

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 9th August 2026

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Man charged with sexual offences in Crewe

A 25-year-old man has been charged with sexual offences in Crewe.

Kyle Nolan was arrested at his home address on Ridgway Street, Crewe, on Tuesday 4 August. He has since been charged with two counts of breaching his Sexual Harm Prevention Order (SHPO), one count of making indecent images of children, and one count of possessing prohibited images of children. Nolan has been remanded in custody to appear at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 3 September.

Three charged following incident in Warrington

At around 10am on Monday 3 August, police were called to reports of a disturbance at an address on Nansen Close, Warrington.

Officers attended the scene with support from the firearms unit and NPAS and arrested three men. Following questioning, Liam Byrne, Ainsley Stockton, and Wesley Williamson, have since been charged in connection with the incident. Byrne, 32, of Sharp Street, Warrington, has been charged with being concerned in the offer to supply cocaine, possession with intent to supply Class B drugs (cannabis), possession of criminal property, and possession with intent to supply Class A drugs (cocaine). Ainsley Stockton, 35, of Holford Avenue, Warrington, has been charged with affray, possession of Class A drugs (cocaine), two counts of criminal damage, and possession of an offensive weapon in a public place. Wesley Williamson, 38, of Grasmere Avenue, Warrington, has been charged with being concerned in the offer to supply cocaine, concerned in the supply of Class B drugs (cannabis), possession of criminal property, possession with intent to supply Class A drugs (cocaine), drive whilst disqualified, driving without insurance, and affray. All three men have been remanded in custody to appear at Chester Magistrates' Court today, Wednesday 5 August.

Two men jailed for drugs supply offences in Ellesmere Port

Drug dealers operating in Ellesmere Port have been jailed for a combined total of more than six years.

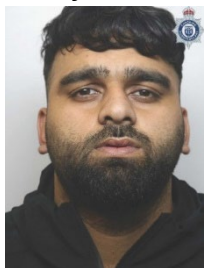
Kashif Rehman, of Hazel Avenue, Bury, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 23 July where he was sentenced to three years and eight months. The 21-year-old had pleaded guilty to being concerned in the supply of heroin and crack cocaine, and possession of cannabis. Khalid Yassin, 20, of Polefield Grove, Prestwich, appeared at Chester Crown Court on the same date where

he was sentenced to three years after admitting harassment and being concerned in the supply of heroin and crack cocaine.

On 4 May 2026, police received reports that a man in Ellesmere Port had been threatened by several men who had been using his address to deal drugs. Officers attended the address and Yassin was found inside, where he was arrested. A quantity of cannabis was also located and a phone was seized. The number attributed to the phone was then linked to officers' ongoing investigations into the supply of class A drugs in the Ellesmere Port area. Messages found on the device revealed evidence of advertising and selling crack cocaine and heroin. Rehman was also linked to this ongoing investigation into drugs supply in Ellesmere Port.

On 11 June 2026, a warrant was executed at his address and mobile phones, plastic bags, weighing scales, and both his and Yassin's driving licences were seized from his bedroom. From messages recovered between Yassin and Rehman, it became apparent that Rehman was working above Yassin, while he controlled the operation from his home address.

Kashif Rehman



Khalid Yassin



DC Rowland said: *"This pair had no choice but to plead guilty to drugs supply offences due to the evidence which our officers worked hard to secure against them. We will always do our utmost to remove drug dealers from our local communities, but we cannot do this without information from residents. Anyone with any concerns relating to drug dealing in their area should contact us, and we will do the rest."*

Domestic abuser jailed for controlling the life of her partner

A domestic abuser, who physically, verbally and emotionally abused her partner for nearly a year, has now been jailed.

Kathryn White, 41, appeared at Liverpool Crown Court on Friday 31 July, where she was jailed for three years and six months. White's sentencing follows a 19-day trial, in which she was found guilty of one count of engaging in a controlling and coercive behaviour in an intimate/family relationship. She was found not guilty of one count of criminal damage valued at £250.



Over the course of her nearly three-week trial, Liverpool Crown Court was told that White had entered a relationship with the victim in this case, a 40-year-old woman, in 2021. From the offset of the relationship, White systematically began isolating the woman from her family and friends, moving herself into the victim's home address and forcing her son to leave the property. As time went on, White would begin controlling what clothing she wore, degrading her appearance and

even telling her that her own family did not care enough to visit her following an admission to hospital. The victim's life was further impacted as White's insecurity and jealousy led to her leaving the job she loved, transferring any money she had over to White. White had also repeatedly accused her of engaging in sexual relationships with colleagues, with White being witnessed by one of the victim's colleagues slapping the victim after she had given another a hug.

