

# Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 8 June 2025

Cheshire News & Appeals



## Latest Cheshire News

### **Congleton anti-social behaviour hotspot property closed down by police**

Police in Congleton have secured a closure order following reports of drug abuse, disorder and crime at a property in the town.



The property on Bromley Road, Congleton has been shut down by officers following the securing of a closure order under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 from Chester Magistrates' Court on 5 June. The order, which came into effect from Thursday 5 June will run for three months, and is a direct result of officers and Plus Dane Housing responding to the concerns of residents regarding the behaviour at the property including drug activity, antisocial behaviour, threats of violence, and visitors all day and night.

Residents in the local area have provided sufficient evidence of the issues coming from the address and are desperate for the easement that a closure order will bring to the local community. It was an example of great communication between officers, Plus Dane Housing and the local community that lead to securing the three-month order. The occupant was given ample opportunity to seek assistance from other agencies but has failed to engage and has since been ordered to leave the property and find alternative accommodation. All windows and doors have been secured for a period of three months. Anyone who enters the address during that time will be committing a criminal offence and could be arrested.

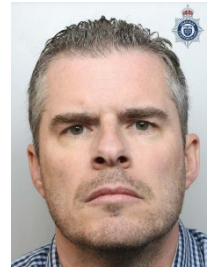
PC Helen Weeks said: *"We are dedicated to keeping this neighbourhood and its residents safe, so securing this closure with their help is fantastic news and I hope it encourages others to work with us to make their communities safer for everyone. I want to urge anyone with concerns about ASB or other criminality in their community to please contact local officers and we will do everything we can to address these issues and achieve justice."*

Anyone with concerns about anti-social or suspicious behaviour in their area is asked to report it to Cheshire Police via the [Cheshire Police website](#) or call 101.

### **Former teacher jailed for sexual offences involving children**

A former teacher from Ellesmere Port has been jailed after he admitted almost 30 counts of sexual offences involving children.

Simon Clark appeared at Chester Crown Court on Friday 6 where he was sentenced to eight years in prison, plus four years on licence. The 46-year-old, of no fixed abode, Ellesmere Port, had previously pleaded guilty to 29 offences, including -



- One count of inciting a child under 13 to engage in penetrative sexual activity.
- Two counts of inciting a child under 13 to engage in non-penetrative sexual activity.
- Two counts of inciting a child under 16 to engage in non-penetrative sexual activity.
- 21 counts of engaging in sexual communication with a child under 16.
- Making 26 indecent images of children of Category A.
- Make 29 indecent images of children of Category B.
- Make 81 indecent images of children of Category C.

In addition to his custodial sentence, Clark has also been added to the sex offenders register for life and handed restraining orders preventing him from contacting the victims.

The case against Clark began in January 2023 when police in North Wales were contacted by a concerned parent who reported that their teenage daughter had been receiving messages from an unknown man requesting naked images. Initial enquires suggested that the suspect was living in the Cheshire area, so the case was passed to Cheshire Police. An investigation was subsequently launched by detectives from the Online Child Abuse Investigation Team (OCAIT) at Cheshire Police and during their enquiries officers established that Clark, who was working as a teacher, was the suspect in the case.

A warrant was conducted at his home in May 2023 and a number of devices were seized from the address. During subsequent analysis officers discovered that Clark had been posing as a teenager using a snapchat account under the name 'Jamie\_jones6968'. Within the account detectives recovered hundreds of messages to a large number of girls, at least 30 of whom were under the age of 16. Many of the messages were of a sexualised nature, with Clark regularly requesting for the girls to share indecent images of themselves. In addition, officers also recovered more than 100 category A, B and C indecent images of children from Clark's devices.

Following the sentencing, DC Louise Murphy and DC Megan Griffiths, who led the investigation, said: *"Firstly, we would like to praise the victims in this case for the bravery and courage that they have shown throughout this investigation. Clark was a teacher, he held a position of trust, and the messages we recovered clearly showed that he was well aware that his victims were all under the age of 16, but despite this he continued his crimes in order to satisfy his own warped sexual desires. It was apparent throughout the investigation that Clark is a sexual predator who preyed on young girls, with no regard for the effects his actions would have on the victims or their families. While they will never be able to forget what he did, we hope the sentence handed to Clark will provide the victims with some closure and allow them to move forward with their lives."*

For advice on identifying signs of sexual exploitation visit [Child Sexual Exploitation & How to Keep Your Child Safe | NSPCC](#) To report a sexual offence call Cheshire Constabulary on 101. Information

can also be given online at <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report> or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

### **Man jailed for raping two women while they slept**

A man from Chester has been jailed after he was found guilty of raping and sexually assaulting two women while they slept.



