ellesmere Port and Chester.

<https://youtu.be/U3GetEJZ0ZQ>

Out of the 16 members of the OCG, 13 were arrested during the warrants and were subsequently charged. More drugs and cash were also seized, bringing the total amount of cash seized during the investigation to more than £29,552. The total amount of cannabis seized was worth up to almost £98,000.

Burns, Taylor and Knowles were produced from prison and charged on 20 March 2024. Burns had previously been arrested on 21 September 2023, while Taylor was arrested on 20 November 2023. They were both serving a 16-month sentence for possession with intent to supply cannabis. Meanwhile, Knowles had been remanded in custody for an unrelated matter of assault which he was arrested for in February 2024. Due to the strength of the evidence against them, almost all of the OCG members pleaded guilty to their involvement. Tushingham pleaded not guilty but was found guilty after a trial.

Following the sentencing, DCI Nick Henderson said: *"I welcome the sentences handed to these 16 individuals, who have collectively been put behind bars for more than 80 years. Each of these men were unemployed with no legitimate income but clearly reaped the benefits of their illegal activities. However, our officers embarked on a lengthy and detailed investigation and these individuals are now facing the consequences of their actions, while a large amount of class B drugs have been taken off the streets. Operation Heracles demonstrates our commitment to tackling organised crime and drugs offences. I hope this sends a warning to anyone who thinks they can commit drugs offences in Cheshire – you will be caught and held accountable."*

A new Chief Inspector takes the reins of Ellesmere Port Local Policing Unit

A new Chief Inspector takes command of Ellesmere Port Local Policing Unit (LPU).

Dan Reynolds joined Cheshire Constabulary in 2007 as a 26-year-old and has spent his service to date in a variety of roles. Dan was initially posted to Ellesmere Port and spent the first five years of his career as Constable in a variety of policing areas in the Western Division. A career highlight for him as a Constable was secondment to the Philippine National Police. Dan was promoted to a Police Sergeant and worked in Response and Public Contact. In 2016 he became Inspector in the role of Force Incident Manager. In 2018, Dan undertook a number of roles as Chief Inspector introducing new approaches including digital reporting for the public and drones. He was also the Bronze Commander of



Operation Pandas, the major incident response to the Covid-19 Pandemic. From 2023 onwards, Dan has led the force in the national introduction of Right Care Right Person whilst Chief Inspector of Public Contact.

He succeeds Chief Inspector Darren Griffiths.

Speaking about becoming Chief Inspector, Dan said: *"I am extremely proud to be Chief Inspector at Ellesmere Port. My role is critical to ensuring our officers have the support required to meet the needs and expectations of our residents. I have a big personal connection as it is where I began my policing career and spent several years in front line policing roles. I understand the challenges of neighbourhood policing - I know what impacts our communities and understand the importance of ensuring the public have total confidence in the police. I am committed to putting our residents first to ensure that our area is a safe environment for all to live, work and visit. I am supported by a strong team and have sound existing relationships with our partner agencies. I plan to harness their passion and energy to make Ellesmere Port even safer. I will ensure that our officers strive to be excellent in the basics and work tirelessly targeting those who are intent on causing harm to our communities."*

Man jailed following Northwich burglary series

A man who committed a series of burglaries in Northwich town centre has been jailed.

Richard Ennis appeared at Warrington Magistrates Court on Tuesday 14 January where he pleaded guilty to two counts of burglary, one count of theft and two counts of fraud by false representation. Two other charges of attempted burglary and burglary were withdrawn due to his guilty pleas. The 46-year-old of Recency Way, Winsford, was sentenced to a total of 52-weeks in prison and ordered to pay £187 compensation.



Ennis' offending began on Thursday 9 January when he stole a bank card from a woman who he knew in Winsford. He then went on to fraudulently use the card on two separate occasions, withdrawing a total of £100. Then, between Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 January, Ennis broke into a bar in the Bullring area of Northwich on multiple occasions. During the burglaries he stole alcohol worth £977 and caused significant damage to the premises. The incidents were reported to police and following a swift investigation by officers at Northwich Proactive CID, Ennis was arrested and charged in relation to the offences.

