

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 28 June 2026

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Widnes OCG jailed following Cheshire Police investigation

Nine members of a Widnes-based Organised Crime Gang (OCG) have been jailed following an investigation by Cheshire Constabulary's Serious and Organised Crime Unit (SOCU).

Eight men appeared at Liverpool Crown Court today, Friday 26 June, where they were sentenced to a combined total of 63 years and eight months in prison. They were each individually sentenced to the following:

- Colin Jones, 38, of Parklands, Widnes, was sentenced to 17 years
- Kevin Martindale, 40, of Browning Avenue, Widnes, was sentenced to 15 years
- Kevin Smith, 37, of Goodall Street, Liverpool, was sentenced to eight years and four months
- Leon Phillips, 43, of Liebig Court, Widnes, was sentenced to eight years
- Jack Jones, 29, of Melville Close, Widnes, was sentenced to five years and three months
- Brandon McCann, 23, of Milton Avenue, Widnes, was sentenced to four years and five months
- Gary Holding, 48, of The Glen, Runcorn, was sentenced to three years
- Colin Dolman, 53, Stewards Avenue, Widnes, was sentenced to two years and eight months
- The ninth member of the OCG, Peter Jensen, 38, of Parbold Court, Widnes, was sentenced to 10 years and six months in prison at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 31 July 2025, after he had earlier pleaded guilty to possession with intent to supply Class A drugs (cocaine).

<https://youtu.be/qqPH2b56j4E>

The investigation, codenamed Operation Dominating, began after detectives from Cheshire Constabulary's Serious and Organised Crime Unit identified an EncroChat account operating under the username "Mexican Nova". Over several months, detectives closely monitored the account, carefully analysing each message sent via the encrypted platform. The communications revealed that "Mexican Nova" was responsible for supplying multiple kilograms of illegal drugs for onward distribution. He also detailed his involvement in assisting another high-level organised crime group with planning an importation to bring large amounts of drugs into the UK.

In addition to drug trafficking, messages showed that "Mexican Nova" was actively seeking to purchase a firearm magazine and ammunition, making several enquiries for what he referred to as "9mm sweets". Just three days later, he finalised a deal and arranged for an associate to collect 85 rounds of 9mm ammunition from another EncroChat user in the Grappenhall area of Warrington.

As the investigation progressed, it became increasingly clear that the individual behind the account was Colin Jones. Growing more confident in the security of the EncroChat platform, Jones began

revealing his identity within messages, referring to himself in one instance as “Col from Widnes” and in another as “3 phones Jones”.

The evidence became definitive when Jones sent a photograph of himself, holding a balloon and a gas canister, to another user on the platform. This image enabled detectives to conclusively link him to the EncroChat account and the associated drug supply network. This image Colin Jones sent that enabled detectives to conclusively link him to the EncroChat account and the associated drug supply network. Following this significant breakthrough, detectives then began to investigate Jones' wider OCG.



During this period, detectives established that the group was responsible for sourcing and supplying more than 50kg of cocaine and 220kg of cannabis nationwide between September 2024 and November 2025. Jones was also linked to the importation of at least 49 litres of cannabis distillate (oil) from Los Angeles. The substance was shipped in multiple smaller parcels to addresses across Widnes and Liverpool, disguised as everyday items such as honey, cosmetic products such as shampoos and conditioners, and even lava lamps.

Further enquiries revealed that Jones was managing the OCG alongside his associate, Kevin Martindale. Together, they controlled a stash house and oversaw a network of couriers responsible for transporting drugs and cash across England and Wales. Covert officers observed Jones and Martindale conduct regular meetings at local cafés. Martindale, a plasterer by trade, used his legitimate work to try and conceal his criminal enterprise. Leon Phillips was also identified as a key member of the group. Surveillance at his home address showed multiple OCG members visiting regularly, collecting packages before making significant journeys, indicating they were collecting drugs from the stash for onward distribution.

Peter Jensen and Jack Jones acted as the primary couriers for the group. They hired vehicles to transport multi-kilo amounts of drugs and large quantities of counterfeit cigarettes to locations across the UK, including North Wales, South Wales, Cheltenham, Birmingham, and Manchester. Meanwhile, Colin Dolman was identified as a street-level dealer, regularly supplying drugs to users in the local area. Brandon McCann was one of the OCG's major customers, controlling a supply line within Widnes. During the conspiracy he purchased at least 10kg of cocaine from Jones and Martindale. He then controlled dealers to distribute the drugs throughout the town. Jones and Martindale would go on to pool these profits from their criminal enterprise to fund lavish lifestyles, including property renovations, luxury holidays, and high-end designer clothing and jewellery.

Detectives also recovered detailed notes kept by Jones, revealing that he had been involved in the transfer of at least £1.2 million worth of cash and commodities during the conspiracy. In May 2025, Jones travelled to Dubai. In his absence, another member of the OCG, Kevin Smith, was entrusted with the 'graft' phone, used to manage the supply network. Acting on Jones' instructions, Smith directed Jensen to collect a significant quantity of drugs from Kent on 6 June 2025. Jensen hired a car from Liverpool John Lennon Airport and travelled to Kent. After collecting the package, and securing it in the back seat, he began the return journey to Widnes, maintaining regular contact with Smith and even sent him a voice note asking how much he would receive in wages for the pickup.

However, while travelling on the M6 near Sandbach, Jensen was stopped by officers from Cheshire Police. He was arrested and the package, containing 20kg of cocaine, was seized. He was later charged with possession with intent to supply Class A drugs and pleaded guilty as a result of the overwhelming evidence gathered against him. The drugs were analysed by a force specialist who estimated their wholesale value at between £340,000 and £600,000. At street-level distribution, their value could exceed £2.8 million.