Trevor Rowlands, known as Joe Rowlands, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 28 May where he was sentenced to 15 years in prison. The 33-year-old of Saddlery Way, Chester had earlier been found guilty of two counts of rape, three counts of sexual assault by penetration and one count of voyeurism. In addition to his prison sentence, he has also been ordered to sign the sex offenders register for life.

The court heard the first incident occurred in August 2018 when Rowlands raped a woman while she slept at his home in Chester, despite her previously telling him that she didn't want to sleep with him. The victim initially chose not to report the incident. However, in March 2019 she became aware of several recordings which Rowlands had stored on his iPad. The videos showed Rowlands sexually assaulting the victim as she slept, however the woman had no recollection of the incidents and had not given her consent. Following the discovery, a second woman confided in the victim that she had also been raped by Rowlands while she was sleeping. The pair came forward and reported the incidents together in September 2019. Following the reports an investigation was launched by the Protecting Vulnerable People Team at Cheshire Police and Rowlands was arrested in relation to the allegations. During questioning, he denied raping either of the woman. Despite his denial, he was later charged in relation to all of the allegations.

Following the sentencing DC Michaela Burns said: *"Most importantly, I want to acknowledge the incredible courage of the victims in this case for coming forward and reporting what happened to them. It is thanks to their bravery that Rowlands predatory behaviour has finally been exposed, helping to safeguard other women in the future. Rowlands actions were truly horrifying but thanks to the strength and resilience shown by both victims, throughout the investigation and the trial, he is now facing the rightful consequence of his actions. Nobody should have to experience what they have been through, and I hope the conclusion of this case and the sentence handed to Rowlands provides the victims with a sense of justice and supports them in their ongoing healing process."*

To report any sexual offence, call Cheshire Constabulary on 101 or visit <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report/rsa/alpha-v1/v1/rape-sexual-assault-other-sexual-offences/%20>. In an emergency always call 999. Information can also be given anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

### **Wrexham man jailed for driving dangerously through Chester City Centre streets**

A 28-year-old man from Wrexham has been sentenced after pleading guilty to a number of driving offences in Chester City Centre.

Llewellyn Parry-Jones from Borrass Hall Lane, Llan Pwll, Wrexham appeared at Chester Crown Court on 2 June to be sentenced after pleading guilty to dangerous driving, driving while disqualified, driving without insurance, obstructing a constable, drink driving, public order and possession of cannabis. He was sentenced to 19 months in prison, and banned from driving for three years, nine months and 14 days. He also has to take an extended test.



The court heard that at 12.05pm on Saturday 3 May, police were made aware that a white Vauxhall Combo van was being driven in the Chester area by a disqualified driver who was suspected to be under the influence of alcohol. At 12:40pm onwards local authority CCTV shows the van being driven around the city centre tailgating other cars. He turned left toward Grosvenor Park Road and collided with a pedestrian. On Grosvenor Park Road he increased speed significantly and crossed into the second lane. He went onto Vicars Lane toward Pepper Street on the wrong side of the road overtaking four stationary cars toward oncoming traffic before cutting in front of the fourth vehicle.

He then went on from Pepper Street onto Bridge Street where he turned right across the front of oncoming traffic at a crossroad junction. An officer spotted Parry-Jones driving along Pepper Street as it headed toward the Bridge Street area. Two officers attempted to bring the van to a stop, but Parry-Jones deliberately reversed into the front of one of the vehicles before driving forward and attempting to flee through the bollards onto the pedestrianised area of the shopping precinct. The van couldn't get through the bollards, but he did collide with a bicycle in a bike rack causing damage.

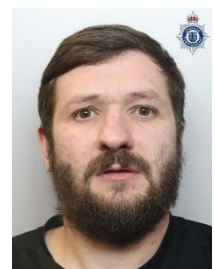
When the two officers went to arrest Parry-Jones he was physically and verbally aggressive and appeared to be intoxicated. He tried to punch one of the officers but they managed to safely restrain him. They then found cannabis in his coat following a search. Llewellyn Parry-Jones, was later charged with dangerous driving, driving while disqualified, driving without insurance, resisting arrest, drink driving, use of threatening behaviour without intent and possession of class B drugs (cannabis).

PC David Smith said: *"His erratic driving around Chester City Centre while intoxicated was incomprehensible. The city centre was busy with vehicles and pedestrians at the time. His behaviour was reckless and could have caused a serious or even fatal incident. When we were able to bring him to a stop safely, he tried to evade capture causing damage to our police vehicles and tried to assault officers. His behaviour was idiotic and dangerous and now he is paying the consequences."*

### **Drug dealer jailed again after dealing drugs from his prison cell**

A man from Northwich has been jailed after he admitted dealing drugs from his prison cell in Preston.