On 6 July 2022, officers attended the address after the victim bravely called 999. Officers found her visibly shaken and upset upon arrival. She told the attending officer that, in a fit of rage, White had physically assaulted her, ripped a wardrobe door from its hinges and thrown it at her, before grabbing her by the throat and pinning her against wall. The victim also told the officer that, alongside physical violence, White had emotionally abused her too, which had completely changed who she was as a person. The woman had been left isolated from family, friends and work colleagues and had no access to her own money, social media accounts or emails. White had also threatened to take her own life if she proposed to end the relationship with her. Based on this information, White was arrested by officers and taken into custody.

In interview with detectives, White denied assaulting the victim, controlling her finances, social media accounts and emails and stated she played no part in forcing the victim's son to leave their home address. The 41-year-old also claimed that she had been the victim of physical violence at the hands of the victim and that it was their choice not to have contact with her family. Despite her claims, Kathryn White would be charged with the offence. Sadly, just four days after bravely coming forward to police, the 40-year-old died. However, the testimonies she provided to officers prior to her passing played a vital part in securing White's conviction.

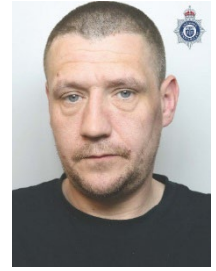
Detective Sergeant Thomas Vass of the Protecting Vulnerable People Unit, said: *"Kathryn White subjected her former partner to a relentless 11-month campaign of physical, verbal and emotional abuse. Through her own insecurities, she isolated the woman she was supposed to care for from her loved ones, friends and even her own son, and had complete control of any sense of personal independence she possessed. Whilst, sadly, the victim in this case is no longer with us to see White held accountable for her deplorable behaviour, I do hope that today's result will provide her family and friends with a sense of much-needed closure and the relief that justice has finally been secured for their loved one. If you, or anyone you know, is in a similar situation involving a partner exhibiting similar controlling or coercive behaviour, I would implore you to please contact Cheshire Police. Our officers treat all reports of this nature with the utmost seriousness, placing the safety and needs of the victim at the heart of all our investigations."*

If you're experiencing domestic abuse, we can put you in touch with other support organisations that understand your specific needs. For information on getting the support, visit [Support organisations for victims of domestic violence | Cheshire Constabulary](#)

Man jailed for more than six years after tampering with gas supply

A man who damaged a woman's gas meter following an argument has been jailed for more than six years.

Steven Jones, of Parker Street, Warrington, appeared at Liverpool Crown Court on Monday 27 July where he was jailed for six years and eight months. The 40-year-old had pleaded guilty to criminal damage – recklessly endangering life. On 20 April 2026, Jones had been having an argument over the phone with the complainant, and during the conversation he attended her home address. He then opened the gas meter cupboard outside her flat and broke the pipe, causing a gas leak. Jones then told the complainant: *“When you open your front door and light a cigarette up, you will go boom.”*



Police attended the scene and there was a strong smell of gas. A gas engineer also attended and made the gas mains safe. Readings indicated a level of gas which would have caused a threat to life, and a small spark would have triggered an explosion. Jones was arrested the following day.

DC Williams said: *“Jones’ actions could easily have caused an explosion, injuring or potentially killing people, all because of an argument. Thankfully, the incident was resolved before anyone got hurt but the outcome could easily have been very different. This reckless, dangerous and calculated behaviour which risked people’s lives has now landed him behind bars for a considerable length of time and I welcome the sentence handed to him.”*

Stoke man jailed for drug dealing in Congleton

A county lines drug dealer from Stoke-on-Trent who was dealing class A drugs in Congleton has been jailed.

Ehsan Shah appeared at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 21 July where he was sentenced to two years and six months in prison. The 34-year-old of John Rhodes Way, Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent, had earlier pleaded guilty to being concerned in the supply of cocaine.



The investigation began after officers became aware of a county lines operation actively selling drugs in the Congleton area. Following enquiries, officers identified Shah as the controller of the line after linking him to the mobile number used to send hundreds of messages advertising the sale of drugs. On Friday 8 May 2026, Shah was arrested after being stopped by officers on West Street in Congleton. A search of his vehicle uncovered snap bags containing a white powder, later confirmed to be cocaine, along with the mobile phone linked to the county line. Officers subsequently executed a warrant at his home address, where they seized a significant amount of cash and a number of luxury items, including watches, designer clothing and two Mercedes vehicles. Shah was later charged in connection with the investigation.