Startled by Jensen's arrest, Martindale booked a last-minute flight from Manchester to Malta. Two weeks later, he travelled to Cyprus to meet with Jones and remained out of the country for a number of weeks, before returning home to Widnes. On 28 October 2025, Jones flew back into the UK via Manchester airport. With the OCG once again operating on UK soil, Cheshire Police conducted coordinated dawn raids at 11 addresses on 8 November 2025, resulting in the arrest of seven men. Colin Jones, Kevin Martindale, Leon Phillips, Jack Jones, Colin Dolman, Brandon McCann, and Kevin Smith, were all subsequently charged for their respective roles in the drugs conspiracy.

On 11 November 2025, officers arrested Gary Holding at a hotel in Leeds. He was identified as a cannabis supplier for the OCG, using the imported cannabis oil to produce THC vapes and edibles, as well as supplying large quantities of cannabis. He was also charged in connection with the conspiracy. Faced with a comprehensive casefile of evidence, all men were left with no option but to plead guilty to the charges put to them.

Following the sentencing, Detective Chief Inspector Nick Henderson said: *"Operation Dominating has been an incredibly lengthy and complex case into a sophisticated organised crime group operating in Cheshire, and my team has worked tirelessly to ensure these criminals are brought to justice for the harm their actions have caused across the UK. These men were not just low-level offenders, they had built a large-scale criminal enterprise, funding lavish lifestyles while causing significant damage to our communities. While they profited, others suffered the consequences.*

"Not only that, but Jones' involvement in the purchasing of ammunition clearly demonstrates the extreme levels of criminality he was involved in, and his reckless disregard for the safety of the community where he lives. Gangs like this are exploitative, they do not care about our communities, and their criminality can have devastating effects on members of the public. I welcome the sentences handed to these men, and I hope this case demonstrates the extreme lengths our Serious and Organised Crime Unit will go to in order to secure justice. If you are dealing drugs, if you are actively seeking to cause destruction to our communities, you will face the full force of the law."

Brandon McCann, 23, of Milton Avenue, Widnes, was sentenced to four years and five months

Colin Dolman, 53, Stewards Avenue, Widnes, was sentenced to two years and eight months

Colin Jones, 38, of Parklands, Widnes, was sentenced to 17 years

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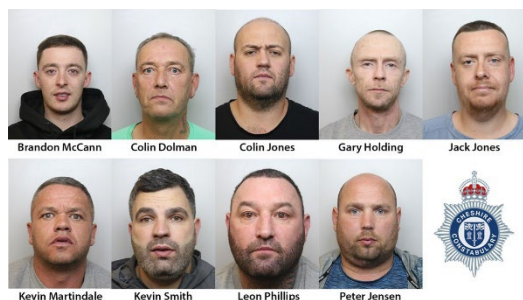
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Leon Phillips, 43, of Liebig Court, Widnes, was sentenced to eight years

Peter Jensen, 38, of Parbold Court, Widnes, was sentenced to 10 years and six months



Northwich drug dealer jailed

A drug dealer from Northwich who seriously assaulted an innocent member of the public has been jailed.

Calum Holland appeared at Chester Crown Court on Friday 26 June where he was sentenced to 44 months in prison. The 30-year-old of Peckforton Way, Northwich, had earlier pleaded guilty to being concerned in the supply of class A drugs (cocaine), possession with intent to supply class A drugs (cocaine) and one count of section 20 assault.



The case against Holland began on Friday 26 March 2023 when officers from Northwich stopped a blue Ford Focus on the A556 in Hartford following intelligence that the vehicle was linked to drug dealing. Holland was behind the wheel, and as officers approached the car, an officer spotted him attempting to conceal an item in his waistband. He was arrested at the scene and taken to custody where he was found in possession of several snap bags containing cocaine. A mobile phone was also seized.

Holland was later bailed and his mobile phone was sent for analysis, where officers discovered messages which showed that Holland was actively involved in the sale of illegal drugs. While on bail, Holland was involved in a separate incident in Northwich town centre. At around 2am on Sunday 10 September 2023 the victim, was stood outside a takeaway on Witton Street with a friend, when he was approached by Holland who began shouting at him. Holland then punched the victim in the face, before forcibly pushing him to the floor face down, causing him to lose consciousness. He then ran off from the scene on foot, travelling towards Venables Road.

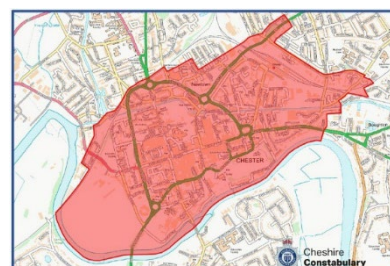
Police and ambulance were called to the scene, and the victim was taken to hospital where it was found he had sustained a broken jaw. An investigation into the attack was launched by Northwich CID, and Holland was quickly identified as the suspect by local officers who recognised him on the CCTV footage. Holland was subsequently arrested and during questioning he refused to answer any questions put to him by officers. He was later charged in relation to both incidents.

Following the sentencing, Detective Constable Sarah Ollier, of Northwich CID said: *"It's clear that Holland has absolutely no regard for the law and I welcome the sentence that has been handed to him by the court. Not only was he dealing illegal drugs, but he also left an innocent man with serious injuries following a totally unprovoked attack. The victim did not know Holland and was simply speaking with a friend when he was violently assaulted for no apparent reason. Thankfully, Holland has now been held accountable and will face the consequences of his actions."*

Dispersal order in place in Chester

There will be an increased police presence in Chester this weekend to help keep racegoers and members of the public safe.