Following the sentencing, PC Dan Lee, said: *"Ennis is a prolific offender and I welcome the fact that he is now back behind bars. During his latest crime spree, not only did he steal almost £1000 worth of goods, but he also caused significant damage to the premises along with a loss of trade while they replenished all of the stolen stock. On top of this, he also stole his friends bank card and fraudulently stole money from their bank account. Thankfully, his crime spree was brought swiftly to a close once his crimes were reported to police. He will now face justice behind bars. I hope that his sentencing provides reassurance to the local business community and to residents across Northwich."*

Crewe Beat Team raid cannabis house

Crewe Beat Team raided a house in Crewe and discovered hundreds of plants believed to be cannabis.

The team targeted the address in Wood Street in Crewe at 8.09am on Monday 13 January where they have recovered around 90 cannabis plants. The electricity had been by-passed and Scottish power attended the location to make it safe. A 35-year-old woman was arrested at the scene on suspicion of cultivation of cannabis plants.



PC Justin Taylor said: *"We removed 119 plants, believed to be cannabis, as well as growing equipment before securing the property. We hope this reassures you that we do listen, and we do act on information given to us by the public."*

How to spot cannabis cultivation: There are a number of signs that could indicate that a property is being used as a cannabis farm, including:

- A strong and sickly sweet smell.
- Equipment to grow cannabis being taken into a property, such as lighting and ventilation equipment.
- Constantly covered or blocked-off windows – cannabis farms often have constantly closed curtains, black-out blinds or foil coverings.
- People coming and going at all hours or neighbours you never see.
Strong and constant lighting day and night.
- High levels of heat and condensation – cannabis farms often give off heat and the windows stay misted up.
- A constant buzz of ventilation – listen out for a whirring sound as the growers try to create an ideal climate for cannabis plants to grow.
- Lots of power cables – offenders often dig underground to lay cables that hook up to things like lamp posts so they do not have to pay for the enormous amounts of electricity they use.

To report a suspected cannabis farm or any other type of drug-related offence, call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, give the details online [via the website](#) or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Man admits drugs offences after cannabis farm discovered in Crewe

A man has pleaded guilty to drugs offences following the discovery of a cannabis farm in Crewe.

Tomas Rupeikis, of Pitts Close, Taunton, appeared at Chester Magistrates' Court on Monday 13 January where he pleaded guilty to being concerned in the production of a class B drug. The 47-year-old has been remanded in custody until a sentencing hearing at Chester Crown Court on Monday 10 February.

On Saturday 11 January, Cheshire Police were operating a drone over Jubilee Avenue, Crewe, when the thermal imaging camera highlighted a property was giving off more thermal heat compared to the other addresses on the street. A warrant was granted by magistrates the same day and executed at around 1.20pm. Officers located approximately 44 cannabis plants being grown on the ground floor of the property and a further 120 plants upstairs. These are believed to be worth between £13,500 and £68,500. Rupeikis was present inside the address and was subsequently arrested. He was charged the following day.

DC Ben Harrington said: *"This warrant should serve as a reminder of the different resources we have at our disposal to tackle criminal behaviour. On this occasion our drone operators were able to spot one address was giving off a considerable amount of thermal heat compared to other properties, which can be a strong indicator of a cannabis grow. Thanks to the police drone, our officers were able to remove a considerable amount of cannabis off the streets and Rupeikis has now admitted his involvement."*

Illegal drugs and off-road bikes seized following Warrington warrant

Officers from Warrington have seized several illegal off-road bikes and a quantity of drugs following several warrants as part of Operation HardHit.

Operation HardHit was launched last year in response to reports from members of the local community of off-road bikers causing anti-social behaviour, riding without helmets in pedestrian areas and actively evading law enforcement on electric motorbikes. The initiative was designed to curb future irresponsible riding in the area and officers from Warrington Beat Team and the LPU have been working proactively to dismantle the groups of individuals intent on causing anti-social behaviour in the town, endangering themselves and pedestrians.



