

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 2nd February 2025

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Man jailed following the robbery of a teenager in Chester

A man from Liverpool who robbed a teenage boy in Chester has been jailed.

Bradley Forsyth was sentenced to 12 months in prison at Chester Crown Court on Friday 24 January. The 22-year-old of HMP Altcourse, had earlier pleaded guilty robbery. Police were called at around 7.15pm on Wednesday 6 November 2024 to reports of a robbery in Chester. The victim was travelling on his electric bike at The Parade in Blacon, when he was approached by an unknown man wearing a balaclava. The man threatened to stab the teenager and demanded he hand over his E-bike. The man then took the bike and made off. Following the police report, officers found that the bike was fitted with a tracker, which showed it had initially travelled to Speke and then to Formby. Officers identified a white Renault Clio that was believed to be linked to the robbery, and with assistance from Merseyside Police, a stop search was conducted on the vehicle on Broom Cross Road, Liverpool. Within the vehicle, officers discovered the stolen bike and arrested Forsyth on suspicion of robbery.



Following his sentencing, DC Andrew Manson said: *"I welcome the sentence handed to Forsyth and am pleased that he is now behind bars facing the consequences of his actions. I hope that the outcome of this case demonstrates to local residents how seriously we treat robbery and also acts as a warning to others who are intent on committing crime."*

Man jailed for sexually abusing a child in Warrington

A man who sexually assaulted a child in Warrington for two years has been jailed.

Neal Hatton appeared at Liverpool Crown Court on Thursday 30 January where he was sentenced to 21 years in prison plus an additional six years on extended licence. The 38-year-old of Vulcan Close, Warrington, had earlier been found guilty of two counts of rape and nine counts of sexual assault. During the trial, the court heard how the offences began when the victim was just 9 years old. Over the next two years Hatton's abuse escalated further, as he began to rape and sexually assault the child on a regular basis. The victim described how she was terrified of Hatton, and when she would try to tell him to stop, he threatened to take her to his home and torture her. She would try to ignore him, hoping this would stop him from abusing her, but no matter what the victim did, Hatton's offending continued.



The abuse eventually came to light in July 2023 when the victim sought the courage to tell her mum what Hatton was doing to her, and the matter was immediately reported to Cheshire Police. Following the report, Hatton was subsequently arrested by detectives. During questioning he denied all of the allegations against him. Despite his denials, he was convicted of all the offences, following a trial at Liverpool Crown Court which concluded on Thursday 30 January.

Following the sentencing, DS Ryan Crawford who led the investigation said: *"Firstly, I want to praise the victim for the courage that she has shown throughout this investigation. Hatton is clearly a sexual predator, whose only interest is to fulfil his own sexual gratification. He showed no regard for the victim and even when faced with the mountain of evidence against him, he refused to plead guilty to any of the charges. Instead, he forced his victim to relive their experiences in court, which could not have been easy for them. Thankfully, as a result of the bravery of the victim, and the evidence we gathered, the jury have seen through his lies, and he is now being held accountable for his actions. I hope that the sentence handed to Hatton will provide the victim with some closure and allow her to move forward with her life, knowing that he will never be able to do the same to any other children."*

In addition to the custodial sentence Hatton was ordered to sign the sexual offenders' register and comply with a sexual harm prevention order for life.

DS Crawford added: *"Nobody should have to experience what the victim has been through and if anything can come from this case, I hope that it encourages other victims of sexual offences to come forward and report them to us. Cheshire Constabulary takes any allegation of sexual offences extremely seriously, and any allegation will be thoroughly investigated, with the wishes and needs of the victim as our main priority. Victims should never feel ashamed to talk about what they have been subjected to. They will receive the help and support they need from our specialist officers, as well as from other support agencies we work alongside, and all victims of sexual offences have the right to anonymity."*

To report any sexual offence, call Cheshire Constabulary on 101 or [visit the website](#). In an emergency always call 999. Information can also be given anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

Congleton Beat Team descend on Alsager in early morning drug raid

UPDATE: We have now arrested a 34-year-old man on suspicion of being concerned in the supply of Class A and B drugs.

Congleton Beat Team have carried out a drugs warrant at an address in Alsager on Friday 31 January. At 5.55am officers sawed the door to gain access to the address in Bankside Court and made a search of the property, seizing Class A and B drugs, scales and snap bags. Enquiries are ongoing to trace the man who lives at the address.