With an influx of visitors expected in the city centre due to a fixture at Chester Racecourse, additional police patrols will be deployed. A dispersal order will be in place from 12.30pm on Friday 26 June until 12.30pm on Sunday 28 June 2026. The dispersal order will allow officers to ban anyone from the area for up to 48 hours to prevent disorder. It has been imposed under Section 34 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The area covered by the order is highlighted in the attached mapped area. The map is provided to anyone issued with a direction to leave. There will also be an increased police presence to deal with any anti-social behaviour which may arise across the city.



Inspector James Wilson said: *“This weekend it will be incredibly busy in Chester, paired with the hot weather, and while we hope everyone enjoys their time here, we hope they do so safely and look out for each other. As well as an increased police presence, there will be a dispersal order in place which serves as an additional tactical option that allows us to directly combat anti-social behaviour head on, before it escalates.”*

Anyone with information about anti-social behaviour in their area is urged to contact Cheshire Police via the Cheshire Police website or call 101.

Murder investigation launched following disappearance of man in Ellesmere Port

Officers investigating the disappearance of a man from Ellesmere Port have launched a murder investigation.

Martin Conway was last seen overnight on Sunday 1 February into Monday 2 February 2026 in the Chester city centre area. Since the 39-year-old was reported missing, extensive enquiries have been carried out in an effort to locate him, but sadly to no avail. Although no body has been found, following their investigation, officers believe Martin may have come to harm. Four people have since been arrested on suspicion of murder. This includes a 35-year-old woman from Winsford and a 37-year-old man from Northwich who have been released on bail, plus a 44-year-old woman from Chester and a 23-year-old man from Chester who both remain in custody.



Police are continuing to investigate Martin’s disappearance and would urge anyone with any information, no matter how small, to get in touch. When he was last seen, Martin was wearing a black coat with a fur lined hood, grey jogger bottoms or black leggings and white trainers. He is described as 5’ 7” tall, of a slim build, with light brown hair and blue eyes.

Detective Inspector Andrea Price said: *“Martin was last seen over four months ago, and during that time we have been following multiple lines of enquiries in an effort to trace him. We now believe he may have come to harm. Following an extensive investigation, we have now arrested four people in*

relation to his disappearance who are assisting us with our enquiries. We would continue to appeal for anyone with any information as to Martin's disappearance to please contact us – no amount of information is too small."

Please call 101 quoting 26000233824, or visit <https://mipp.police.uk/operation/07CH26D75-PO1>

Man charged in relation to Winsford burglary

Detectives investigating a burglary in Winsford have charged a man in relation to the incident.

Brandon Andrews was arrested on Friday 19 June. The 19-year-old of Evelyn Avenue, St Helens, has since been charged with one count of burglary in relation to a break-in at a residential address on Wharton Road on Tuesday 16 June. In addition, Andrews has also been charged with three counts of assault by beating; common assault; three counts of criminal damage, engaging in controlling and coercive behaviour; using violence to enter secure premises; theft from a person; and destroy/damage property. The additional charges relate to a number of domestic offences between 20 May and 19 June 2026. Andrews is next set to appear at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 20 July.

Cheshire bikers encouraged to sharpen their skills at a BikeSafe workshop

The one-day session, held on Saturday 20 June at police headquarters in Winsford, brought riders together with advanced police motorcyclists for a mix of classroom discussions and an observed ride, focusing on the kind of real-world skills that make a difference when it really matters.

[YouTube content](#)

From understanding road positioning and improving hazard perception to refining cornering and planning ahead, the workshop was designed to give practical, tailored advice that riders can immediately put into practice.

Sgt Andy Griffiths, from Cheshire Constabulary's Motorcycle Unit, said: *"We know motorcyclists are among the most vulnerable on the roads and the Constabulary is committed to reducing serious collisions and saving lives by working proactively with riders. Initiatives like BikeSafe play a vital role in that effort, giving bikers the tools and insight they need to stay safer while still enjoying their time on two wheels. The workshop helps riders take ownership of their own safety without taking away the enjoyment that draws them to biking in the first place. It's not about enforcement or criticism, but about working alongside the biking community to encourage better decision-making, stronger awareness and smoother, more confident riding."*

During the BikeSafe workshop, each participant receives individual feedback throughout the day, with police riders offering supportive guidance on how to build on existing skills and identify areas for improvement. The emphasis remains on progression at a pace that suits the individual, helping riders understand their limits while developing the confidence to ride well within them.

One rider who attended the workshop said: *"I got some really good pointers from the BikeSafe workshop which is fantastic. I can now take those away and practice and share with my friends, making me safer on the roads moving forward."*

Following the success of the latest workshop, further BikeSafe dates are available between now and September, offering more riders the chance to get involved and take the next step in their riding journey. Workshops are open to bikers of all experience levels, whether newly qualified, returning after time away or simply looking to refine their skills. Places are limited and demand is high, so riders are encouraged to book early to avoid missing out. More information and booking [details can be found online on the Cheshire Constabulary BikeSafe website](#).

Sgt Griffiths added: *"By choosing to invest in their development, riders aren't just improving their own experience - they're helping to make Cheshire's roads safer for everyone."*

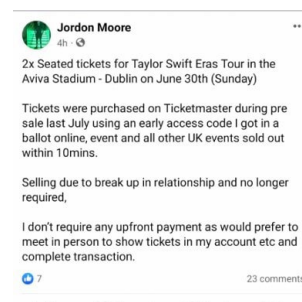
Taylor Swift ticket fraudster sentenced

A fraudster who swindled more than £5,000 from seven people has been sentenced.