Samuel Watts appeared at Burnley Crown Court on Thursday 5 June where he was sentenced to four years and four months in prison. The 34-year-old of Thornley Green, Northwich, had earlier pleaded guilty to being concerned in the supply of class A drugs (cocaine) while serving a prison sentence at HMP Kirkham near Preston. The court



heard how in September 2023 Watts was jailed for three years after he admitted being concerned in the supply of class A and B drugs (cocaine and cannabis) and possession of a weapon.

In July 2024 officers at Northwich Proactive CID discovered intelligence suggesting that Watts was in possession of a mobile phone and was coordinating the sale of illegal drugs in Northwich from his prison cell. Following the discovery, officers arranged for Watts to be searched in his cell, where prison officers discovered an Apple iPhone which was strapped to his waist. The phone was later analysed by officers at Northwich who recovered a catalogue of messages which proved he was involved in the sale of illegal drugs. Watts was later arrested on Thursday 21 November 2024, as he left HMP Kirkham following his release for his previous offences.

Following the sentencing PC Dan Lee, Of Northwich Proactive CID, said: *"Watts saw his initial prison sentence as an inconvenience rather than a punishment. After smuggling a mobile phone into the prison, he thought that he could simply continue to run his criminal enterprise from behind bars, directing people lower down the chain to deliver drugs on his behalf. However, he clearly underestimated the dedication and determination of the team here at Northwich Proactive CID. As soon as we became aware of his latest activities we brought them to a swift conclusion and were ready to arrest him as he was released from prison. I welcome the latest sentence handed to Watts and hopefully this time he'll use his time behind bars to reflect upon his actions rather than trying to set up another business venture, otherwise we'll be waiting for him again next time he's released."*

<https://youtu.be/mYIPHwoYBy0>

### **Three people arrested and cannabis farm discovered following police stop check in Barnton**

Officers from Northwich have arrested three people and discovered a cannabis farm in Liverpool following a police stop check in Barnton.



At around 11.30am on Wednesday 5 June, officers from Northwich Local Policing Unit Beat Team stopped a white Vauxhall Vivaro panel van on Runcorn Road which was showing as uninsured. During a search of the vehicle officers discovered two blocks of cannabis resin and the occupants of the van, two men, aged 38, and 44, were both arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply class B drugs.

Following the discovery, a section 18 PACE search was undertaken at an address on Weston Avenue in Speke, where officers discovered a cannabis farm in the loft, the electricity to the property had also been bypassed. A 32-year-old woman was also arrested at the address on suspicion of production of class B drugs. The two men have since been released on bail until Friday 5 September.

Insp Paul Heatley, of Northwich Local Policing Unit said: *"This is another fantastic result which has led to the removal of a large quantity of illegal drugs from the streets of Northwich. While this investigation is in the early stages, I hope that these arrests provide reassurance for residents in the area and the wider community. I want to reassure the public we are doing all we can to crackdown on those who bring misery to our communities, helping to ensure Cheshire remains a hostile*



*environment for those intent on committing crime. If you have any concerns about drugs activity in your community, don't hesitate to get in touch with us via 101 or online at [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us) or at [Resident's voice | Cheshire Constabulary](#)"*

### **Call for vigilance following keyless car thefts in Sandbach and Holmes Chapel**

Officers are urging owners of cars with keyless entry systems in Sandbach, Holmes Chapel and neighbouring towns and villages to be vigilant.

The call comes after three cars were stolen in Sandbach and Holmes Chapel. Criminals are taking advantage of vulnerabilities in these systems which enable them to drive cars away without first having to break into homes to steal keys. An investigation into the thefts has been launched, and while enquiries are ongoing officers are urging residents to take action to reduce their chances of becoming victims.

Insp Jim Adams said: *"Keyless entry systems on cars offer convenience to drivers but they can, in some situations, be exploited by car thieves. Thieves are cloning keys that are inside homes by sending signals to them from outside overnight. We are doing all we can to tackle the issue, but we need residents' help to prevent further thefts. By assessing your current security measures and taking a few simple steps you can significantly reduce the chances of your car being stolen. Think about how you store your keys at home. Keeping your keyless entry fob out of sight is not enough as thieves only need to get near to the key to be able to clone it. I urge drivers to keep both sets of keys in a Faraday bag. They block the signal from the fob and are widely available. Additional security devices such as mechanical steering locks and trackers are also effective in protecting vehicles from thieves."*

Other tips for owners of cars with keyless entry systems include:

- Contact your dealer for information and guidance regarding the digital features in your car. Have there been any software updates you can take advantage of?
- Check if your keyless entry fob can be turned off. If it can, and your dealer can confirm this, then do so overnight.
- Keep an eye out for suspicious activity in your neighbourhood and report anything unusual to the police.