Sgt James Bell said: *"Early this morning we carried a warrant after we received information that there may be drug dealing at this property. We acted and have seized the evidence. We're now extremely interested in having a chat with the occupant of the address about our recent finds and are making every effort to track him down."*

Anyone with information should contact cheshire Police on 101 or [via the website](#) quoting IML 2017234. Alternatively, information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

<https://youtu.be/9jgBdedR2OI>

Cheshire ranked as the safest place in the North West

Cheshire is officially the safest place in the North West according to latest statistics from the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

The figures released on Thursday 30 January cover the year to September 2024, compared with the previous 12 months. Cheshire has the lowest crime rate out of all police force areas across the North West of England, with 71 offences per 1,000 people, below the North West average of 94.1 and also well below the national average of 88.1. Compared with the previous 12 months, the number of offences recorded in Cheshire has fallen by 4%. This includes reductions across a number of categories of crime, including burglary offences (-11%), residential burglary (-13%), vehicle offences (-10%), criminal damage and arson (-12%), and public order offences (-19%).

Chief Constable Mark Roberts said: *"I am incredibly proud of these figures, which show that Cheshire is now officially the safest place in the North West. The statistics reflect the hard work of Cheshire Constabulary's officers and staff in continuing to ensure Cheshire is a safe place to live, work and visit. Only this week, we conducted Operation Crossbow across the north of the county, as part of Cheshire Constabulary's ongoing efforts to disrupt criminal activity, including those crossing the border to commit crime in Cheshire. We saw a number of arrests and vehicle seizures to tackle the exploitation of vulnerable people and ensure those committing offences on the county's roads were dealt with robustly. Throughout the recent Christmas period, our dedicated officers arrested 1,752 people across the county in a bid to keep people safe. The force's operation – which ran throughout December – saw officers targeting perpetrators of anti-social behaviour, violence against women and girls, domestic abuse, and drink and drug driving – with a particular focus on night-time economy hotspot areas."*

Dan Price, Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, added: *"I welcome the news that overall crime is slightly lower but undoubtedly there are areas where we need to work harder. I have prioritised these in my Police and Crime Plan which will be published shortly."*

County-wide amnesty to be launched to curb circulation of illegal convertible firearms

Across February, the Constabulary will be joining forces from across England, Wales and the National Crime Agency in a national campaign supporting the amnesty of illegal firearms.



The four-week amnesty campaign to remove Turkish Top-Venting Blank-Firing (TVBF) firearms from our streets will be taking place from Monday 3 February until Friday 28 February to prevent these illegal firearms from being used in criminal circles. Whilst in Cheshire gun-related crime remains low, there are growing concerns on the national stage regarding these firearms.

In their original state, TVBFs have a fully blocked barrel and are designed to discharge only blank cartridges. However, recent testing conducted by the National Crime Agency has found that many criminals have been painting the typically bright-coloured weapons black, imitating lethal firearms. As well as this, it has been discovered that these weapons can be easily converted using household tools to dispense lethal cartridges.

Firearms legislation has not changed; the weapons are illegal to own under the Firearms Act 1968 as they can be readily converted using common household tools and without specialist skill on the part of the person carrying out the conversion. Recent testing completed by the NCA has demonstrated this. The specific Turkish firearms soon to be made illegal are models with the brand names *Retay*, *Ekol*, *Ceonic* and *Blow*. Since 2021, UK law enforcement has recovered more than 800 converted blank firers, with further research finding at least four were used homicides in the UK in the last two years.

Cheshire Police are asking people to hand in any TVBFs before 28 February 2025 to help them avoid prosecution and prevent these pistols from getting into the wrong hands. Many TVBFs may be held in innocence and ignorance of their illegality or may be overlooked or forgotten in their homes. The amnesty gives people the chance to dispose of the TVBFs safely by taking them to a local helpdesk and handing them in.