Jordan Moore appeared at Chester Crown Court on Friday 19 June where he was sentenced to 19 months in prison, suspended for two years. The 32-year-old, of Reedville, Smithy Lane, Little Sutton, Ellesmere Port, had earlier pleaded guilty to seven counts of fraud by false representation. Moore was also ordered to complete 100 hours unpaid work and pay £3808 compensation.



The court heard how between November 2023 and March 2025 Moore defrauded seven victims out of more than £5,000. Of the seven charges, five counts related to the fraudulent sale of Taylor Swift concert tickets, which Moore advertised on Facebook and Gumtree. Within the posts, he claimed to have two tickets for a concert in Dublin which he was selling due to a breakup in his relationship. The remaining two charges related to the fraudulent sale of greyhound equipment.



Following the sentencing, Police Constable Hindley, from Cheshire Police said: *"Moore preyed on his victims, specifically using Taylor Swift tickets as a hook to lure them in and defraud them of thousands of pounds. He was well aware that what he was doing was wrong, but he thought that he would be able to outsmart his victims and avoid justice. Unfortunately for him, thanks to the information provided by the victims, and the evidence gathered by the team here at Cheshire Police, his plans fell apart and he has now been held accountable for his actions."*

Following Moore's sentencing, officers are keen to remind people about the dangers of buying tickets on social media accounts. While the internet now makes it much easier to buy and sell items, unfortunately, as we've seen in this case, it also makes it easier for dishonest sellers to defraud victims. Therefore, if you're looking to buy tickets for any upcoming events we would advise you to follow this advice –

- Where to buy tickets: Only buy tickets from the venue's box office, official promoter or agent, or a well-known ticketing website.

- **Paying for tickets:** Avoid paying for tickets by bank transfer, especially if buying from someone unknown. Credit card or payment services such as PayPal give you a better chance of recovering the money if you become a victim of fraud.
- **Secure your account:** The password you use for your email account, as well as any other accounts you use to purchase tickets, should be different from all your other passwords. Use three random words to create a strong and memorable password, and enable 2-step verification (2SV).
- **Ticket spam:** Be wary of unsolicited emails, texts or adverts offering unbelievably good deals on tickets.
- **Look for the logo:** Is the vendor a member of the Society of Ticket Agents and Retailers (STAR)? If they are, the company has signed up to their strict governing standards. STAR also offers an approved Alternative Dispute Resolution service to help customers with outstanding complaints. For more information visit star.org.uk/buy_safe.

What to do if you're a victim of ticket fraud -

- **If you have made a payment:** Inform your bank as soon as possible, they can help you prevent any further losses. Monitor your bank statements regularly for any unusual activity.
- **Identity theft:** If you have shared personal or financial information, and suspect your identity may have been stolen, you can check your credit file quickly and easily online. You should do this every few months anyway, using a reputable service provider and follow up on any unexpected or suspicious results. You can also sign up for Cifas services which can help to protect you against fraud.
- **You could be targeted again:** Fraudsters sometimes re-establish contact with previous victims claiming that they can help them recover lost money, this is just a secondary scam. Hang up on any callers that claim they can get your money back for you.
- **Report it:** Call Report Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or visit [Reporting cyber crime and fraud or phishing attempts - Report Fraud](#)

Man charged with drug offences in Crewe

Detectives investigating the supply of illegal drugs in Crewe have charged a man.

Mustafa Ahmed was arrested on Thursday 18 June. The 24-year-old of Freetown Close, Manchester, has since been charged with two counts of being concerned in the supply of crack cocaine, two counts of possession with intent to supply Class A drugs (heroin, crack cocaine), possession of criminal property, and being concerned in the supply of heroin. He was remanded in custody to appear at Chester Crown Court on Monday 3 August.

Crewe man charged with public order offences

A man from Crewe has been charged with several offences following an incident in the town.

Darren Holdcroft, of Gresty Road, was arrested at around 8.25pm on Monday 22 June. The 31-year-old has since been charged with assaulting a police officer in the execution of their duty, being drunk and disorderly and using threatening words/behaviour to cause fear. He has been released

on unconditional bail to appear at Crewe Magistrates' Court on Thursday 27 August. The charges relate to an incident that occurred in the West Street area of Crewe.

Man charged in relation to assault in Nantwich

Officers investigating reports of an assault in Nantwich have charged a man.

Richard Garside, of Nantwich, was arrested on 3 November 2025. He has since been charged with wounding/inflicting grievous bodily harm without intent. The 66-year-old is set to appear at Crewe Magistrates' Court on 15 July 2026. The charge relates to an assault on 3 November in Civic Hall Car Park, Beam Street, in which an 86-year-old man suffered a serious head injury.

Widnes county lines gang jailed

Three men who ran a drugs enterprise from a boarding kennels in Widnes have been jailed for more than 12 years.

John Chester, Sam Mulhern and Ryan Holden all appeared at Liverpool Crown Court on Thursday 14 May where they pleaded guilty to two counts of conspiracy to supply class A drugs (heroin and crack cocaine) and possession of criminal property.



The trio returned to Court on Monday 22 June where they were sentenced to a total of 12 years and four months in prison. Mulhern, 35, of Netherfield, Widnes, was jailed for five year and eight months; Chester, 43, of Hale Road, Widnes, was sentenced to four years in prison; and Holden, 32, of Hale Road, Widnes, has been jailed for two years and eight months.

