

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 23rd November 2025

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Two men charged following serious assault in Macclesfield

Detectives investigating a serious assault at an address in Macclesfield have charged two men in relation to the incident.

At around 11.40pm on Wednesday 19 November, police were called to reports of an assault at an address on Fir Court, Macclesfield. Officers attended and found that a 44-year-old man had sustained serious injuries following an assault. The man was taken to Macclesfield Hospital where he remains at this time.

Six men and one woman were subsequently arrested in relation to the incident and, following questioning, two have since been charged. Haden Whittaker and Aaron Whittaker have both been charged with attempted murder. Haden, 33, of Rowarth Road, Manchester, and Aaron, 35, of Ivymeade Road, Macclesfield, have both been remanded in custody and are set to appear at Chester Magistrates' Court on Monday 24 November. The remaining suspects have all been released pending further enquiries.

DCI David Worthington said: *"I would like to reassure residents that this is believed to be an isolated incident, and we are not looking for anyone else in relation to the incident. "Anyone with any concerns, or anyone with any information in relation to the incident should call us 101 quoting IML2218016."*

Body found in search for missing Warrington man

Police searching for a missing man in Warrington have sadly found a body.

Geoffrey Whitfield was reported missing at 10am on Thursday 20 November from his home in Latchford. Searches for the 86-year-old have been ongoing and sadly officers located a body in the River Mersey at around 12pm today, Saturday 22 November. Formal identification has not been confirmed, but it is believed to be that of Geoffrey. His family have been informed of the development, and they are being supported by specialist officers. The death is not being treated as suspicious.

Insp Nick Bamber said: *"Sadly, this is not the outcome that we were hoping for and our thoughts are with Geoffrey's family at this difficult time. I would also like to thank everyone who has assisted with the search for Geoffrey, including local residents, the Northwest Underwater Search Team, Warrington Council, and all the volunteers from Cheshire Search and Rescue (CSAR)."*

Annual operation launched to support delivery drivers and couriers across festive period

With Christmas now less than five weeks away, Cheshire Constabulary is set to launch its annual operation to support delivery drivers and couriers across the festive period.

Operation Delivering will launch on Monday 1 December and run until Wednesday 31 December. Throughout the operation officers will be visiting key locations across the county and engaging with delivery drivers to provide reassurance and offer crime prevention advice, to help ensure everyone gets their deliveries in time for the festive celebrations.



DSupt Clare Coleman, who is leading the operation, said: *“While Santa will be busy on Christmas Eve making his own deliveries, we know many people give him a helping hand in the run-up to Christmas Day. This includes delivery drivers and couriers here in Cheshire, making sure your online gift orders get to you safely. This means there are even more delivery drivers out on the roads and sadly, this makes them a potential target for thieves. We are committed to doing all we can to prevent this from happening, and as part of our operation launching on 1 December, we’ll be visiting key locations across the county and engaging directly with delivery drivers. There will also be both marked and unmarked police vehicles patrolling key routes and roads near to distribution centres in Cheshire. As part of our operation, we’re also encouraging couriers to take all the necessary steps they can to reduce their chances of becoming a victim.”*

There are a number of simple steps which delivery drivers can follow to help play their part. These include:

- Ensure your vehicle is in proper operating condition.
- If you spot a suspicious vehicle following you, do not exit the vehicle, keep doors locked, keep moving, and call police.
- Agree a daily delivery plan with employers or, if independent, with a family member, and check with them on a regular basis. If possible, when out delivering consider using alternative routes rather than always going the same way.
- Ensure your mobile phone is fully charged.
- If something does not look or feel right, do not make the delivery. Call your employer and explain the circumstances.
- Be aware of your surroundings and avoid areas that are not well lit. Park under a streetlight if possible.
- Carry a torch to illuminate dark areas and walkways.
- If you feel threatened, activate the panic alarm on your vehicle to draw attention to the situation.
- Always lock your vehicle - even if you are only leaving it for a short period of time. It would take a matter of seconds for a thief to get into your vehicle and make off with something valuable.
- If your vehicle has rear windows, consider darkening them to prevent passers-by from seeing what’s inside.
- Make sure that no valuables are left on display when leaving your courier van (for any amount of time) and fully close all the windows.

- Install a 'police follow this van' sticker on your vehicle to make officers aware of who you are.
- if you have a keyless van, consider using a key blocking pouch to prevent other people from accessing your vehicle while you are handing over parcels.
- Consider installing a tracker – if the worst were to occur and your vehicle were to be stolen, a tracker would enable officers to quickly locate it.
- Install additional security features – doors are one of the most vulnerable areas on delivery vans and they can sometimes be forced open, so consider installing a stop lock or a slam lock to help make it harder for criminals to get inside your vehicle.
- If an emergency occurs, remain at the scene only if it is safe. Dial 999 and wait for police to arrive at the scene.