Firearms can be handed at the five main Cheshire Police helpdesks across the county, which are all open between 8am and 5pm:

- Blacon Police Station - Blacon Avenue, Chester CH1 5BD
- Crewe Police Station - Civic Centre, Crewe CW1 2DQ
- Macclesfield Police Station - Brunswick Street, Macclesfield SK10 1HQ
- Warrington Police Station - Arpley Street, Warrington WA1 1LQ
- Widnes Police Station - John Briggs House, Gerrard Street, Widnes WA8 6BE

Supt Gareth Wrigley, who is leading amnesty operations in Cheshire, said: *"Gun crime in the Cheshire, thankfully, is very rare but we are not complacent about gun crime, which is why we are conducting the Turkish Top-Venting Firearms Amnesty after tests have shown they can be readily converted into firearms, therefore making them illegal to possess. Surrendering top-venting blank firers manufactured by BLOW, CEONIC, EKOL and RETAY now will help prevent them falling into the wrong hands in the future and being used by criminals. More often than not, the top halves of these firearms come in bright colours such as blue, pink or yellow, so they most definitely cannot be missed."*

"We want as many top-venting blank firers as possible to be handed in and I encourage anyone in possession of one to visit their local police station to hand them in. I would also like to reiterate, that anyone who does choose to hand in a TVBF during the amnesty period, will not face prosecution. You can also choose to do this anonymously, so there is no excuse for not disposing of these kinds of firearms. As always, we will be continually working with our partner organisations in educating the people of our county about firearms and the dangers that come with them, to ensure that gun crime doesn't become prevalent in the future."

Police charge man with a number of theft offences following theft from cars in Huntington

Police have charged a 19-year-old Wrexham man with a number of theft offences following an investigation by Chester Proactive Team.

Leighton Mercer from Crescent Road, Wrexham was charged with four counts of theft from motor vehicles, three counts of attempt theft from motor vehicles and one count of fraud by false representation. The charges relate to incidents in the Huntington area of Chester between 23 and 29 January. The fraud relates to a stolen bank card being used. He has been bailed to appear at Chester Magistrates' Court on 14 February.

Industrial incident in Sandiway

At 8.55am on Thursday 30 January police were called to reports that a man had fallen from a tree on the A556, Chester Road, Northwich.

Police and paramedics attended the scene and the man was taken to the Salford Royal Hospital. His condition is currently described as critical but stable. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and the A556 is closed eastbound between Norley Road and Whitegate Lane. The closure will remain in place until at least midday on Friday 31 January while investigations remain ongoing. Diversions are in place and motorists are urged to allow extra time for their journeys.

Two Blacon anti-social behaviour hotspot properties closed down by police

The Blacon Beat Team have secured two closure orders following reports of drug abuse and anti-social behaviour at two properties in Blacon.

The properties on Hillside Road and Glyn Garth have been shut down by officers who secured closure orders under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 from Chester Magistrates' Court on 29 January. Officers also secured a partial closure order at an address on Camberra Way to prevent anyone other than the tenant being at the property due to concerns that the man at the address is vulnerable and the address is being used for drug activity.



The orders, which came into effect from 29 January and will run for three months, are a direct result of officers responding to the concerns of residents regarding the behaviour at the properties, including drug activity and antisocial behaviour. A warrant had also been executed on 27 January at the Hillside Road address with drugs and drug paraphernalia being seized and a 22-year-old man being arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply Class B drugs (cannabis). He has since been bailed pending further enquiries.

Residents in the local area provided enough evidence of the issues coming from the addresses for the team to be successful in obtaining the orders. These closure orders will hopefully bring some peace for the local community which was having to endure such disruptive and harmful 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 the beat team can take on their behalf.

The occupants of the properties have been ordered to leave and find alternative accommodation, with all windows and doors being 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. The partial order should protect the man from harm and stop unwanted visitors.

Sgt Gemma Ashton, from the Blacon Beat Team said: *"I hope that these latest closures 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."*

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.

Man charged following police pursuit in Handforth

Officers have charged a man from Manchester with a number of offences following a pursuit in Cheshire.

Craig Haynes was arrested at around 2.15am on Saturday 25 January following a pursuit involving a grey Fiat Punto which began in Handforth and concluded near to the Flying Horse on Styal Road. The 32-year-old of George Mann Close, Manchester, has since been charged with dangerous driving, failing to stop for officers, driving without insurance and driving without a licence. Haynes has been released on conditional bail and is set to appear at Crewe Magistrates Court on Thursday 13 February 2024.

Man sentenced following serious fail to stop collision in Middlewich

A dangerous driver who fled the scene of a serious collision in Middlewich has been sentenced.

Bill Connors appeared at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 29 January 2025, where he was sentenced to 24 months in prison suspended for 24 months. The 20-year-old, of Gables Close, Old Damson Lane, Solihull, had earlier pleaded guilty to causing serious injury by dangerous driving and failing to stop following a collision. He was also disqualified from driving for two years and will be required to undertake an extended test.