The court heard how on Wednesday 15 October 2025, officers from Widnes Proactive CID conducted a warrant at Liverpool Boarding Kennels and Cattery on Hale Road, Widnes, following intelligence suggesting that the property was linked to illegal drugs. Upon arrival Mulhern attempted to evade officers by fleeing on foot. He was quickly detained by officers a short distance away and found in possession of a mobile phone linked to the supply of Class A drugs from a County Line known as 'P'.

Holden, also attempted to leave but was detained by officers and was found in possession of 41 wraps of crack cocaine, along with 201 wraps of heroin, with a street value of £2420. Also within the address was Chester, who was found attempting to conceal mobile phones and a large quantity of cash under the floorboards of his bedroom. All three suspects were arrested at the scene and taken to police custody where they answered no comment to all the questions put to them by officers. Despite their silence, they were all charged with two counts of conspiracy to supply class A drugs (heroin and crack cocaine) and possession of criminal property

Following the sentencing, Police Constable Nicholls, of Halton Proactive CID said: *"I welcome the lengthy custodial sentences handed down by the court and I hope that they act as a warning to those involved in the sale of illegal drugs. This investigation shone a light on a County Lines operation that was operating under the guise of a dog kennel and cattery, highlighting the lengths*

that offenders will go to in order to conceal their criminal activities. Thankfully, as a result of our investigation, we have been able to bring down their criminal empire, and they are now facing the consequences of their actions. I would like to thank the public for their assistance with this case, and I urge anyone who has information regarding drugs supply to come forward, and we will act on it."

Cheshire Police and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service warn of the dangers of open water swimming ahead of heatwave

Residents are being warned by Cheshire Police and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service of the dangers of being in and around water following the Met Office's extreme heat weather warning.

With summer underway, there are increasing numbers of people, especially young people, tempted to cool off in open bodies of water. While open water swimming is popular, it is advisable that this is done with organised groups who have the necessary knowledge and expertise to keep you safe.

Detective Superintendent Clare Coleman said: *"We understand that with the warm weather, many people could be tempted to take a dip in open water to cool off, but residents must be aware of the potential deadly consequences. Going into water can not only endanger your own life but the lives of others around you if they jump in to rescue you. We don't want to discourage people from enjoying themselves near water, but it's important to remember that the surface can be misleading. Strong undercurrents, sudden drops in temperature, debris and even disease can all be hidden just a few feet below. Cold water shock can affect even the strongest swimmers, and these unseen hazards can quickly turn a quick dip into a dangerous situation."*

"Sadly, we have already seen one death in open water here in Cheshire this year and while the full circumstances are still to be established, we don't want to see any more. The message to our communities is a clear one: don't be tempted to put your life at risk by cooling off in open water."

Station Manager Ryan Swindells from Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service said: *"Sadly, we've already seen a number of water-related tragedies across the country this summer. If you're looking to cool down, we would always encourage people to choose supervised locations rather than taking risks in open water. If you see someone struggling, shout to them, reach out with a stick or pole, and throw them something that floats. Never enter the water yourself to attempt a rescue - call 999 immediately. We want everyone to enjoy the warm weather, but please look out for one another so that everyone gets home safely."*

Key safety advice:

- Under the surface can tell a different story: strong undercurrents, cold temperatures, debris, and disease can be hidden just a few feet below the surface. Cold water shock can affect even the strongest swimmers
- Alcohol and drugs do not mix with swimming - stay away from water if you are under the influence.
- Swimming in designated, supervised areas. Avoid swimming in unsupervised open water.
- Never swim alone, particularly in unsupervised areas like quarries, canals or ponds.
- Never leave children unsupervised near any body of water.
- Follow the Water Safety Code: Stop and Think, Stay Together, Call 999 and Float To Live

- Follow Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service's Advice: Shout, Reach, Throw, Don't Go

Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service offer free water safety education and the free RNLI Waterside Responder Scheme for businesses near water. Visit their website to learn more. For more information and water safety advice, please visit Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service's website.

Stockton Heath man charged with assault

A man from Stockton Heath has been charged with assault offences.

Thomas Taylor, of Leonard Street, Stockton Heath, was arrested on Saturday 28 February. Taylor, 33, has since been charged with two counts of common assault. He has been summoned to appear at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 23 June. The charges relate to an incident that occurred in the Buttermarket Street of Bewsey and Whitecross on Saturday 13 February.

Emergency services dealing with large fire in Widnes

At 4.45pm today, Monday 22 June, the emergency services were called to reports of a large fire at a recycling facility on Everite Road, Widnes.

Officers are at the scene and are assisting Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service with traffic management. The following road closures are in place:

Hale Road at the junction of Marshgate

Marshgate at the junction of Everite Road

Ditchfield Road at the junction of Coronation Drive

Ditchfield Road at the junction of Wyncroft Road

Ditchfield Road at the junction of Philip Road

Ditchfield Road at the junction of Everite Road

Liverpool Road at the junction of Ditchfield Road

Liverpool Road at the junction of Hough Green

Netherley Road at the junction of Cross Hillocks Lane

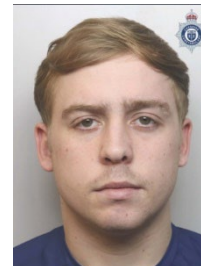
Motorists are advised to avoid the area while emergency services work at the scene. There are no reports of any injuries at this time.