Following the sentencing, Detective Constable Rob Wolstenholme said: *“Shah targeted Congleton thinking it would be an easy place to deal drugs, but what he didn’t realise was that we were hot on his trail. We were able to provide a catalogue of evidence against him, leaving Shah with no option but to plead guilty. Illegal drugs can have a devastating impact not only on those who use them, but also on the wider community. We are doing all we can to stop drug activity on our streets, making Congleton a safer place to live, work and visit, while creating an extremely hostile environment for*

criminals. We will always act on information about suspected drug activity and would urge anyone who believes this is happening in their area to contact us on 101 or [visit the website](#)."

Come home to roost: Solicitor who impersonated a police officer to spy on woman at Nandos sentenced

A man from Manchester, who impersonated a Cheshire Police officer to secure CCTV footage of a woman known to him at the chicken restaurant, has been sentenced.

Connor Johnstone appeared at Leeds Magistrates' Court on Monday 3 August, where he was handed a 12-month Community Order. Johnstone, of Broad Lane, Altrincham, was also ordered to pay £650 in court costs, a £114 surcharge and must complete 260 hours of supervised unpaid work. The sentencing follows a one-day trial at the same court, where the 34-year-old was found guilty of one count of impersonating a police officer.

The case began on 22 July 2025, when staff members at a Nando's restaurant in Warrington received a phone call from a man who identified himself as Police Constable Matthew Gregory from Cheshire Police's Domestic Violence Unit. Gregory told staff that he had been investigating an incident between two parties, a man and a woman, who had attended the restaurant on 21 July. He went on to say that, as part of the investigation, CCTV footage of the two people involved was needed, and he went on to provide descriptions of them. During the phone call, Gregory was asked to sign a CCTV footage release form, and he provided the staff member with what appeared to be a Cheshire Police email address. Once this was done, Gregory asked for an urgent response and that the footage be sent over to him as soon as possible.

On 25 July, a second staff member reviewed the footage and attempted to email PC Gregory back to confirm that the two people he was looking to identify were present in the restaurant. However, the emails she had sent to him were not being delivered. After several attempts to contact him, the staff member decided to call Cheshire Police on 101. Yet, when she explained that had been trying to get in contact with Police Constable Matthew Gregory, the staff member was informed that no such officer worked within Cheshire Constabulary. Officers then began to look into who PC Gregory could possibly be.

They identified that the email address that had been used to contact the staff at Nando's was not an official Cheshire Police domain, but rather it had been purchased on a temporary basis by a Connor Johnstone, a solicitor. On the site used to purchase the email domain, Johnstone had entered his date of birth, phone number and address, leading officers straight to him. Voluntarily attending for a police interview, Johnstone exercised his right to remain silent and refused to answer all questions put to him. It was later uncovered that the one of the people Johnstone was looking to identify under his fake persona was known to him.

Detective Constable Darroch, of the Protecting Vulnerable People Unit, said: *"You do not have to be a solicitor to know that impersonating a police officer is a very serious offence, so Connor Johnstone will have been well aware that his actions were illegal. Under the guise of this persona, and armed with a false email that would have looked legitimate to the uninitiated, Johnstone took advantage of two employees who were simply looking to assist with what they thought was an official police*

investigation. Johnstone clearly counted his own chickens before they hatched, as his decision to play pretend police officer has ultimately resulted him in causing permanent damage to his own reputation.

"If you are contacted or approached by anyone you believe is pretending to be a police officer, I would strongly urge you to contact Cheshire Police. Genuine officers will always be happy to verify their identity. If you are unsure, you can ask to see a warrant card and, if necessary, call 101 to confirm an officer's details."

Further Slavery and Trafficking Risk Order granted following serious allegations involving religious group in Crewe

A woman who was arrested in relation to serious offences involving members of a religious group in Crewe has now been issued with an interim Slavery and Trafficking Risk Order.

