

# Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 8th March 2026

Cheshire News & Appeals



## Latest Cheshire News

### **Sandbach man jailed for dealing Class A drugs**

A man from Sandbach has been jailed for dealing Class A drugs.

Robert Yates from Union Street in Sandbach appeared at Chester Crown Court on 4 March to be sentenced after pleading guilty to possession of Class A drugs (cocaine) with intent to supply. The 60-year-old was jailed for 35 months.



On Monday 9 June a warrant was executed at an address in Union Street in Sandbach. A number of items were seized at the address including digital scales, phones, drug paraphernalia, cash, drugs and a sword. The drugs were valued by a drugs' expert to have a street value of £40,200. Yates, who had been arrested at the address was later charged.

Sgt Craig Hodson said: *"This is just one of many warrants local policing units carry out in order to disrupt illegal drug supplies and make life difficult for dealers. We will continue in our efforts to rid communities of the illegal drugs to improve our neighbourhoods. If anyone has any information about drug dealing in their neighbourhood you can contact us on 101 or via our website and we will do the rest."*

### **Man jailed following Ellesmere Port phone robbery**

A man has been jailed after assaulting a teenager and stealing his phone.

Damien Brewer, 32, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 3 March, where he was sentenced to two years and eight months in prison. Brewer, of no fixed address, pleaded guilty to robbery during his first appearance in court on the same day.



The court heard that on Sunday 1 February 2026, a 17-year-old boy was waiting for a friend in the Civic Way area of Ellesmere Port when Brewer approached him and punched him in the face. The force of the blow knocked the boy to the ground, at which point Brewer stole his phone and fled the scene. Cheshire Police were called, and operators from the local authority's CCTV team—who had captured the incident—directed officers to the location Brewer had run to.

Brewer was located a short time later and arrested in connection with the incident after officers found the stolen phone in his possession. In interview, Brewer admitted being the individual who assaulted the teenager and confirmed that he intended to sell the phone for cash.

Following sentencing, Detective Constable Richard Willding-Jones said: *“Damien Brewer’s unprovoked attack on a teenager who was simply waiting for a friend is deplorable. I welcome the fact that he admitted his wrongdoing at the earliest opportunity and is now facing the consequences of his actions. Following the immediate aftermath of the incident, the attending response officers provided much-needed reassurance to the victim, who was considerably shaken, and then identified and arrested the suspect - I would like to thank them for their swift and professional response during this incident. I would also like to thank our colleagues from the local authority CCTV team, whose support was invaluable. They not only captured the incident itself—which formed a key part of our evidence against Brewer—but also tracked him immediately afterwards and directed us straight to him.”*

### **Man charged with hate offences in Runcorn**

William Thompson was arrested at around 2.14pm on Wednesday 4 March and has since been charged with two counts of racially aggravated assault, racially aggravated harassment and using threatening behaviour to cause distress.

Thompson, of East Lane, Runcorn, has also been charged with possession of cannabis. The 36-year-old has been remanded in custody to appear at Chester Magistrates’ Court on Thursday 5 March. The charges relate to an incident that occurred in the Barnfield Avenue area of Runcorn.

### **Residents urged to remain vigilant following reports of charity scam**

Cheshire Constabulary is urging residents to stay vigilant following reports of scammers targeting people in Cheshire East.

Officers in Chester and Cheshire East have received several reports from concerned residents who have been approached by an unknown woman claiming to represent a disability charity. In one incident, that was reported in November 2025, the woman approached a member of the public in a supermarket car park in the Mill Lane area of Chester. She was carrying a card reader and asked for a donation of five pounds. However, the device had been set to £5,000. Fortunately, the transaction was declined.

More recently, on Monday 2 March, Cheshire Police were contacted after reports that the same woman had been seen asking for donations in the London Road area of Holmes Chapel. The caller reported that the woman was carrying a sign stating she was deaf and was asking members of the public to withdraw cash for her from nearby cashpoints. The caller approached her, challenged her behaviour, and advised that he would contact the police. Following this, the woman then left the

area. She is described as being around 25 to 30 years old, approximately 5ft 7in tall and with auburn hair.