Superintendent Sam Billington said: *"A large number of officers are in attendance at the scene to manage road closures and provide reassurance to the community. While our colleagues from Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service tackle the fire, we would urge residents in the nearby area to follow their advice and stay indoors with their windows and doors closed at this time. I would also ask people not to congregate at the scene as it could hamper our response to this incident."*

Man jailed for dangerous driving and drugs offences

A man has been jailed for more than two years after dangerously riding an e-bike in Chester without insurance or a licence.

William Mead, of Coleridge Close, Chester, was also charged with drugs offences. He had previously admitted two drug related offences and three driving offences. The 22-year-old appeared at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 17 June 2026 where he was sentenced to 28 months for being concerned in the supply of cocaine, possession with intent to supply cocaine, driving without a licence, dangerous driving and driving with no insurance.



On Monday 16 March 2026, officers spotted an Surrion electric motorbike on Western Avenue, Blacon. The motorcyclist made off from police and was riding the motorbike dangerously, including riding it on public footpaths. Officers lost sight of the motorbike but it was spotted a short time later parked outside a store in Stratford Road. A man – Mead – was wearing the same clothing as the motorcyclist and was detained inside the store. A wrap of cocaine, a large amount of cash and a mobile phone displaying suspicious messages about the sale of drugs were seized. On top of his custodial sentence, Mead is disqualified from driving for 23 months.

<https://youtu.be/zmD18Gipul4>

DC Malone said: *“Electric motorbikes are incredibly dangerous and you need to abide by the same rules of the road as when you are in charge of any other vehicle. Mead did not follow these rules – which are in place to protect both yourself and others – and even rode the motorcycle on public footpaths with members of the public present. Not only this, but Mead was also in possession of drugs and officers found evidence on his phone of drug dealing. Let this case be a reminder that these laws are in place for a reason and anyone who tries to flout them will be held accountable.”*

Man charged with drugs offences following warrant in Chester

Detectives from Chester have charged a man with drugs offences following a warrant in the city.

At around 2.30pm on Thursday 18 June, officers from Chester Proactive Policing Unit executed a warrant at a flat in St Annes tower, on St Anne Street, Chester. During the raid officer recovered a large quantity of Heroin and approximately £6,000 cash. A 37-year-old man was also arrested at the property. Sean Randles, of Victoria Avenue, Ellesmere Port, has since been charged with two counts of possession with intent to supply class A drugs (Heroin and cocaine) and possession of criminal property. Randles appeared at Chester Magistrates Court on Saturday 20 June where he was remanded in custody, he is next set to appear at Chester Crown Court on Monday 20 July.

Officers engage with communities and tackle crime during Neighbourhood Policing Week of Action

Neighbourhood policing teams across Cheshire have been engaging with communities and cracking down on crime during a national week of action.

Neighbourhood policing teams across Cheshire have been engaging with communities and cracking down on crime during a national week of action. Monday 15 June to Friday 19 June saw Neighbourhood Policing Week of Action taking place across the country, with a focus on recognising the work local officers do to keep communities safe. Across Cheshire, neighbourhood policing

teams were out on the beat speaking to local people, holding surgeries and targeting hotspot areas to help prevent and reduce crime.

Working with partners, the week of action saw a number of positive results including:

- A series of arrests following shoplifting and burglaries in Congleton, Widnes and Winsford.
- Licenced premises checks in Widnes and Warrington, with six retailers found to be selling alcohol or vapes to underage customers.
- #TheKidsAreWatching road safety in Nantwich, with drivers being stopped for speeding and spoken to by school pupils about the impact this has.
- Mini Police out and about in Ellesmere Port helping officers with road safety advice, as well as eight electric bikes and 14 electric scooters seized as part of Op Lawmaker
- Patrols at Phoenix Park and Sandymoor in Runcorn to target anti-social behaviour and drug issues, with one arrest made.
- A range of engagement work across Chester including Project Servator deployments, joint patrols with parking enforcement teams and water safety advice for locals.

On Tuesday 16 June, officers from Macclesfield Neighbourhood Policing Unit also carried out three drug warrants at Pennine Court. More than 20 officers were supported by PCSOs, Peaks and Plains Housing Association, the local authority anti-social behaviour coordinators and designing out crime officers as they seized cannabis, weapons and an e-scooter from the three properties.

One of the e-scooters seized 	#TheKidsAreWatching road safety sessions held in Nantwich 	 Mini Police on the Stanney Estate in Ellesmere Port	Macclesfield Neighbourhood Policing Unit carried out three drug warrants at Pennine Court 
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As the week came to an end Supt Andy Baker, from Local Policing, said: *“Officers out and about in our communities, talking to residents and solving local problems is a key part of the work we do every day to keep Cheshire safe. Neighbourhood policing has always been a cornerstone of our work and is all about early intervention and working with partners to tackle the issues that affect people every day. We have fantastic officers across all of our communities, and I’m pleased we have been able to shine a light on this work during Neighbourhood Policing Week of Action. This work will continue as we move into the summer months to ensure we are protecting victims of crime and keeping Cheshire even safer.”*

Quick-responding officers meet the man they saved following cardiac arrest episode

Three Western officers and the man whose life they saved have officially met for the first time following the incident.

Earlier this year, on Friday 1 March, officers in Ellesmere Port received a call from a member of the public, who informed them that a 52-year-old Paul Lennon had gone into cardiac arrest outside of an address in the Princess Road area of Ellesmere Port. By 1.27pm Sergeant Darren Cabaniuk and PC's Chris Fry and Ben Green had already arrived at the scene, with the Sergeant immediately beginning CPR and his colleagues administering a defibrillator. Ambulance crews arrived two minutes later and to administer further emergency treatment whilst the officers took it in turns to continue delivering CPR. Within 20 minutes of the initial call, Paul was in an ambulance and was being prepped for the trip to hospital. Recognising the urgency of family support, the officers, who had remained on the scene, transported Paul's wife to hospital. Upon their arrival, Paul had a strong pulse, had begun breathing on his own and would later stabilise.