The court heard how shortly after 6.30pm on Monday 4 September 2023, police were called to reports of a collision on Booth Lane, Middlewich. Officers attended and found there had been a collision between a light blue and white Volkswagen Transporter and a black BMW 118D, near to the junction of Tetton Lane. The driver of the transporter van, a 58-year-old local man, suffered serious injuries as a result of the collision.

Connors, who was driving the BMW, was uninjured. But rather than stop and call for help to assist the other driver, he instead chose to contact his friend who collected him, and the pair fled the scene. Thankfully, other members of the public were in the area and helped the victim while they awaited the arrival of the emergency services. The victim was subsequently taken hospital via air ambulance with life-changing injuries.

Following the collision, an investigation was launched by officers from the Serious Collision Investigation Team who gathered a catalogue of evidence identifying Connors as the offender. This included CCTV footage of Connors leaving a nearby hotel and getting into the BMW shortly before the collision. A witness also recorded mobile footage at the scene which showed a man wearing the same distinctive clothing as Connors. A manhunt was launched for Connors, who actively evaded officers. But despite his efforts, he was subsequently arrested on Wednesday 13 September, when he was found hiding underneath a bed in a caravan in Middlewich.

Following his sentencing, DS Simon Degg, of the Serious Collision Investigation Unit, said: *"When you get behind the wheel of a vehicle, you're in control of a powerful machine, easily capable of causing serious injury or even death. Connors completely ignored this, not abiding by the rules of the road, or considering the safety of others, ultimately causing a serious collision which left a man with life-changing injuries. Not only that, but he deliberately chose to flee the scene and leave the victim behind, not even having the decency to call for help. Instead, he was too busy thinking about himself. As a result of his selfish actions the victim has suffered tremendously, both psychologically and physically, and will never fully recover from his injuries."*

Wrexham man jailed on drug and dangerous driving offences following 130mph pursuit

A man has been jailed for four years after he led officers on a high-speed pursuit along the M56 and was found to have over £320,000 worth of class A and B drugs in his Wrexham home.

Maredudd Francis, of Coed Aben, Wrexham, was jailed for four years and four months after pleading guilty to dangerous driving, possession with intent to supply class A drugs (cocaine), possession with intent to supply class B drugs (cannabis) and possession of criminal property. Alongside his custodial sentence, the 31-year-old was handed a two-year driving disqualification that will come into effect upon his release from prison. He will also need to take an extended test before he is allowed back on the road.



The case began on 29 September 2024, when a Cheshire Police officer attempted to stop a grey BMW 325 on the M56 that was being driven by Francis, whose partner was also in the passenger seat. The BMW had been travelling from the North Wales area and was believed to be linked to the supply of illegal drugs, leading the officer to signal to the vehicle to follow them off the motorway at junction 11 for Daresbury. Francis initially complied, following the patrol car up the slip road before he accelerated onto a traffic island, narrowly missing a HGV, and re-joining the motorway he had left just moments ago.

A pursuit was declared with the officer activating emergency systems and giving chase along the motorway where speeds of up to 139mph were reached as the BMW weaved between traffic. The chase came to a conclusion at junction 10 for Stretton, when the BMW left the motorway via the slip road, went through a red light and onto a traffic island where it collided with a Toyota Hilux truck. Remarkably, neither the occupants of the Hilux nor the BMW sustained serious injuries.

Francis was subsequently arrested for dangerous driving. He was then further arrested on suspicion of money laundering after a large quantity of cash wrapped in a rubber band was found in the passenger footwell that Francis admitted belonged to him. Francis was again further arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the supply of drugs after he was observed attempting to snap a phone that had been located by officers searching his car whilst he was in handcuffs.

Cheshire officers subsequently travelled to North Wales to conduct a warrant at an address linked to Francis. During the search officers discovered approximately 8.6kg worth of cocaine, with a potential street value of over £317k, along with around 380kg of cannabis estimated to be worth up to £3.5k. Around £10k in cash, approximately 1000 cigarettes, a Rolex watch and a pair of Versace sunglasses were also found inside a navy suitcase that belonged to Francis.