Anyone with information about vehicle crime is urged to call Cheshire Police on 101, or give the details [here](#). You can also call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

### **Caravan seized following Northwich closure order**

Police have thanked the community for their patience and support after a caravan which was subject to a closure order in Northwich was finally towed away.

On Thursday 31 October 2024 officers from Northwich Neighbourhood Team secured the closure order for a caravan on private wasteland off



Liverpool Street following persistent reports of anti-social behaviour and drug related activity. Since the closure order was issued, officers have been working closely with colleagues at Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC) to secure the removal of the caravan. Thanks to the partnership work, the caravan was finally removed from the site on Wednesday 4 June by CWaC using powers from the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994.



Following the removal of the vehicle, staff from CWaC's Street Clean team will be attending the site over the coming days to remove the remaining waste from the site.



PC Alex Aston, of Northwich Neighbourhood Team said: *"Firstly, I would like to thank the local residents for their patience and support over the past year. The behaviour of the occupants of the caravan was totally unacceptable and was having a significant detrimental impact on the quality of life of residents. This has been an extremely complex process, and while I understand that it has not been quick, ultimately, I believe that we achieved the best outcome for the local community. We want people to be able to live in their homes without having to endure this sort of behaviour and the closure order is another example of our commitment to targeting those who undermine our communities and bring misery to others."*

Anyone who is concerned about anti-social behaviour in their community is urged to call Cheshire police on 101 or visit [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us).

### **Northwich man charged following business burglary**

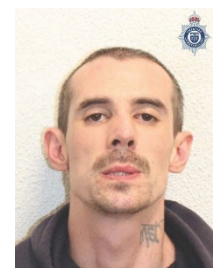
Detectives investigating a burglary at business premises in Northwich have charged a man in relation to the incident.

Jonathan Heron, of no fixed abode, has been charged with one count of burglary other than a dwelling. The 48-year-old has been remanded in custody and is set to appear at Chester Magistrates Court on Thursday 5 June. The charge relates to a break in at fitness studio on Chester Way on Sunday 1 June.

### **Man jailed following Crewe robbery**

A man has been jailed for more than two years after stealing mobile phones from a shop in Crewe.

Jack Wyatt, of Kent House Road, Beckenham, London, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Monday 2 June where he was sentenced to 30 months. The 35-year-old had previously pleaded guilty to robbery.



On Friday 7 March 2025, Wyatt entered a phone store in Market Street, Crewe. A staff member opened a display cabinet of phones close to the entrance of the shop. Wyatt then grabbed a number of mobile phones from the unlocked cabinet while the staff member was still stood in front of it. Despite the staff member's efforts to stop the theft, Wyatt then exited the shop and fled the scene on foot. During the altercation, Wyatt struck the staff member to the face. The stolen phones included four iPhones to the value of £4,250.

Wyatt was identified as a suspect after facial recognition technology provided a match from a CCTV image captured at the scene. Following enquiries, he was subsequently arrested in London on Monday 10 March and transported to Cheshire where he was later charged.

DS Challinor said: *"I welcome the sentence handed to Wyatt and hope it reassures people in the local area that we are committed to tackling crime against businesses in Cheshire. Wyatt thought he would try and make some easy money by stealing a number of phones, orchestrating his actions and waiting until a display cabinet near to the entrance of the shop was opened. But our officers conducted a number of enquiries and traced Wyatt to London where he was arrested. This demonstrates that if you commit crime in Cheshire, you will be located, there is nowhere to hide."*

### **Image released following suspicious incident in Warrington**

Four people arrested in relation to the supply of ketamine in Runcorn

Detectives investigating the supply of ketamine to young people in Runcorn have arrested four people following a series of raids across the town. Earlier today, Wednesday 4 June, officers from the Protecting Vulnerable People Unit at Halton conducted four warrants at addresses across Runcorn resulting in the arrest of four people on suspicion of conspiracy to supply class B drugs (ketamine). The arrests include two men, aged 24 and 18, along with two teenage boys. A large quantity of ketamine was also recovered during the raids. The raids are part of an ongoing investigation in relation to the supply of ketamine to young people across the town.