In the early hours of Sunday 12 January, officers executed a warrant at an address on Marshall Avenue in the Bewsey and Whitecross area of Warrington following a previous dangerous driving incident involving an off-road bike registered at the address. During the search of the address, officers found a total of 13 illegal off-

road bikes and e-scooters scattered in various in locations across the house, including in the living room, bedrooms, hallways and in a garden shed. Officers also seized a quantity of cannabis from one of the bedrooms in the house. No arrests have been made at this time.

The following day, officers saw more success with a second warrant occurring at another address in the Old Hall area of the town. Whilst there, officers located and seized a further eight bikes from within the address. Following the raids, officers are reminding residents that can expect to see a higher visibility of uniformed and plain-clothed officers across the town with the higher police presence aiming to deter unsafe driving and catch prolific offenders.

PC Matthew Salmon, of the Northern Problem Solving Team in Warrington, said: *“Operation HardHit has been rolled out across Warrington in response to concerns from local residents regarding the anti-social and dangerous driving of non-legal off-road bikes - this unsafe use of motorbikes in pedestrian areas is a priority issue and I want to reassure the public that officers will take a robust approach with those causing such harm within your communities. Illegal drug usage is closely linked with anti-social behaviour, and over the next few weeks, we will again be stepping up our patrols and conducting warrants at addresses of known offenders to further our efforts in dismantling the groups of individuals intent on disrupting and endangering the lives of residents who are out and about in Warrington. Having seized these 21 bikes across our two warrants, we have now successfully taken well over 40 non-legal and off-road bikes off of Warrington's streets under Operation HardHit, but our work is not done. Our officers will continue carrying out high-visibility patrols in hotspot areas at key times across our town, targeting those intent on causing a nuisance in their community and disregarding the safety of both themselves, other road users and pedestrians.”*

Anyone with information regarding the riding of electric bikes, motorbikes or quad bikes in pedestrian areas should contact Cheshire Constabulary on 101 or [give the details via the website](#). Alternatively, information can be reported to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 [or via the Crimestoppers website](#).

New Chief Inspector takes charge of Congleton Local Policing Unit

A new Chief Inspector has taken command of Congleton Local Policing Unit (LPU).

Dave Levins joined Cheshire Constabulary in 2001 and was initially posted to Crewe Division, where he spent the first six years of his career as a constable in response and neighbourhood policing. In 2007, Dave moved to the Armed Response Unit and in 2012 was promoted to Sergeant. Dave moved back to Crewe as the Neighbourhood Sergeant in 2013. Dave was promoted as an Eastern area Inspector in 2020 and carried out a variety of roles at this rank with the most recent being the Neighbourhood Inspector for Northwich LPU.



Speaking about becoming the Congleton Chief Inspector, Dave said: “I am immensely proud to be Chief Inspector at Congleton, an area I know well. Congleton is a safe place to live, and I am committed to ensuring it stays that way, encouraging more people to live, work and visit the area. From my previous experience, I understand the challenges of neighbourhood policing and I need the public to speak to us as much as possible, telling us what is important to them and what they want from us. I have a great team at Congleton and the partner agencies I have met so far have been really positive and encouraging as they share the same goal to make the area even better. My role is ensuring my officers have the support required to meet the needs and expectations of the public and I have a proven record in targeting those who cause harm to our communities.”

Outside of work Dave is married with children and has a passion for martial arts and fitness.

To get involved in your local Policing Unit and have your say [go here](#).

New Chief Inspector takes command of Macclesfield LPU

A new Chief Inspector has taken command of Macclesfield Local Policing Unit (LPU).

Zoe Bowden joined Cheshire Constabulary in 2012 and has spent her time in the force policing many different areas of Cheshire. She started her career as a constable in the Warrington and Runcorn area, working alongside communities and partners. Zoe became a Detective Constable in 2018 before her promotion to Detective Sergeant. She worked within a number of areas that supported some of the most vulnerable people living within our communities. During this time, she specialised in complex investigations surrounding sexual offences, developing youth engagement programmes, and supporting missing and exploited young people. Over the last few years Zoe has been promoted to Inspector managing the Constabulary's resources and most recently to Chief Inspector heading up Cheshire's Forensic unit.