<https://youtu.be/0ZqWjKtZJLs>

Despite this considerable amount of drugs and other criminal paraphernalia being found within his associated addresses, Francis refused to accept any responsibility and answered with "no comment" to every question posed to him, including as to whether he felt any remorse for his actions. Despite his denial, he later pleaded guilty to the charges of possession with intent to supply class A drugs (cocaine), possession with intent to supply class B drugs (cannabis), possession of criminal property and dangerous driving the following day. He appeared at Mold Crown Court on Tuesday 28 January, where he was jailed for 52 months.

Following sentencing, PC AJ Reid, who engaged in the pursuit of Francis on the M56, said: *"Maredudd Francis' blatant disregard for the safety of not only himself and his partner who was in the car with him, but the other road users on the M56 when he decided to drive at frankly ludicrous speeds, is a testament to how guilty he was and how he thought he could get away with his crimes scot-free. The evidence we subsequently found in his vehicle after his arrest, paired with considerable lengths Mr Francis went to attempting to destroy one of his phones that we seized from him whilst he was in handcuffs, led our us to believe that we were dealing with serious drug dealing operation. Our suspicions were proven when our subsequent searches found a myriad of both class A and class B substances in his associated address, along with copious amounts of cash, designer goods and apparatus synonymous with drug supply. Cheshire Constabulary's various teams who were involved in bringing Francis to justice remain committed to disrupting the illegal drugs supply all over the northern area of the county. This is just one of many results which show we are cracking down on this illegal activity which damages so many people's lives."*

UPDATE - Man charged following Cheshire police pursuit

A man who was arrested following a police pursuit which ended in Middlewich has now been charged.

Kyle Perkins was arrested in the early hours of Thursday 30 January, following a pursuit which began at junction 17 of the M6 near Sandbach. The 35-year-old of Oak Street, Clydach, Tonypany, has since been charged with dangerous driving, failing to stop for officers, failing to provide a specimen for officers and failing to cooperate with a preliminary test. Perkins has been remanded in custody and is set to appear at Chester Magistrates Court on Friday 31 January.

Cheshire Constabulary sees highest rise in drug seizures across England and Wales

Figures released on Thursday 16 January by the Home Office show that Cheshire Constabulary saw the highest increase in seizures of controlled drugs across England and Wales between March 2023 and March 2024.

A total of 3,282 drug seizures were made during this period. Of these, 704 were class A drugs, 2,521 were class B, and 74 were class C drugs. A further 113 seizures of unclassified drugs were made. The increase follows the force's robust approach in tackling Serious and Organised Crime and dismantling County Lines. For example, Operation Heracles was an investigation into the supply of cannabis in Ellesmere Port and Chester between April 2023 and March 2024, with links to upstream suppliers in Manchester and Merseyside. Following a series of warrants, 3kg of cannabis with a street value of almost £98,000 was seized, and 16 men were jailed for more than 80 years.

The force also ran Operation Onion, a proactive investigation which utilises the Drone Unit detecting heat sources to identify cannabis cultivation. In March 2024, the Northern Problem-Solving Team executed a warrant at a disused pub in Warrington town centre which resulted in the recovery of 720 cannabis plants. With support from Project Servator and Polsa deployments, the Creamfields operation has also benefitted from the force's proactive policing strategy and can account for a number of the drug seizures achieved.

The Constabulary's Roads and Crime Unit have made a number of notable drug seizures as they comb through the county's road network, working closely with our neighbouring forces to disrupt cross border criminality through shared intel, ANPR cameras, and eagle-eyed officers to ensure stop checks are conducted where appropriate. In May 2023, pre-emptive tactics were deployed to stop a car at Knutsford Motorway Services following intelligence that the vehicle had been transporting large quantities of drugs between Devon and Merseyside. Upon searching the vehicle, officers seized 1kg of heroin with a street value in excess of £40,000.

Another significant seizure was a result of an investigation in January 2024 that uncovered millions of pounds worth of cannabis which had been hidden inside mattresses. Three men were sentenced to over 17 years in prison following the conclusion of the case. The force seized eight mattresses in Widnes that had been shipped from Canada and contained 334kg of cannabis. The statistics show Cheshire Constabulary has seen an increase of 160 per cent in drug seizures compared to the previous year – the force's largest recorded number of seizures since 2006.