Detective Sergeant Jordan Trentini said: *“Fraudsters are extremely convincing and persistent, and they often target the elderly or vulnerable, sometimes resulting in the loss of thousands of pounds. As well as tracing those responsible, we urge everyone to spread awareness and remind people to remain vigilant. With that in mind, I would like to ask anyone who has any information regarding the identity of the woman believed to be involved in these incidents, or who has been approached in similar circumstances, to please contact us. If you have any information, please use the reporting tools on our website or call 101. Information can also be given anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.”*

### **Cheshire Constabulary to deploy Live Facial Recognition technology in Chester city centre**

Cheshire Constabulary will be deploying Live Facial Recognition (LFR) technology in Chester city centre on Thursday 5 March, marking the first use of the LFR van in the county.

The deployment aims to support the ongoing work of officers in identifying individuals who are wanted by police, outstanding suspects, or those who pose a risk of harm to the public. LFR allows officers to be alerted in real-time if a person on a specific, pre approved watchlist passes through the area being scanned. During the deployment, officers will be available to speak with members of the public, local businesses, and community groups to explain the technology, listen to concerns, and offer reassurance about the safeguards in place.

Strict privacy, data protection and human rights safeguards will be in place for every LFR deployment. Only images of individuals on a pre approved watchlist are used by the system, and any biometric data of passers-by who do not match a person on that list is automatically and immediately deleted. Officers reviewing any potential matches must also confirm the identity before any action is taken. Cheshire Police will be clearly signposting the use of the technology throughout the city centre, including visible signs around the area and information shared online. Officers will be available throughout the day to answer questions from residents, business owners and visitors.

Chief Inspector Darren Griffiths, who is overseeing the deployment, said: *“Keeping people safe is at the heart of everything we do, and LFR is another tool that can help us locate people who may pose a risk to the public. This first deployment in Cheshire will allow us to understand how the technology works in our local context and how it can support our officers to keep people in Chester safe.*

*“We know that people understandably have questions about how LFR works, so we will be on hand throughout the day to explain the process, what the technology does and importantly what it doesn't do. It does not store images of the general public, it does not track people, and it is not used for mass surveillance. The system only alerts officers to individuals who are already wanted for*

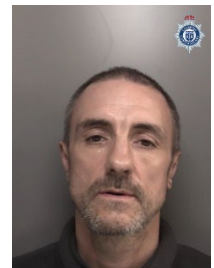
*specific offences. This first deployment is not simply about our technology, it's about engaging with the public, improving safety, and being transparent about the tools we use to protect our communities."*

Members of the public can find more information about Live Facial Recognition [on the Constabulary's website](#), including details on how the technology works and the safeguards that govern its use.

### **Wanted Liverpool shoplifter tracked down by Offender Management Team**

A prolific shoplifter who targeted retailers in Merseyside whilst wanted on recall to prison has been sentenced following intervention from Cheshire Police's Serious and Complex Offender Management Team.

Colin Poole appeared at Liverpool Crown Court on Thursday 26 February, where he was handed a 20-week custodial sentence after pleading guilty to 15 counts of theft from a shop. During the hearing, the court was told that Poole was the subject of a Serious Violence Prevention Order (SVPO) and upon his release from prison, on 27 November 2025, he told officers that he did not have a permanent address, but he resided in Chester. Due to this, his behaviour and subsequent monitoring of the SVPO was to be managed by Chester Probation Service. The next day, the 44-year-old would become wanted on recall to prison after failing to attend his induction session with probation teams.



On 24 February 2026, an officer from Cheshire Police's Serious and Complex Offender Management Team was tasked with reviewing Poole's SVPO and found that he had no links to Cheshire and had left the county and was believed to be residing in Merseyside. With this information the officer contacted colleagues from Merseyside Police to advise them that Poole was now living in their force area. It was also uncovered that since he had been wanted on prison recall, Poole had been involved in 15 incidents of shoplifting that occurred across the Liverpool area. The next day, 25 February, Poole was arrested by Merseyside Police's fugitive team and remanded in custody.

Police Constable Taylor of the Serious and Complex Offender Management Team said: *"Colin Poole wasted no time in abusing his freedom following his release from prison, failing to attend his first probation session and falsely believing that that fleeing to Merseyside would allow him to continue reoffending without any form of consequence. He was wrong and it would only be a matter of time until we caught up with him. His arrest and subsequent five-month prison sentence are very much welcome, and I would like to thank our colleagues from Merseyside Police for their support in arresting him and putting him before the courts to face the consequences of his actions."*

## **Police crackdown on offenders targeting children and vulnerable people in Cheshire**

An operation aimed safeguarding children, and vulnerable people took place across Cheshire last week.