DI Upile Mtitimila, of the Protecting Vulnerable People Unit said: *"Over recent months we've become aware of a concerning increase in the use of ketamine amongst young people in the Halton area and we're committed to doing all we can to tackle the issue. We have seen the devastating impact that these drugs can have on our young people, and it is an issue the force takes extremely seriously. This morning's warrants were the culmination of many months of work focusing on individuals suspected of being involved in the supply of these drugs. We hope that today's operation reassures local people that we are listening to what they are saying and are taking those concerns seriously."*

All five suspects are currently being held in police custody where they are being questioned by officers.

DI Mtitimila added: *"Following this morning's raids, I would like to take this as an opportunity to reach out to parents and guardians about the risks that ketamine can cause and the signs and symptoms that they need to look out for. Ketamine is an illegal drug which is sold as a white powder. It works like an anaesthetic as it can reduce awareness and sensitivity to pain as well as*



*reducing movement. When used, ketamine can result in a young person becoming confused, unable to move their arms and legs properly and may lead to very dangerous situations. Ketamine use can result in profound medical issues, including incontinence and pain, that can affect a person throughout their life. Ketamine use can see people use Ketamine to numb pain and health issues which are directly caused by Ketamine resulting in a destructive cycle. I would urge all parents to speak to their children about the dangers and if you are worried that your child may be using ketamine then please get in touch with your GP. Further advice and support can be found online at <https://www.talktofrank.com>."*

Anyone who sees drug dealing or has information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via the website <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us> Alternatively, information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

### **Police secure partial closure order for a house in Blacon**

Officers have secured a partial closure order at an address on Norris Road, Blacon to prevent anyone other than the tenant being at the property due to concerns that a woman at the address is vulnerable and the address is being used for drug activity.

The order, which came into effect from 3 June and will run for three months, is a direct result of officers responding to the concerns of residents regarding the behaviour at the property, including drug activity and antisocial behaviour. Closures such as these could not be possible without the valuable input of residents, local authority, housing associations and private landlords. By working together, communities can only benefit from the positive action our team can take on their behalf. The partial closure order should protect the woman from harm and stop unwanted visitors.

Sgt Gemma Ashton, of Blacon Beat Team said: *"I hope that the latest closure will help to reassure residents that we do listen, and we do act on information with our partners to keep residents safe. We couldn't do this without your support, so thank you and let's keep talking to improve our communities and stamp out illegal activity and anti-social behaviour. I want to urge anyone with concerns about ASB or other criminality in their community to please contact local officers and we will do everything we can to address these issues."*

### **Northwich man jailed for online sexual offences**

A man from Northwich has been jailed for 23 years after he admitted engaging in online sexual communications with a child.

Mark Woodcock, of Belmont Road, Northwich, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Friday 30 May where he was sentenced to 17-years in prison plus six years on extended licence. The 29-year-old had earlier pleaded guilty to 27 charges, including attempting to cause a child to watch sexual activity, causing a child to watch sexual activity, attempting to incite a child to engage in sexual activity, possession of indecent images of



children, making indecent images of children and distribution of indecent images of children. In addition to his prison sentence, he was also ordered to sign the sexual offenders register for life.

The court heard how Woodcock had engaged with the profile of a 12-year-old girl on snap chat. During the messages he engaged sexualised communications with the child and sent her a number of explicit images and videos. He also encouraged her to engage in sexual activity. Woodcock was later arrested on Tuesday 14 November 2023 following a warrant at his home in Northwich where officers recovered several digital devices including mobile phones, and a laptop. During subsequent analysis of the devices, officers discovered 80 indecent images of children, along with a number of snapchat messages with another child, who was confirmed as being under the age of 16. Again, within the messages Woodcock shared indecent images of himself and encouraged them to engage in sexual activity.

In his interview, Woodcock provided a pre-prepared statement claiming that no one he had spoken to online had identified themselves as being 12 years old. He then refused to answer any further questions put to him by officers. Despite his silence, he was later charged with a total of 27 offences.

DC Stacey Thompson, of the Online Child Abuse Investigation Team, said: *"I welcome the sentence handed to Woodcock, who was left with no choice but to plead guilty to all of the charges as a result of the messages and indecent images that we discovered on his devices. He was well aware that his victims were underage, and as a 29-year-old man he knew what he was doing was wrong, but despite this he continued with his deceitful actions. Through the use of social media, he specifically targeted young girls, plying them with sexualised messages and indecent images in order to fulfil his own sexual desires. Thankfully, as a result of the evidence we gathered, he has now been held accountable for his actions and is facing a significant time behind bars where he can reflect upon his actions."*

To report any sexual offence call Cheshire Constabulary on 101 or visit

[www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report/rsa/alpha-v1/v1/rape-sexual-assault-other-sexual-offences](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report/rsa/alpha-v1/v1/rape-sexual-assault-other-sexual-offences).