CSupt Alison Ross said: *"These results demonstrate our approach in proactively pursuing those who attempt to traffic drugs into our county and disrupting those involved in serious and organised crime. Our priorities will always lie with protecting our communities within Cheshire from the devastation caused by illegal drugs and those complicit in their sale and distribution, and we continue to tailor our approach to ensure that our county remains a safe place to live and visit. We know that organised criminals grow ever more sophisticated in their attempts to establish and operate drug supply lines, but it is our role as a force to always stay one step ahead, and as we can see from these statistics, we are succeeding at an impressive rate."*

"We also know that our county is often targeted because we are situated between two major metropolitan areas and our road network plays a significant role in connecting much of the North West region. This is why we have intensified our efforts in combatting the illegal drug fraternity and intercepting their supply chains, and we will continue to do so until these criminals realise that if they come to Cheshire they will be caught, their drugs will be seized, and they will be put behind bars for a very long time."

Man charged following incident in Mow Cop

Officers from Cheshire Police have charged a man following reports of an incident in Mow Cop.

At around 3.25pm on Sunday 26 January, police were called to reports of a distressed woman in the Mow Cop area. Officers attended the scene and arrested a man who was known to the victim on suspicion of assault. Following questioning, Gareth Carter has since been charged with section 18 assault and intentional strangulation. The 43-year-old of the Kidsgrove area, appeared at Warrington Magistrates' Court today, Wednesday 29 January, where he was remanded in police custody. He is next set to appear at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 26 February.

Detectives charge Alsager man with eight offences

A man from Alsager has been charged with three counts of assault, two counts of criminal damage and three counts of rape following an investigation by Crewe CID.

The charges relate to incidents which took place between 1 August 2024 and 23 January 2025 relating to one woman. Paul Willatt, 46, of no fixed address appeared at Crewe Magistrates' Court on 25 January and will next appear at Chester Crown Court on 24 February.

Operation Crossbow targets criminality across north Cheshire

Officers from Cheshire Constabulary have conducted an operation aimed at protecting vulnerable people and targeting criminality across the north of the county.

Operation Crossbow took place on Monday 27 January as part of Cheshire Constabulary's ongoing efforts to disrupt criminal activity across the county, including those crossing the border to commit crime in Cheshire. The operation focused on preventing criminality on the county's road network, specifically across the north of Cheshire, including Warrington, Widnes and Runcorn. Officers also tackled anti-social behaviour involving e-scooters and e-bikes. As part of the operation, officers also worked in partnership with colleagues from the force's Foreign National Offender Team to conduct a number of visits to tackle the exploitation of vulnerable people. This was supported by immigration officers from the Home Office.

The day involved more than 100 officers from several departments across Cheshire Constabulary. This included officers from the Northern Exploitation Team, Drone Unit, Roads and Crime, Neighbourhood Policing Team, Motorbike Unit, Special Constables and Dog Unit. Following a morning briefing at The Halliwell Jones Stadium in Warrington, officers were deployed across the north of Cheshire.

<https://youtu.be/NLrNiCsKwjQ>

The overall results from the day included:

- 18 arrests for a variety of offences, including possession with intent to supply class B drugs, drug driving, breach of a criminal behaviour order, and criminal damage. Of these arrests, 10 were for immigration offences, including possession of counterfeit ID documents.
- 41 Traffic Offence Reports (TORs) issued, including for driving with no insurance, driving with no licence, driving while using a mobile phone, and not wearing a seatbelt, amongst others.
- 12 vehicle seizures
- 10 e-scooters/e-bikes seized
- Three community resolutions issued for drugs offences
- The Commercial Vehicle Unit stopped 27 vehicles in total to ensure they were complying with regulations
- A number of premises in Warrington visited by immigration officers for checks
- Speeding tickets to be issued following activations on speed camera vans and mobile speed enforcement
- Warrants executed in Warrington, Widnes and Runcorn in relation to drugs offences

CSupt Alison Ross said: *"This operation was a huge success with multiple arrests, vehicle seizures, and Traffic Offence Reports issued. This is thanks to officers from different departments working together and I hope this sends out a strong message that if you commit crime in Cheshire, or on Cheshire's roads, you will be caught, and we will utilise all of the tactics and resources at our disposal to ensure you are held accountable. As part of the day, we also raised awareness of road safety. On top of this, we utilised the Commercial Vehicle Unit to ensure vehicles were complying with regulations and tackled the use of vehicles to commit anti-social*

behaviour, amongst other measures. I hope the action taken today reassures the public that we will listen to their concerns, and I look forward to continuing with these operations in the future."