Detective Superintendent Coleman added: *"Local residents also have a role to play in helping us by reporting any suspicious activity and ensuring that there is somebody at home when any parcels are delivered. By working together, we can all help to reduce the chances of falling victim to thieves and ensure everyone gets their deliveries this Christmas."*

You can report anything suspicious to Cheshire Police on 101 or online at <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us>, In an emergency always dial 999.

Speeding biker sentenced following 125mph pursuit

A biker who reached speeds of over 125mph during a pursuit across Cheshire West, and was later found to have been riding whilst under the influence of drugs, has been sentenced.

Kerion Griffiths, of Longfield Avenue, Chester, appeared at Chester Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 12 November where he was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment suspended for 18 months. The court heard that on Saturday 2 August a uniformed motorcycle officer from the Roads and Crime Unit was on patrol on the A54 Chester Road, Kelsall, as part of an Operation Ceaser deployment. During this patrol, he noticed a green Kawasaki ZX1000 motorbike overtake a group of bikes at a set of temporary traffic lights at over 100mph.

The officer pursued the bike, that was travelling in the direction of Northwich, and indicated it pull over; however, it failed to do so and continued to drive in excess of the speed limits on 70mph, 50mph and 20mph roads. During the pursuit, the officer recorded the motorbike reaching speeds of over 125mph and, due to this level of risk being taken by the rider of the bike, was forced abandon the pursuit. Whilst the bike was not seen again that day, the officer recorded the incident and informed colleagues to look out for it on future patrols.

A week later, on Saturday 9 August, two officers were on patrol on the A41 Chester Road in Ellesmere Port when they pulled over the same green Kawasaki motorbike. One of the officers in the police vehicle had been made aware of the pursuit that involved this bike a week earlier subsequently arrested Griffiths for failing to stop for police and dangerous driving. A subsequent search also resulted in the officers uncovering several cannabis cigarettes in his rucksack, which led

to him being tested at the roadside for drugs. This test coming back positive for him having traces of cannabis in his system and he was further arrested on suspicion of drug driving and then taken into custody. Once in custody, officers conducted a section 18 search of his home, with them finding a further quantity of cannabis inside and Griffiths was again further arrested on suspicion of possession of cannabis.

Upon being interviewed, Griffiths told officers he was “going to go guilty” and fully admitted to being the rider of the Kawasaki motorcycle involved in the pursuit on Saturday 2 August, going on to say that he was aware that a police motorcycle had indicated to him to pull over, but he had panicked and reached the high speeds on his bike in an attempt to flee. The 31-year-old was subsequently charged and would plead guilty on his first appearance in court on 14 October. On top of his sentence, Griffiths, 31, was handed an 18-month driving ban, a £272 court charge and he will be the subject of a 12-month supervision period, where if he reoffends during this timeframe, he could face a custodial sentence.

Sgt Andy Griffiths, of the Constabulary’s Motorcycle Unit, said: *“It was clear that Keiron Griffiths was using our roads as a racetrack and had no intention to stop travelling at dangerously high speeds that the pursuing officer observed. Not only this, but when arrested by colleagues a week later, he was found to be over drug drive limit and in possession of cannabis. High speeds paired with riding under the influence of illegal substance only further increased the risk his posed to other road users, pedestrians and himself. However, thanks to the teamwork shown by our officers, including the PC who remembered hearing about the green Kawasaki motorbike that sped away from his colleague at over 125mph a week earlier, a successful prosecution has been made and another dangerous driver has been removed from our roads.”*

Woman sentenced for stealing from elderly man

A woman has been sentenced after stealing thousands of pounds from an elderly man.

Rebecca Culley, of Seneschal Court, Runcorn, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Monday 17 November where she was sentenced to 20 months suspended for two years. The 34-year-old had previously pleaded guilty to three counts of theft against an elderly family member. Culley had been caring for and assisting the victim since 2021, meaning she had full access to his financial accounts.

Between 2021 and 2023, money was transferred from these accounts into Culley’s, without the victim’s permission. Culley also used a store credit card in the victim’s name to purchase items, which the victim had no knowledge of. The offending only came to light when the victim’s financial accounts were checked by his family and it was discovered that Culley had emptied them, leaving him financially unstable. The total value of the theft was more than £90,000. Culley was arrested in February 2024 following enquiries into the matter and charged.

Detective Constable Gareth Yates said: *“I welcome the sentence handed to Culley who stole an incredibly large amount of money from someone who should have been able to trust her. Instead, she completely abused this and used her position supporting an elderly and vulnerable individual to*

purchase items and steal money for her own selfish gain. This drained the victim's accounts, but Culley clearly thought funding her own lifestyle was more important. Thankfully, thanks to evidence against her, she pleaded guilty and is now being held accountable for her actions."