Vanessa Gardee Vega was arrested in Middlewich on Monday 20 July on suspicion of human trafficking offences and child neglect. The 53-year-old Mexican woman was subsequently released on conditional bail and appeared at Chester Magistrates' Court on Friday 31 July where she was also issued with a six-month interim Slavery and Trafficking Risk Order (STRO). A number of conditions have been put in place as part of Vega's bail conditions in addition to the Slavery and Trafficking Risk Order. Under the terms of Order, she is now required to comply with the following conditions:

- Not to enter Crewe
- Not to contact the victim
- Not to have any unsupervised contact with any children aged under 18 without the consent of the child's parent or guardian and with the express approval of Social Services for the area.
- Not to travel into or out of the United Kingdom in the company of any person save for her biological children
- Not to organise any transport and/or accommodation for any person other than herself
- Arranging, facilitating, or participating in any arrangement whereby individuals are required or encouraged to reside in any accommodation under their control or influence
- Not to be in possession of any original or copy identity documents save those pertaining to themselves
- Not to be in possession or control of any bank card, payment card, sim card or mobile phone belonging to another person
- Not to reside at an address in the UK for more than 24 hours without reporting her whereabouts to the police
- Not to apply for, obtain or being in possession of any passport, national identity card or other travel document for the duration of this order
- Must surrender any passport, national identity card or other travel document issued in her name to a constable within 24 hours of this order being made.

Vega's arrest forms part of an ongoing investigation which began in March 2026 when Cheshire Police were made aware of allegations of serious sexual offences, forced marriage and modern slavery, involving members of a religious group called the Ahmadi Religion of Peace and Light. This has since raised concerns in relation to the welfare children who were members of the group.

Fourteen suspects have been arrested as part of the overall investigation; they are all currently on conditional bail which prevents them from entering Crewe.

Detective Inspector Eli Atkinson, of the Major Investigation Team at Cheshire Police, said: *"I welcome the granting of this order, and I hope that they provide some reassurance to the local community. Our priority is always the safety of the public, and while our investigation continues, these orders will provide additional restrictions to ensure there is no risk to the public and other members of the group."*

"I would also like to reiterate that this is not an investigation into the religion, our investigation solely focuses on the serious allegations which have been reported to us. I'd also remind residents that this remains a live investigation which will take some time, and I would ask that people do not speculate while the case remains ongoing."

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Appeal for information following indecent exposure in Winsford

Police are appealing for witnesses and video footage following reports of an indecent exposure in Winsford.

Sometime between 12.30pm and 1pm on Friday 26 June, a man had exposed himself on Station Road, near to Gravel Hill Service Station. The man was described as white, around 5' 10" tall, bald and around 60-years-old. He was wearing a black track suit. A number of people were reported to be in the area at the time of the incident, including a woman who police are looking to identify. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and as officers are keen to hear from anyone with any information which may aid the investigation.

Detective Constable Connor McGregor, of Northwich CID said: *"This was a concerning incident, and we're committed to doing everything we can to establish the circumstances. As part of our enquiries, we're keen to hear from anyone who was in the area and believes they may have witnessed the incident. This includes a woman who was reported to be in the area. The same goes for anyone who was driving on Station Road and may have any dashcam footage which could aid our investigation."*

Anyone with any information is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101 or at www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us quoting IML-2358598.

CCTV image released following incident in Chester

Officers have released a CCTV image of a man they would like to speak to following reports of an incident in Chester.

In the early hours of Saturday 30 May, a teenage girl was approached by an unknown man in Chester city centre. During the encounter, the man sexually assaulted the victim multiple times.

Detective Constable Niall Dudley said: *"Enquiries have been carried out since the incident was reported, and we have now released CCTV images of a man we would like to speak to. If anyone has any information as to the identity of the man pictured, please get in touch with us. We would also urge the man to contact us directly. The same goes for anyone with any further information about the incident. You can contact Cheshire Police by calling 101 or [visit the website](#) quoting 26000461032."*



Police appeal for witnesses following house fire in Hale

Police are appealing for witnesses following a house fire in Hale, Widnes.

At 10.49pm on Tuesday 4 August police were alerted by Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service to a house on fire on Hale Road.

DS Chris Sheffield said: *"Thankfully no one was in the property at the time, and no one was injured, but the detached thatched property was destroyed. We're keen to speak to anyone who was travelling along Hale Road between 10pm and 11pm that night who may have seen suspicious activity or anything that didn't seem quite right. The same goes for anyone with any information on the incident."*

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via the website quoting IML 2389031. Alternatively, information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)
c/o Corporate Communications | Cheshire Constabulary | Clemonds Hey | Oakmere Road | Winsford | Cheshire | CW7 2UA
Email: cheshirenw@outlook.com
Website: <https://www.cheshirenw.org>
Facebook page: facebook.com/cheshirenw



In partnership with



Cheshire
Constabulary



Scan to visit website



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