Chief Constable Mark Roberts added: *"Operation Crossbow is just one example of the outstanding work our officers do in protecting vulnerable people and holding suspects to account. The day highlighted how we are committed to preventing and deterring crime and anti-social behaviour within our communities and directly respond to residents' concerns. However, these are all areas which we excel at day in, day out, and are part of our everyday policing tactics to continue to keep people safe, reduce crime, and ensure Cheshire remains a hostile environment for criminals."*

New Chief Inspector takes the reins at Northwich LPU

A new Chief Inspector has taken the reins at Northwich Local Policing Unit (LPU).

Matt Charnock, who previously worked in the Resource Management Unit (RMU), succeeds Chief Inspector Leeroy Moss. Chief Inspector Matt Charnock began his career with Cheshire Police in 2012, and since joining the force has undertaken a number of roles within the organisation. He started as a response officer in the north of the county before progressing to become a detective prior to being promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Matt also worked in the Force Control Centre as a Sergeant and Inspector and most recently was Head of the Resource Management Unit.



Speaking about becoming Chief Inspector for Northwich Local Policing Unit, Matt said: *"I am honoured and excited to be taking over as the Commander for Northwich LPU and I look forward to building on the work already done by the team here at Northwich. Over the past year the team have achieved some fantastic results, securing hundreds of charges and convictions for offenders from across Northwich and Winsford. The team have undertaken a vast amount of proactive work to help tackle crime and ASB across the area"*.

Man pleads guilty to selling Class A drugs in Widnes

A man from Widnes has pleaded guilty to dealing drugs in the town following an investigation by the Northern Proactive Policing Team.

Jack Nieman, from Reay Street, Widnes appeared at Liverpool Crown Court on 24 January to plead guilty to being concerned in the supply of Class A drugs (crack cocaine and heroin) and breaching his Criminal Behaviour Order. The 20-year-old will appear at Liverpool Crown Court on 21 February to be sentenced.

The court heard that officers investigating a county lines team, named Mowgli, forensically linked him to controlling a county lines team of drug dealers and co-ordinating them to sell drugs in Widnes between 21 August 2024 and 23 January 2025. They raided his address and discovered Class A drugs and drug paraphernalia such as weighing scales and packaging. He had breached his CBO for failing to notify Merseyside Police of a new mobile number.

PC Nicholls said: *"Our team is committed to disrupting the illegal drugs supply in the northern area of the county. This is just one of many results which show we are cracking down on this illegal activity which blights so many lives. I hope this goes as a warning to other dealers, that we're watching you and will be knocking on your door when you least expect it with our big red key."*

Police appeal for information following attempted armed robbery in Runcorn

Police investigating an attempted armed robbery in Runcorn are appealing for witnesses, information and CCTV footage.

At around 5.10pm on Sunday 26 January, officers responded to reports of an attempted armed robbery in Runcorn. The caller reported that a work colleague had been delivering packages on Coppice Place, Runcorn, and was returning to his delivery van when he was approached by three unknown men. The caller also reported that one of the men was seen carrying a small bat/club-like object, with the men demanding he

hand over his van's keys, threatening to assault him if he did not do so. The delivery driver refused, with the men then fleeing the scene and nothing being taken. The men were described as being in their early 20s and dressed in all black.

DS Gary McClatchey, of CID Reactive East: *"No one should be subjected to violence or intimidation when going about their daily work and this incident left the victim feeling considerably shaken. As part of our investigation I'm keen to hear from anyone who was in the area at the time and believes that they may have seen anything suspicious. I'd also ask residents in the area to check their CCTV or video doorbell footage to see if they have anything which may aid our investigation. The same goes for any motorists with any dashcam footage who may have been passing at the time of the incident."*

Anyone with any information is asked to contact Cheshire police on 101, [or visit the website](#), quoting IML-2014040.

Two men plead guilty to Northwich drugs charges

Two men have pleaded guilty to being concerned in the supply of class A drugs following a stop check in Northwich.

Todd Davies and David Williams, both aged 39, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 22 January where they both pleaded guilty to a number of offences. Davies, of Sixacre Gardens, Warrington, pleaded guilty to two counts of being concerned in the supply of class A drugs (heroin and crack cocaine), possession with intent to supply class A drugs (heroin), possession of criminal property and possession of a knife in a public place. Williams, of The Avenue, West Felton, near Oswestry, admitted one count of being concerned in the supply of class A drugs (crack cocaine). The pair are due to be sentenced at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 6 March.