Always call 999 in an emergency. Information can also be passed anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

### **Man jailed following burglary in Mobberley**

A man who was linked to a burglary after his blood was found at the scene has been jailed for more than three years.

Macauley Coutts, of no fixed abode, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Monday 2 June where he was sentenced to 40 months. The 29-year-old had previously pleaded guilty to burglary.



On Tuesday 4 March 2025 at around 6.05pm, a resident in Blakeley Lane, Mobberley, reported their address had been burgled. Officers found the back doors had been smashed to gain entry to the property at some time between 9.40am and 6pm that day, while no-one was at home. Every room

had been searched by the suspect. Spare keys to two Audi vehicles had been stolen, along with two watches. Officers located blood at the scene and forensic samples were taken. This provided a match to Coutts and a warrant was subsequently executed on Tuesday 11 March at an address in Wythenshawe, however Coutts was not present. Coutts continued to evade police until, after extensive enquiries, he was later arrested on Friday 11 April by Greater Manchester Police in Salford, before being transported to Cheshire where he was later interviewed, charged and remanded into custody.

DS Laura Fox said: *"Burglary is a terrifying and intrusive crime, knowing that someone has forced their way into your home, somewhere you should be able to feel safe. I hope the sentence handed to Coutts reassures the local community that we are committed to tackling burglary offences and bringing those responsible before the courts. This should send a strong message to anyone who is intent on committing crime. No matter how hard you try to cover up your tracks, we use every tool at our disposal to identify you."*

### **Over 200 blades recovered during week-long county-wide effort to reduce impact of knife crime**

During Sceptre week officers from across the Constabulary intensified efforts through proactive policing, community engagement and collaborating with partner organisations and local retailers.

Sceptre (which has been known as "Operation Sceptre" in previous years) ran from Monday 19 May to Sunday 25 May as part of the National Police Chief Council's (NPCC) week of activity that sees police forces across England and Wales intensify their efforts in tackling and reducing the impact of, knife crime in our local communities.

Knife crime is an issue officers recognise that residents are particularly concerned about, which is why they are determined to keep the county's streets weapons-free. These efforts have already yielded positive results, with recent figures showing that possession of weapons offences in Cheshire have fallen by 6.6%, with 727 incidents recorded in the 12 months to April 2025, compared to 778 recorded in the previous year. The Constabulary remains committed to further reducing the number of knives carried across the county, and during the week efforts in tackling knife crime have been intensified through enforcement and engagement initiatives as the force continues to strive towards creating a county where nobody feels the need to carry a blade.

For this week of action, the first of two for 2025, there was a particular focus on ensuring the county's retailers were aware of the rules and regulations surrounding the sale of bladed articles, leading to the conducting of several test purchase operations with local young people attempting to buy knives and blades without proper identification proving they were old enough to do so.

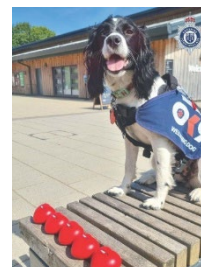
A great example of this proactive work came in Northwich and Winsford, with LPU officers and colleagues from trading standards completing 25 test purchase operations across 17 retailers, which included supermarkets, retail chains and smaller independent stores. Of the 17 they visited, all but one passed the test purchase operation, with officers and trading standards colleagues reminding them of the laws surrounding the sale of bladed articles for potential future incidents.



Staying in the east of the county, officers and PCSOs in Crewe conducted information leaflet and poster drops to community engagement hubs and organisations such as the local Salvation Army, along with delivering safety presentations and demonstrations to schoolchildren and conducting knife sweeps in the county's parks alongside local councillors. Whilst in Macclesfield, plainclothes officers were deployed into town centres and hotspot areas on regular occasions across the week to respond to any unfolding incidents and catch offenders unawares. A number of knives along with five razor blades and a syringe were also recovered during an amnesty event.

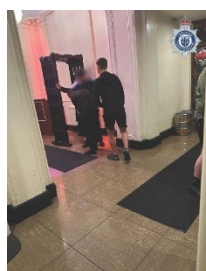


In the city centre, officers were out and about, engaging with members of the public with the force's very own Well-Being Dog, Poppy, visiting several youth organisations and Chester's Storyhouse to meet young people to encourage open conversation with officers and discuss personal safety. Personal safety alarms and #DropTheKnifeSaveALife stress balls were also handed out to visitors by local officers at the Safety Bus in various locations across the city.