Northwich county lines gang jailed for more than 12 years

Four people who were members of a county lines gang in Northwich have been jailed for more than 12 years.

Dahir Sharis, Ilajah Cisse-Rubio, Shaun Tomlinson, and Sharon Mears, all appeared at Chester Crown Court on Friday 14 November where they were sentenced to a total of 12 years and four months in prison. The sentences consisted of -

- Sharis, 19, of Kahina Court, Yarburgh Street, Manchester – jailed for four years for three counts of being concerned in the supply of class A drugs.
- Cisse-Rubio, 20, of Freetown Close, Manchester – jailed for four years for three counts of being concerned in the supply of class A drugs.
- Mears, 58, of Weaver View, Northwich, jailed for 28 months for two counts of supplying class A drugs.
- Tomlinson 58, of Weaver View, Northwich, jailed for 28 months for two counts of supplying class A drugs.



In June 2024 police became aware of a mobile phone number which was being used to sell illegal drugs in the Northwich area. The mobile had been linked to a number of flare messages which had been issued advertising the sale of heroin and crack cocaine. Enquiries suggested that the phone was being used by Tomlinson. Following the discovery, a warrant was conducted at an address on Dock Road in Northwich, which was previously occupied by an associate of Tomlinson. Upon entering the address at 4.50pm on Tuesday 16 July, Sharis attempted to flee the property, but was quickly arrested by officers. Tomlinson and Mears were both located in the living room and detained by officers, while Cisse-Rubio was arrested in the bedroom. Two 16-year-old youths were also arrested at the address.

During a search of the address officers located a quantity of crack cocaine, heroin, cannabis, £560 cash, digital scales and a number of mobile phones. The estimated value of the drugs found at the address was £6,000. As a result of the discovery, a further warrant was conducted at the home of Tomlinson and Mears, a flat on Weaver View in Northwich, where officers recovered another mobile phone. Following their arrests, all six suspects were taken to custody where they were questioned by officers. During questioning, all the defendants denied being involved in the sale of illegal drugs. Despite their silence, after gathering a catalogue of evidence, all six were charged.

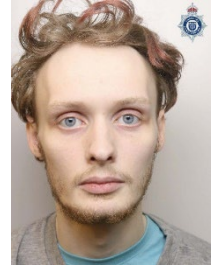
Following the sentencing, DI Robert Balfour, from the Op Apollo team, said: *"I welcome the sentences handed to the defendants in this case and I hope that they act as a warning to those involved in the sale of illegal drugs. In this case it was clear that Shariff, Cisse-Rubio, Mears and Tomlinson were all the controllers of the gang, using mobile phones to organise the sale of illegal drugs across the Northwich area. Between them, they exploited the two teenagers, using them as street level dealers to sell drugs on their behalf."*

“Thankfully, as a result of the evidence we were able to gather, all four offenders have now been held accountable and are now facing the consequences of his of his actions. Drug dealing has a hugely detrimental impact on our communities, and we’re committed to doing all we can to ensure that those responsible are held accountable. While they are now behind bars, our fight against illegal drugs remains ongoing, and I would urge anyone with any information to get in touch via 101 or on the police website.”

Man jailed after deliberately driving head-on into police officers

A man who drove head-on into a police car responding to a 999 call has been jailed.

Joseph Sharpes appeared at Chester Crown Court on Monday 17 November where he was sentenced to 54 months in prison. The 22-year-old, of Chadwick Road, Middlewich, had earlier pleaded guilty to causing grievous bodily harm with intent, causing serious injury by dangerous driving, actual bodily harm, drug driving and possession of cocaine.



The court heard how at around 12.30pm on Saturday 7 June 2025 officers were on Crewe Road in Haslington responding to a 999 call to concern for safety for Sharpes at an address in Haslington. Prior to police arrival Sharpes had left the address and drove in the direction of the officers. As the police vehicle drew close, at the last minute, Sharpes deliberately turned into the officers path hitting them head-on. The combined impact speed was estimated to be around 80 miles per hour. As a result both officers and Sharpes were hospitalised following the collision with serious injuries. Sharpes was arrested at the scene and remained under arrest in hospital until his eventual release where he was then interviewed, charged and remanded into prison. Sharpes later pleaded guilty to all offences at Chester Crown Court.



Following the sentencing, DS Ryan Ogden, said: *“I welcome the custodial sentence handed to Sharpes. The actions of Sharpes not only put himself in danger but also two police officers and other members of the public. Both officers suffered significant physical and psychological injuries as a result of the collision. One of them has still not returned to work. I also hope the conviction and release of the dash camera footage will help address some of the insensitive comments made on social media at the time apportioning blame to the police for the collision.”*

<https://youtu.be/w2aFlzUbanc>

Appeal for information following incident on Congleton bus

Officers investigating an incident on a bus in Congleton are appealing for information and witnesses.