Operation Guardians ran from 23 February to 1 March and brought together teams from across Cheshire Constabulary, including neighbourhood policing units, the Serious Organised Crime Unit (SOCU), the Foreign National Offender Team, the Online Child Abuse Investigation Team (OCAIT), and the Sex Offender Management Unit (SOMU), among others. Officers and staff worked collectively to deter offenders, disrupt criminal activity, carry out checks on known individuals, and build positive relationships with vulnerable young people to help prevent harm.

Throughout the week, SOMU officers conducted unannounced visits to people on the sex offenders' register to ensure they were complying with Sexual Harm Prevention Orders. Online Child Abuse officers also undertook visits to suspects to ensure bail conditions were being followed. Officers from Protecting Vulnerable People (PVP) visited some of Cheshire's most at risk children, offering support, identifying early warning signs, and preventing circumstances that could put them in danger. Neighbourhood officers also carried out a range of proactive activity including school and college visits, weapon sweeps in areas affected by anti-social behaviour, and high visibility patrols in key locations.

As a result of the operation, 48 arrests were made for offences including breaches of sexual orders, child sexual communication, county lines drug supply, possession of weapons and controlled drugs, sexual offences, and domestic abuse. Officers also carried out immigration checks as part of efforts to combat organised immigration crime and ensure vulnerable people were not being exploited under modern slavery legislation. The operation resulted in a wide range of further outcomes, including:

- Visits to over 40 schools, engaging more than 4,000 children on exploitation, county lines, knife crime, and online safety
- Multiple visits to children identified as being at high risk of exploitation
- Breaches by Registered Sex Offenders identified and acted upon
- A county lines intervention resulting in a £65,000 cannabis seizure
- Challenge 25 and knife test purchasing that led to enforcement action
- 61 visits to Integrated Offender Management (IOM) subjects
- Over 200 vehicles stopped
- 40 stop searches conducted
- Seven vehicles seized
- 41 immigration referrals
- 50 intelligence submissions

Detective Superintendent Chris Williams, who coordinated the operation, said: *“Operation Guardians places a spotlight on the work our officers are doing every single day to protect and safeguard children in Cheshire. The protection of children is paramount to us at Cheshire Constabulary, and a key focus of this operation was ensuring known offenders and suspects on bail*

*were not placing any child at further risk. It's vital that anyone intent on harming children understands that we will not allow their actions to go unchecked or unchallenged. While this operation highlights our efforts, this is very much business as usual for us all year round."*

Anyone with information relating to child abuse or exploitation, or who has concerns about someone's safety, should contact Cheshire Constabulary on 101 or report online [via the force website](#). Information can also be provided anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

### **Man arrested following pursuit in Chester**

Officers have arrested a 23-year-old man following a pursuit in Chester.

At around 8.40am on Friday 27 February, an officer from the Constabulary's Motorcycle Unit on patrol in Chester spotted a green Kawasaki motorbike being ridden by a man on Barrow Lane, Tarvin. Suspecting the vehicle of having fake registration plates, the officer indicated the rider pull over; however, he failed to do so. A pursuit was subsequently authorised, with the officer following the rider along country lanes at speeds of upwards of 80mph in both 30mph and 50mph zones. The rider was also witnessed crossing over central road markings to the opposite side of the carriageway and driving round blind bends at considerable speeds. Several road signs also clearly indicated that there was a closure ahead, however the rider ignored these and continued driving with the officer in pursuit.

The pursuit concluded when the rider reached the road closure, driving through roadwork barriers and then unsuccessfully attempting to navigate his way around a parked digger, causing him to come off of the vehicle. After being detained by the pursuing officer, the 23-year-old from Ellesmere Port was subsequently arrested on suspicion of dangerous driving, drug driving, driving with false registration plates and driving without insurance. He was also arrested on suspicion of possession of cannabis. He has since been released under investigation.

Police Constable John Millar, of the Motorcycle Unit, said: *"Whilst stopping a vehicle using fake registration plates may not seem like the most serious of crimes, we often find that those choosing to use vehicles with fake plates are often involved in other criminal activities and, in this instance, we found the rider to be in possession of class B drugs as well as driving under the influence. The pursuing officer in this incident clearly indicated to the rider to pull over, but they chose to ignore these requests and proceeded to travel at speeds in excess of the legal limit and towards a road closure. Choosing to get behind the wheel whilst under the influence of drugs, without the correct insurance and driving at high speeds are a recipe for disaster. All these factors create a greater risk to not only themselves, but other road users and pedestrians."*

<https://youtu.be/XKxEGMXO97Y>

## **Man charged following incident in Runcorn**

Officers investigating an incident in Runcorn have charged a man.