Further in the western part of the county, Ellesmere Port's Police Constable Sarah Bailiff conducted 19 one-hour face-to-face knife crime and personal safety inputs with students at West Cheshire College aged 16 - 25 years old. In addition to this, a safety presentation was sent out to all local schools in the area and delivered to nearly 330 students.

In the north, a 'Pop-up police station' in Runcorn recovered several knives and blades during their surgery and colleagues from Warrington LPU Youth Engagement spoke to over 360 children about personal safety and the dangers of knife crime and gang culture. During one school visit, officers also confiscated two imitation firearms that have since been made safe and are set to be destroyed. In Widnes, a total of 92 blades (nearly 50% of all knives recovered by officers across the county) were recovered through knife amnesty and community knife sweep events. Officers also worked with night-time economy venues throughout the week, deploying knife arches outside venues such as nightclubs to ensure everyone enjoying their evenings in Widnes could do so without fear.



All this proactive police work and more resulted in a total of 205 knives and bladed weapons being removed from the Cheshire's streets.

Supt Cath Jones, who led the Force's Sceptre week, said: *"Over the course of May's Sceptre week, we saw some great examples of community engagement and partner relationship building that will help us continue to push the message that Cheshire is a hostile environment for anyone who*

*chooses to carry a weapon. We have been busy working with our partner organisations, including local councils and charities, third-sector organisations, young people and community groups in conducting a number of activities such as knife sweeps, the delivering of safety demonstrations and the rolling out of knife arches and surrender bins in densely populated areas.*

*"Our officers have also been visiting the county's retailers along with colleagues from trading standards to conduct test purchase operations, ensuring that knives are not falling into the wrong hands. It was very reassuring to see that the majority of retailers are aware of the relevant rules in regulations surrounding the purchasing of, what can be, lethal weapons.*

*"Knife crime is not an issue police can tackle on their own, which is why engagement between your local policing teams, schools, youth organisations, community groups and businesses alike is incredibly important when it comes to pushing for a wider societal change. We want everyone to feel that they can come to the police with any issues, not just knife crime, so we can take immediate action and keep them safe."*

To report any type of crime involving weapons, call Cheshire Constabulary on 101 or 999 in an emergency. Anyone who knows someone that carries a knife can report it to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously> Information can also be passed to the force online via [Report | Cheshire Constabulary](#)

### **Investigation launched following major fire in Warrington**

An investigation has been launched after fifty people were evacuated from their homes following a major fire in Warrington.

At 5.28pm on Monday 2 June, emergency services were called to a fire at a block of flats in Marsh House Lane in Warrington. Fifty occupants of the flats were evacuated by firefighters and assessed by paramedics at the scene. Thankfully, there were no reports of any serious injuries. Police remained in attendance at the scene throughout the night and assisted with road closures in the area. A joint investigation into the cause of the fire has been launched, and officers are urging anyone with any information to come forward. A child was also arrested as part of the investigation, they have since been bailed pending further enquiries.

DI David Schofield from Cheshire Police said: *"I'd like thank residents for their patience throughout the night while emergency services dealt with the incident. We're working closely with our partners at Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service to establish the cause of the fire and would urge anyone with any information which may aid our investigation to get in touch."*

Anyone with information who has not yet contacted police should call 101 or go to [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us) quoting IML 2102808. Alternatively, information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## **Motorcycle safety campaign launched to help young riders stay safe on Cheshire's roads**

The campaign aims to help young motorcyclists in Cheshire make safer choices, stay visible, and understand the real-world consequences of risky riding.

The launch coincides with the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) 2 Wheels operation which takes place between 2 – 15 June and is supported by Cheshire's Road Safety Group. The campaign comes in response to local data showing a disproportionate number of serious motorcycle collisions involving riders aged 16 to 30. Of these, almost half involve riders aged just 16–20, and the majority occur on lower-powered bikes (50cc–125cc), often used on a provisional licence.

CI Cameron Taylor, from Cheshire Constabulary's Roads and Crime Unit, said: *"This campaign is about helping young riders think about what's really at stake and support safe use of our roads – not just for their safety, but the impacts it has upon their independence, their finances, and the people who care about them. We want this to start positive conversations at home, in colleges, and within local communities. The aim is to highlight the dangers and consequences of how you choose to ride and ultimately prevent avoidable tragedies."*

[https://youtu.be/zk1B\\_XfrHSE](https://youtu.be/zk1B_XfrHSE)

The campaign's messaging reflects the day-to-day realities of unsafe riding, such as the financial cost of a collision, the loss of a driving licence, or the impact on family trust and relationships.

<https://youtu.be/Rdv3ZHPSogc>

This message will be echoed in short videos and stories shared throughout the summer, but the campaign's real strength will come from direct engagement and community conversations.