Speaking about becoming Chief Inspector for Macclesfield, Zoe said: *"I am extremely proud to be Chief Inspector at Macclesfield and I am looking forward to working with a team of dedicated and committed officers. My role is critical to ensuring we understand and meet the needs and expectations of our communities, enhancing their confidence in the police even further. I understand the challenges of local policing and I'm looking forward to working with our partners to continue to make our area a safe place for all to live, work and visit and ensure the public have total confidence in the service that we provide. My teams will strive to support our most vulnerable communities and also target those who are involved in criminality. I have a genuine passion for community policing and am looking forward to working together to make our community even safer."*

Man charged following Northwich town centre burglary series

Detectives investigating a series of burglaries in Northwich town centre have charged a man in relation to the incidents.

Between Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 January police received reports that a bar in the Bullring area had been burgled on three separate occasions, and nearly £1,000 worth of alcohol had been stolen. A nearby business premises also reported an attempted burglary during the same period. Following enquiries officers arrested in relation to the incidents.

Richard Ennis, of Recency Way, Winsford, has since been charged with three counts of burglary other than a dwelling and one count of attempted burglary other than a dwelling. The 46-year-old was also charged with one count of theft and two counts of fraud by false representation. Ennis has been remanded in custody and is set to appear at Warrington Magistrates' Court later today, Tuesday 14 January 2025.

Two people charged with theft of medical equipment

Officers from Cheshire Police have charged two people in relation to the theft of medical equipment in Widnes.

Nicola Fargin and Peter Lunt were both arrested on Saturday 11 January after items were stolen from a paramedic's medical bag in Widnes. The pair have both since been charged with theft from a person. Lunt has also been charged with possession of a class B drug (diazepam). Fargin, 45, of no fixed abode, and Lunt, 55, of Eversley, Widnes, have both been released on bail and are set to appear at Chester Magistrates Court on Friday 31 January.

Prolific shoplifter banned from every Co-Op in Crewe after officers secure Criminal Behaviour Order

Crewe Beat Management Team have secured a Criminal Behaviour Order against a prolific shoplifter, banning him from several retailers across the town.

Under his CBO, Christopher Davies has been banned from entering the Grand Junction Retail Park and every Co-Op Store in Crewe. Christopher Davies, 39, of no fixed address but of the Crewe area, was handed the Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) on 9 January after officers from Crewe Beat Management successfully secured the order at Chester Magistrates' Court.



Over recent months officers have been working closely with businesses in the area to help identify offenders and ensure that they are held accountable for their actions and the application for a CBO came after officers compiled evidence relating to a number of shoplifting incidents committed by Davies across the Crewe area. In order to curb any future reoffending, and under the terms of the CBO, Davies has been banned from entering the Grand Junction Retail Park along with every Co-op store across Crewe for a period of three years. If Davies breaches his CBO, he could face a prison sentence or a hefty fine.

Insp Daniel Welch, of Crewe Local Policing Unit, said: *"Christopher Davies is a prolific shoplifter that has stolen from local businesses across the town for a long time; hopefully the issuing of this CBO, banning him from the Grand Junction Retail Park and every branch of the Cooperative in Crewe, will deter such actions in the future. I also hope that the order given to Davies today can provide some reassurance to residents and businesses that we are doing all we can to deter criminality and anti-social behaviour within Crewe. Criminal Behaviour Orders are preventative orders with strict restrictions that are imposed to stop persistent offenders committing further crimes and the breaching of them comes with considerable repercussions. I'd continue to urge residents to report any suspicious activity or retail crime, so that together, we can make life difficult for criminals like Davies and make Cheshire a hostile for those intent on committing crime."*

Man jailed for child sex offences in Ellesmere Port

A man who sexually abused and raped a child in Ellesmere Port has been jailed for almost 20 years.