At 5.58pm on Monday 17 November, officers in Congleton responded to an incident on a bus travelling from Crewe to Congleton. It was reported that a 17-year-old girl had been sexually assaulted by a man on the bus. Within 20 minutes of receiving the call, officers had arrested a 70-year-old man in the Market Street area of Congleton on suspicion of sexual assault. He remains in custody at this time and is assisting officers with their enquiries. As part of their investigation, officers are now appealing to anyone who witnessed the incident, or has any relevant information, to contact them.

CI David Levins said: *"I appreciate the level of concern incidents such as these cause, so I would like to reassure the members of the local community that we acted swiftly and had made an arrest within 20 minutes of receiving the call. We believe this to be an isolated incident, and officers are providing support to the 17-year-old. With that being said, part of our investigation into this incident, we are asking anyone with any relevant information to contact Cheshire Police via 101, or visiting www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us, using incident reference number IML-2216700."*

Alternatively, information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Appeal to locate man reported missing in Chester

Officers are appealing for help from the public in locating a man who has been reported missing in Chester.

William Webb was reported missing on Sunday 23 November after he was last seen by friends outside Rosies nightclub in Northgate Street at around 4am that morning. The 21-year-old is described as 5'6/7" tall, of a slim build, and was wearing a grey hoodie, a white t-shirt with a black design on the back, grey jeans and white shoes. A sighting of him has since been established on CCTV at 4.25am on Sunday 23 November in New Crane Street.



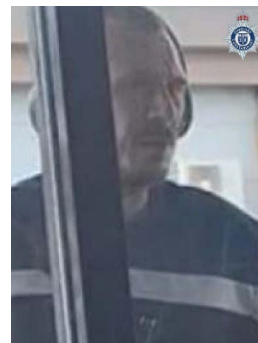
DCI Ian Murray said: *"Officers are currently conducting a number of enquiries to locate William, and we are urging anyone who may have seen him to get in touch with us. We would also ask people to check their CCTV, dashcam or video doorbells in case this captures his direction of travel. Anyone with any information should contact Cheshire Police via 101 or by visiting www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us, quoting IML-2220405."*

CCTV Image released following reports of suspicious activity in Warrington.

Detectives have released a CCTV image of a man they are looking to identify following reports of suspicious activity in Warrington.

On Thursday 14 August, police received reports of a man acting suspiciously outside Pure Gym on Fennell Street, Warrington. Enquiries into the incident have been ongoing and officers have now released a CCTV image of a man they would like to speak to in relation to the incident.

DC Caitlin Bebbington, of Warrington PVP Unit, said: *"Enquiries in relation to this incident have been ongoing and as part of our investigation, we would like to speak to the man pictured in the CCTV image. If anyone recognises him, please contact us via www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us or call 101, quoting 25000673279. I would also like to appeal directly to the man pictured to come forward."*



Appeal to trace wanted man from Crewe

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

Sebastian Elgie is wanted in to a serious assault. The 31-year-old is described as white, with short/shaven hair, a short brown beard and brown eyes. Elgie is from Crewe and is known to have connections to the Nantwich area of Crewe.

Anyone with any information regarding the location of Elgie is asked to contact Cheshire Police via the website or on 101, quoting 25000709686.



Appeal for information following fail to stop collision in Hartford

Police are appealing for witnesses and video footage following a fail to stop collision in Hartford.

At around 6.30pm on Sunday 16 November, police were called to reports of a collision on Bradburns Lane, near to the junction of Beach Road. Officers attended and found a car, a silver Volkswagen Polo, had collided with a house. There were no reports of any injuries, but the occupants of the vehicle, two men, fled the scene on foot.

A structural engineer attended the scene following the incident, and work is ongoing today, Monday 17 November, to safely remove the vehicle. The road is open at the current time, but closures are expected while recovery work is undertaken.

Enquiries trace the occupants of the car are ongoing and officers are keen to hear from anyone who witnessed the incident is urged to get in touch. The same goes for anyone with any dashcam or CCTV footage which may aid the investigation. Anyone with any information is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 2216136 or visit www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us.

Police are appealing for witnesses follow an altercation in a Wilmslow beer garden

Police are appealing for witnesses following a fight in a Wilmslow pub's beer garden.

In the early hours of Saturday 6 September two women were having an argument in the beer garden of the Carters Arms in Chapel Lane. The argument became physical and one of the women suffered a serious injury to her arm. She was taken to hospital by ambulance to be treated.

PC Harry Bayley said: *"There were lots of people in the beer garden at the time who may have witnessed the two women arguing. I'd urge anyone who saw what happened to contact us so that we can progress with our enquiries."*

As part of the investigation a 38-year-old woman from Manchester was arrested on suspicion of section 18 wounding with intent.

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via the [website](#) quoting IML 2170673. Alternatively, information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)

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