<https://youtu.be/QO998B2nBD4>

Running throughout the peak summer riding season, the campaign will include a series of face-to-face engagement events across the county, including:

- Community meet-ups at McDonald's drive-thrus. This is a popular gathering point for young riders.
- Fire station open days featuring safety demonstrations, talks, and chances to connect with local emergency services.
- College and training provider visits, offering guidance to students new to riding.
- Biker Down workshops and partnerships with IAM RoadSmart and local instructors to deliver practical safety sessions and peer advice.
- Outreach through local forums, instructors, and motorcycling groups to promote safe habits and reinforce campaign messaging.

CI Taylor added: *"These activities aim to create trusted spaces where young people can talk openly about riding challenges, share experiences, and gain practical advice, whether they ride for leisure, study, or work. We know young riders value their freedom and independence, but that freedom comes with responsibility. Our officers and our road safety colleagues from across Cheshire's Road Safety Group will be supporting young riders in making smarter choices."*



Cheshire Police, Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, Cheshire East, Warrington, Halton, and Cheshire West and Chester Councils road safety teams are all backing the campaign through funding, community outreach, and education efforts. The initiative officially launches on 2nd June, with engagement activities continuing throughout the summer. For more information, [visit our Motorcycling Safety and Awareness campaigns page on our website](#).

### **Shavington man charged in connection with sexual offences**

A man has been charged in connection with sex offences Shavington.

Trevor Sewell was arrested at around 8.40pm on Friday 30 May at an address in Shavington. Sewell has since been charged with attempting to engage in sexual communication with a child. The-57-year-old appeared at Chester Magistrates' Court on Monday 2 June, where he was conditionally bailed to appear at Crewe Magistrates' Court on Monday 29 September.

### **Two people charged following police stop check in Northwich**

Two people have been charged with drugs offences following a police stop check in the Northwich.

Angela McKay and Carl Tomlinson were both arrested shortly after 4pm on Friday 30 May after officers stopped a white Mazda on Gadbrook Road, Rudheath. During the arrests, a quantity of illegal drugs was recovered along with two mobile phones and a quantity of cash. McKay, 50, of Highfield Avenue, Lostock Gralam, and Tomlinson, 43, of Siddall Street Northwich, have both since been charged with two counts of possession with intent to supply class A drugs (heroin and crack cocaine). The pair appeared at Chester Magistrates Court on Saturday 31 May where they were released on conditional bail. They are next set to appear at Chester Crown Court on Monday 30 June.

### **Man charged following Northwich hate crime**

Officers investigating reports that a man was verbally abused in Northwich town centre have charged a man in relation to the incident.

Sean Leigh was arrested following an incident on Leicester Street at around 1.45pm on Friday 1 November a member of the public was racially abused by an unknown man. He has since been charged with one count of racially aggravated abuse and one count of use of threatening and abusive language with intent to cause fear. The 37-year-old of Arley Road, Northwich, appeared at Chester Magistrates Court on Friday 30 May, where he was released on bail. He is next set to appear at Chester Crown Court on Friday 27 June.

## Latest Cheshire Appeals

### Image released following suspicious incident in Warrington

Officers have released an image of a man they would like to speak to in relation to a suspicious incident in Warrington.

On Wednesday 30 April, two 14-year-old girls were walking along Canons Road, Great Sankey, Warrington, shortly before 3.15pm. They spotted a man standing outside St James Church who they believed may have attempted to take photographs of them. They reported that the man then continued to follow them until reaching Sycamore Lane. Officers have now released an image of a man they would like to speak to in relation to the incident as they believe he may hold vital information.



A Cheshire Police spokesperson said: *"We understand the concern this incident may have caused in the local community and we would like to reassure those in the area that we have been conducting enquiries since it was reported to try and identify and speak to the person involved. As part of our enquiries, we are now releasing an image of a man we would like to speak to as we ascertain exactly what took place. Anyone who recognises the man pictured should get in touch with us via 101 or via [www.cheshire.police.uk](http://www.cheshire.police.uk) and quote 25000359605. We would also appeal directly to the man pictured to contact us."*

### Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)

c/o Corporate Comms | Cheshire Constabulary HQ | Clemonds Hey | Oakmere Road | Winsford | Cheshire | CW7 2UA

Email: [cheshirenw@outlook.com](mailto:cheshirenw@outlook.com)

Website: <https://www.cheshirenw.org>

Facebook: [facebook.com/groups/cheshirenw](https://facebook.com/groups/cheshirenw)



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Constabulary



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](https://www.cheshirenw.org)