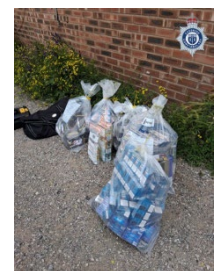
In May, Paul and his wife, Sharon reached out to Ellesmere Port Chief Inspector Dan Reynolds asking if they could meet the officers involved and thank them personally. It would be on Wednesday 13 May, just over two months after the officers responded to the call for help, that the three officers would officially meet the man whose life they helped saved. The couple also expressed that they will forever be indebted to the officers who helped saved Paul's life, with Paul joking that, *"I might have a few broken ribs, but I am alive because of what you all did."*

Following the meeting, Chief Inspector Daniel Reynolds said: *"The quick and professional response of our officers, who supplied initial emergency life-saving treatment and then worked in tandem with our colleagues from the North West Ambulance, was pivotal in helping to save Paul's life. I am also very glad that we had the opportunity to meet Paul and his wife Sharon and to see how well he has recovered following what would have been quite a terrifying ordeal for them both. This result reflects the very best of community policing and I couldn't be prouder of these officers and to have them working on the west."*



£24,000 worth of illegal cigarettes, tobacco and vapes seized following joint operation at Warrington retailer

With the assistance of colleagues from Warrington Borough Council, Trading Standards, Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service and HMRC, officers from Warrington have seized over £24k worth of illegal tobacco and vape products following a warrant at a retailer in the town.



Last Monday, 15 June, officers from Warrington Beat Management and Foreign National Offender teams conducted a section 8 warrant at a commercial property in the Winwick Street area of the town after receiving reports that illegal produce was being sold. With support from the local council, Trading Standards officers, colleagues from both Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service and His Majesty's Revenue and Customs, the shop and a flat above it was searched. Initially believing the flat above had been left unoccupied, the team then found a 21-year-old man hiding in the loft area. He was arrested on suspicion of knowingly entering the UK without leave since been passed over to immigration teams.

Following further enquiries, a 47-year-old man from Warrington was arrested on suspicion of holding a person in slavery or servitude. He has since been released on conditional bail. Whilst in the loft area, officers found a quantity of illegal vapes, around 25,000 cigarettes and 6kg of hand-rolled tobacco, with an estimated total retail value of approximately £24,000. During the search of the loft, a chute that led directly into the shopfront two floors below, believed to transfer the goods, was also found. Following the conclusion of the warrant, colleagues from Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, served the property with a Section 31 Prohibition Notice due to a number of safety concerns relating to electrics inside.

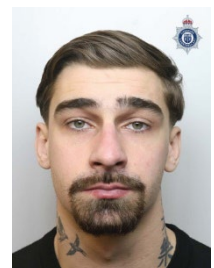
Police Constable James A'Hearne, Bewsey and Whitecross Beat Manager, said: *"Based on what our officers and partner colleagues found during the warrant on Winwick Road, namely a installation of three-storey product distribution shoot, it was evident that this property and its occupant were very much involved in the facilitation of illegal vapes, cigarettes and tobacco products. Whilst taking action against this kind of criminality might seem trivial to some, the selling of products such as this can have serious consequences. Not only does the purchasing of illegal goods fund organised crime in your area but it also can be linked to more serious offences such as immigration crime, people smuggling and modern-day slavery offences."*

"We cannot conduct operations such as this without the invaluable support of our community partners at Warrington Borough Council, Trading Standards, HMRC and Cheshire Fire and Rescue - who helped keep the property safe by serving a Prohibition Notice in relation to dangerous electricals found inside. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their efforts today. We also cannot conduct warrants and take proactive measures against organised criminals in your communities without the support of you. If you have any concerns regarding the sale of illegal goods or any suspicious activity in your area, please do not hesitate to contact your local Beat team and allow us to take it from there."

Man sentenced for drug dealing at Cheshire music festival

A man from Stourbridge who travelled to Cheshire to deal illegal drugs at a music festival has been sentenced.

Peter Patterson appeared at Chester Crown Court on Friday 19 June where he was sentenced to three years in prison, suspended for two years. The 23-year-old, of Croftwood Road, Wollescote, was also ordered to pay court costs and complete 200 hours unpaid work. Patterson had previously pleaded guilty to being concerned in the supply of ecstasy and ketamine and offering to supply class C drugs (nitrous oxide).



Patterson came to police attention on Thursday 22 August 2024 following a positive indication by a drugs dog. He was taken to a private area where he was searched and found to be in possession of two bags of drugs which were hidden in his bag. When examined by officers they discovered approximately 100 snap bags containing ecstasy and ketamine, along with two cannisters of nitrous oxide. When questioned by officers, Patterson answered no comment to all the questions put to him by officers. Despite his silence, he was later charged with drugs offences.

Following the sentencing PC Victoria Adamson, of the Creamfields Investigation team, said: *"With the latest Creamfields festival just weeks away, I hope that this sentencing acts as warning to*

anyone considering travelling to the event to sell illegal drugs. While Patterson may not have received a custodial sentence, the sentence handed to him by the court will impact him for the rest of his life, limiting what career path he will be able to take and even impacting where he'll be able to travel in the future. Make no mistake, the team here at Cheshire Police will be out in force at this year's festival, and anyone found with illegal drugs will be held accountable."