Christopher Aherne appeared at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 9 January 2025 where he was sentenced to 19 years and six months in prison. The 47-year-old of Perrin Avenue, Runcorn, had earlier pleaded guilty to two counts of rape and 13 counts of sexual activity with a child. He also admitted supplying class A drugs, possession of indecent images and five counts of making indecent images.

During the hearing the court was told how the abuse took place over a two-year period, beginning when the victim was just 14-years-old. Aherne's offending was eventually uncovered in December 2021 after staff at a bowling alley reported witnessing a man who was acting inappropriately with a child. Police attended, but on arrival Aherne had already left the premises. However, following enquiries they were able to identify him as the suspect. Following further enquires, officers also identified the child, who told police about what Aherne had subjected them to. Aherne was subsequently arrested at his garage in Runcorn, where officers recovered his mobile phone. While examining the mobile officers discovered several inappropriate images along with messages to the victim, asking them to share photographs of themselves. He was subsequently charged with rape and multiple counts of sexual offences.

Following the sentencing DC Christopher Tyrer, who led the investigation, said: *"Firstly, I would like to commend the victim for the bravery and courage they have shown throughout the investigation. While Aherne admitted his guilt, he has shown no remorse for his actions and the victim will never be able to forget what he did to them. However, I do hope that the significant sentence handed to him will provide them with some closure and help them to move forward with their lives."*

In addition to the custodial sentence, Aherne was also ordered to sign the sex offenders register for life.

DC Tyrer 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."*

Victims should never feel ashamed to talk about what they have been subjected to. They will receive the help and support they need from our specialist officers, as well as from other support agencies we work alongside, and all victims of sexual offences have the right to anonymity."

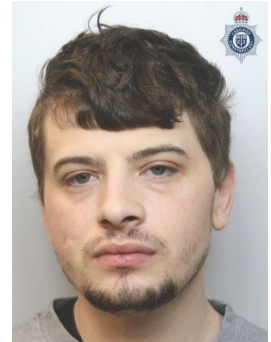
Sexual offences can be reported to Cheshire Constabulary via [https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report or by calling 101](https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report-or-by-calling-101). They can also be reported anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Appeal to trace wanted man from Crewe

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

Bradley Kerr is described as around 5'8" tall, of slim build, with brown hair and blue eyes. Kerr is from Crewe and is known to frequent the area. He also recently resided in Merseyside and has connections to the Liverpool city centre area and the Accrington area of Lancashire. Anyone who sees Bradley Kerr, or has information on his whereabouts, is asked to call Cheshire Police on 101, quoting IML-2005103 or visit <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/> Alternatively, information can be given anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or through their website www.crimestoppers-uk.org



Police release CCTV images following Chester burglary

Police have released CCTV images of a man they'd like to speak to in connection with a burglary in Chester.

At approximately 4.14pm on the 23 December 2024 a man broke into an address in Beaconfield Street.



The occupant of the address disturbed the suspect who fled from the house in the direction of Boughton.

PC James Wright of the Chester's Proactive Team said: "Thankfully in this case the suspect fled empty handed however it was still a distressing incident for the victim to find an unknown person inside his home. As part of enquiries, we'd urge anyone who recognises this man to contact us so that we can progress with our enquiries."

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or [via the website](#) quoting 24001075476. Alternatively, information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Appeal for information after a man was found unconscious in Chester City Centre

Officers are appealing for information after a man was found unconscious in Chester City Centre.

At 12am on Saturday 19 October 2024, police were called to reports of an unconscious man outside of The Church Bar on Newgate Street, Chester. Officers attended the location and found the man had sustained

serious injuries. Enquiries are ongoing to establish how the man sustained these injuries and officers are looking to hear from anyone who may have any information which may assist the investigation.

DC Christopher Connolly said: "At this time, it is unknown how the man sustained the injuries, and we are keen to hear from anyone who was in the area at the time who may have witnessed the incident which led to the man becoming unconscious. Anyone with any information, CCTV, or dashcam footage, is asked to contact us [via the website](#) or call 101 quoting IML 1943253."