Scott Robertson was arrested at around 11.26am on Sunday 1 March. The 33-year-old has since been charged with inflicting grievous bodily harm without intent. Robertson, of Malmesbury Park, Runcorn, has been remanded in custody to appear at Chester Magistrates' Court on Monday 2 March. The charges relate to an incident in the Church Street area of Runcorn on Friday 27 February

## **Latest Cheshire Appeals**

### **Appeal for witnesses following fatal collision in Warrington**

Officers are appealing for information following a fatal collision in Warrington.

At 12.11pm on Wednesday 4 March, police were called to reports of a collision in Cherry Lane, Lymm, Warrington. The single-vehicle collision involved a Voge motorcycle. The rider of the motorcycle, a 56-year-old man, was sadly pronounced dead at the scene. His next of kin have been informed and are being supported by specialist officers at this time.

Inspector Andrew Dennison said: *"This is a tragic incident in which a man has sadly lost his life. As we begin our investigation into the circumstances surrounding this incident, we would like to appeal to anyone who may have witnessed what happened or captured anything relevant on CCTV or dashcam footage to please get in touch with us.*

*"You can report information by calling 101 or by visiting [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us) quoting [IML-2282230](https://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us). Our thoughts remain with the friends and family of the man who has died at this sad time."*

### **Appeal to trace missing teenager from Warrington**

Police are appealing for help in tracing a missing teenager from Warrington.

Joshua Olsen was last seen at around 9pm on Monday 2 March in the Dallam Lane area of Warrington. He has since been seen in Warrington town centre a short time later riding a black bike with blue writing. The 14-year-old is described as white, with light brown hair and blue eyes. He was last seen wearing a white hat and a light grey jacket.



PC Prince said: *"Our officers have been conducting a number of enquiries to locate Joshua, and we are becoming increasingly concerned for his welfare. As part of our enquiries, we are urging anyone who has seen Joshua, or has any information relating to his whereabouts, to please contact us. I*

would also like to appeal to Joshua directly to please get in contact with us to let us know you are safe and well."

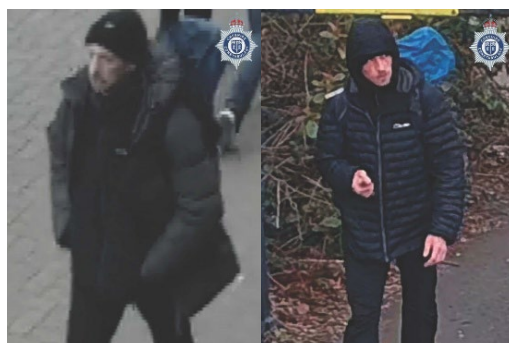
Anyone with any information regarding Joshua's whereabouts is asked to contact Cheshire Police [via the website](#) or on 101 quoting IML-2281322.

### **CCTV images released following theft of pedal cycles**

Officers investigating a series of pedal cycle thefts in Crewe and Nantwich have released CCTV images of a man they would like to speak to.

The first theft was reported on Monday 23 February in which a black Giant pedal cycle was stolen from outside Crewe Lifestyle Centre in Moss Square, Crewe. The second theft was reported on Monday 23 February in which a green Voodoo pedal cycle was stolen from outside Nantwich Leisure Centre in Wall Lane, Nantwich. The third theft was reported on Monday 2 March in which a electric assisted pedal cycle was stolen from South Cheshire College in Dane Bank Avenue, Crewe. Officers have now released CCTV images of a man they would like to speak to in relation to these incidents as they believe he may hold vital information.

Inspector Dan Welch, of Crewe LPU, said: *"We would urge anyone who recognises the man pictured to get in touch with us by calling 101 or reporting information through our website, quoting 26000172424. We would also urge the man pictured to contact us directly. Please also get in touch with us if you have any other information which could aid our investigation."*



## **Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)**

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

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

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

Facebook page: [facebook.com/cheshirenwa](https://facebook.com/cheshirenwa)



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