Over 20 illegal vehicles seized in afternoon of action in Ellesmere Port

Officers deployed across Ellesmere Port as part of Operation Lawmaker have seized a total of 23 illegal vehicles in just one afternoon of proactive activity.

On Tuesday 16 June, Cheshire Constabulary's Motorcycle Team were deployed across Ellesmere Port as part of Operation Lawmaker. The operation followed reports from concerned residents relating to the disruption caused through illegal and anti-social riding of e-bikes and motorised vehicles across the town. With the assistance of colleagues from the North West Air Service, officers were monitored the roads from the ground and the sky to ensure that vehicles travelling through Ellesmere Port were being driven safely and legally.

While the vast majority of motorists were found to be driving within the law, officers identified a number of road users on illegally adapted pedal cycles and e-scooters, which cannot be insured and are not road legal. Between 2pm and 6pm, the officers seized a total of 23 vehicles, that are soon set to be crushed, permanently removing them from our communities. In addition to the seizures, officers also issued a several road traffic reports to motorists found to be driving without due care and attention, not stopping for red lights and having insecure loads.

Chief Inspector Daniel Reynolds, of Ellesmere Port Local Policing Unit, said: *"I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the officers both on the roads and in the air for their efforts that saw a total of 23 illegal vehicles seized in just four hours. We recognise how disruptive the use of illegal e-bikes, e-scooters, and dangerously ridden off-road vehicles are to our residents of Ellesmere Port, so following the concerns raised to us by our local communities, our colleagues from the Motorcycle Team took immediate action against those using our roads as their own personal racetracks.*

"Last year, officers working under Operation Lawmaker surpassed 400 seizures of these vehicles and, as we move into the summer months with more people expected to be out and enjoying the sunshine, we will continue our high-visibility patrols in hotspot areas at key times across our town."

Latest Cheshire Appeals

CCTV Image released following suspicious activity in Huxley

Police have released a CCTV image of a man they are looking to speak to following reports of suspicious activity in Huxley.

At around 10.45am on Saturday 13 June an unknown man attended and address on Church Lane, Huxley. While outside the address the man unsuccessfully attempted to open the door handle before leaving the scene. Enquiries are ongoing and as part of the investigation officers have released a CCTV image of a man they would like to speak to.



Officers from Chester Proactive CID, said: *"We would like to reassure residents that this is isolated and there have been no reports of any similar incidents in the area. As part of our investigation, we're keen to hear from anyone who recognises the man in the CCTV image. Information can either be reported direct to us on 101, or alternatively if you don't want to speak to an officer, you can contact Crimestoppers anonymously."*

Anyone with any information can contact Cheshire Police [via the website](#), or call 101, quoting 26000470493.

Appeal to trace man wanted on recall to prison

Officers are appealing for help in tracing a wanted man.

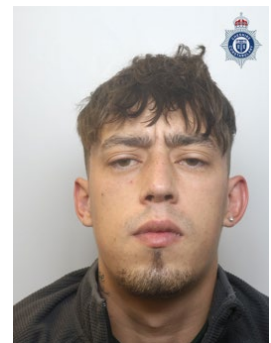
Michael Miller is wanted in relation to recall to prison. The 34-year-old is described as 6' tall, of slim build, with short brown hair. He has links to Merseyside and Widnes. Anyone with any information as to Miller's whereabouts should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or through our website, quoting IML- 2351232.



Appeal to trace wanted man from Northwich

Officers in Northwich are appealing for help in tracing a wanted man.

Declan Dervan is wanted for to comply with a community order. The 25-year-old is described as white, around six feet tall, with short brown hair and brown eyes. Dervan is from Northwich and is known to frequent the town centre area. Anyone with any information relating to the whereabouts of Dervan is asked to contact Cheshire Police either via 101, or via the website, quoting incident number 26000157790.



CCTV image released following arson attack in Congleton

Detectives have released CCTV images of a man they are looking to identify following an arson attack in Congleton.

At around 2.50am on Saturday 27 June a petrol bomb was thrown outside an address on Clayton Avenue. Thankfully, only minor damage was caused, and the fire was quickly extinguished. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and as part of the



investigation detectives have released a CCTV image of a man they are keen to identify.

Detective Sergeant Tom Binder said: *"This appears to be a targeted attack, and we are committed to doing all we can to identify the person responsible. I would urge anyone who thinks they know the identity of the man in the CCTV images to get in touch. The same goes for anyone who believes they have anyone with any information which may aid our investigation."*

Anyone with any information is asked to call Cheshire police on 101, or visit www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us quoting IML-2360070.

Appeal for information following assault in Runcorn

Officers are appealing for information following an assault in Runcorn.

The incident occurred on Sunday 21 June 2026 at approximately 8.30pm near the junction of Halton Brow and The Clough. During the incident, four white men, described to be aged in their early 20s, approached the victim, who is of Asian ethnicity. The victim was then subjected to a racially aggravated assault which resulted in him attending hospital for his injuries. Enquiries are currently ongoing to trace those responsible.

Detective Constable Madine said: *"During this incident, the victim was walking along the street when he was subjected to racial abuse and was assaulted. Behaviour of this nature is never acceptable and we are working hard to trace those responsible. As such, we are appealing for anyone with any information to get in touch with us. This includes anyone who witnessed what happened, saw anything suspicious either before or after the incident, or may have captured footage on CCTV or dashcam. You can report information to Cheshire Police by calling 101 or visiting the Cheshire Police website, quoting 26000495812."*

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)

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