Appeal to trace wanted man from Merseyside

Officers are appealing for help from the public in tracing a wanted man from Huyton.

Raymond Reid is wanted for failing to appear at Warrington Magistrates' Court. The 50-year-old is described as 5' 9" tall, of a medium build, with brown hair and brown eyes. He has links to Widnes and Merseyside.

Anyone who sees Reid or has any information on his whereabouts is urged to contact Cheshire Police on 101 or [visit the website](#) quoting 24000905882. Alternatively, you can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



Appeal to trace wanted man from Widnes

Jordan Grimes is wanted for failing to appear at Warrington Magistrates' Court in relation to a dangerous driving offence.

The 32-year-old is described as 5' 7" tall, of a medium build, with brown hair and blue eyes. He is known to frequent the Widnes and Merseyside areas.

Anyone who sees Grimes or has any information on his whereabouts is urged to contact Cheshire Police on 101 or [visit the website](#) quoting 24001058067. Alternatively, you can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



Appeal for witnesses and footage following attempted burglary in Norley

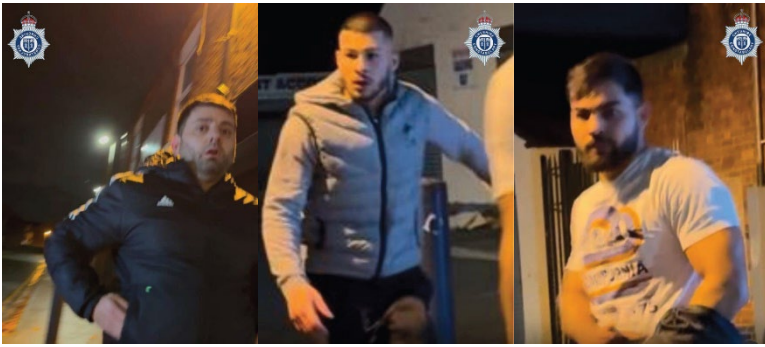
Officers investigating reports of an attempted burglary in Norley are appealing for witnesses or anyone with footage to contact them.

At around 5.25pm on Saturday 11 January, police received reports of an attempted burglary at an address in Delamere Road. It is believed that four unknown individuals wearing face masks had gained access to the garden and attempted to break into the property before leaving the scene in a white van. No access is believed to have been gained to the address and nothing was stolen. Officers are now urging anyone who was in the area at the time and spotted anything suspicious, as well as anyone with relevant footage, to contact them.

DC Paul Boneham said: "We are currently conducting enquiries to trace those responsible. As part of our investigation, we would like to ask any witnesses to come forward, as well as anyone with CCTV or dashcam footage. In particular we would urge anyone who has a dashcam and was driving along Ashton Road from Delamere Road between 5pm and 5.30pm on the date of the incident to get in touch with us. You can report information to Cheshire Police via cheshire.police.uk/tell-us or call 101, quoting 25000028601."

CCTV images released following incident in Widnes

Detectives investigating an incident at a pub in Widnes where a man was assaulted have released images of three men they are looking to speak to in relation to the incident.



At around 12.19am on Sunday 1 December, officers received reports of an incident occurring outside of a public house on Widnes Road. Attending the scene, officers found that that a violent altercation had broken out between several men, with a 60-year-old man suffering serious injuries to his hand and face. Officers also found that the other men who were believed to be involved had fled the scene on foot and could not be located. As part of their enquiries into the incident, officers have now released images of three men they would like to speak to as they believe they hold vital information.

PC Meg Gray, of Widnes Response, said: *"We appreciate that this incident occurred in December, but there would have been plenty of people in the area at the time, who may have witnessed the incident. We would like to appeal to anyone who recognises the men pictured in the CCTV images, along with the men themselves, to get in touch with us. The same goes for anyone with any information in relation to the incident."*

You can report information to Cheshire Police via cheshire.police.uk/tell-us or call 101, quoting IML-1974668.

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)

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

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