During the hearing the court was told how on Thursday 11 August 2022 Davies and Williams had been spotted acting suspiciously in a Range Rover on Albemarle Avenue, Hartford. Officers followed the car until it stopped on Beaufort Close and spoke to the occupants. Davies was driving the car, while Williams was sat in the passenger seat. Upon speaking to the pair, Davies initially attempted to provide officers with false details, which resulted in officers conducting a full search of the vehicle.

During the search, officers located a number of items including a bag containing 4.76g heroin and more than £2,300 cash. A knife was also recovered in the glovebox of the vehicle. As a result of the discovery both Davies and Williams were arrested, and two mobile phones were seized. During analysis of the phones, officers discovered a number of messages which linked both men to the sale and delivery of illegal drugs. These included messages between the pair boasting about taking over the sale of cocaine in the Northwich area. After gathering all the evidence a case file was presented to the Crown Prosecution Service who authorised charges against both Davies and Williams.

Following their guilty pleas, PC Daniel Lee, of Northwich Proactive CID, said: *"Davies and Williams thought that Northwich would be an easy target. They came to the town thinking that they'd be able to make their fortune through the sale of illegal drugs. Unfortunately for them, they seriously underestimated the commitment of our dedicated team of eagle-eyed officers who are always on the lookout. So instead of making their fortune, they're both now set to spend some time behind bars. While Davies and Williams have now been held accountable, our fight against illegal drugs continues and I would appeal to anyone who has any information about illegal drug activity or any other criminal activity taking place in their communities to contact us on 101, via the website or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."*

You can report suspected drug dealing to Cheshire Constabulary online at <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>, or by calling 101.

Man charged with sexual offences following incident in Runcorn

Officers investigating a serious sexual assault have charged a man in relation to the incident.

At around 6.57pm on Friday 24 January, police responded to a report of a serious sexual assault in Runcorn. Following enquiries, Bassam Amari, of Larch Close, Runcorn, was arrested at 9.57pm and has since been

subsequently charged with one count of the rape of a woman over 16 and one count of sexual assault on a female. The 43-year-old appeared at Chester Magistrates' Court today (Monday 27 January), where he was remanded in custody. He is next set to appear at Chester Crown Court on Monday 24 February.

Man jailed for controlling and abusing his partners in Macclesfield

A Macclesfield man who subjected his two former partners to a torrent of abuse has been jailed for three years.

Craig Moses, from Vincent Street, Macclesfield, was also given a 10-year-restraining order not to contact the two female victims. The 39-year-old was sentenced at Chester Crown Court on Friday 24 January after earlier pleading guilty to two counts of controlling and coercive behaviour, harassment, and assault.



The court heard how he tried to control both partners when he was in relationships with them, taking their phones, demanding they prove where they are, and isolating them both from family and friends. He went as low and vindictive as threatening to kill them, threatened their wellbeing, was verbally abusive and on occasions violent to them. He also forced one woman to prove she was where she was with doorbell footage, wouldn't let her go to the gym because there were men there, telling her what to wear and sending abusive messages. He also turned up at her work uninvited. Even after reporting him to police, he continued to make their lives a misery, leaving them stressed and anxious, showing no regard for the law.

PC Leila Soleimani said: *"They were left fearing for their safety and indeed their lives. Moses cruel, violent and bullying behaviour showed utter contempt for his victims - isolating them from family and friends and curtailing their lives through threats and demands. I want to thank the victims for bravely coming forward and helping us to put Moses in prison with their evidence. No one should have to suffer abuse at the hands of someone who is meant to love them. I hope seeing him imprisoned for the abuse they suffered and the fact he has a 10-year-restraining order not to contact them, helps in their recovery from this horrific time in their lives."*

Man jailed for selling drugs in Chester

A man has been jailed after pleading guilty to dealing heroin and crack cocaine in Chester.

Nicholas Owens of no fixed address appeared at Chester Crown Court on 24 January to be sentenced after pleading guilty to possession with intent to supply a controlled drug of Class A (heroin) and possession with intent to supply a controlled drug of Class A Drugs (crack cocaine). The 51-year-old was sentenced to 30 months in prison.



On 20 November 2023 Chester Proactive team conducted a warrant at an address in Medlar Close in Chester. Police seized drugs estimated to be worth around £3,000 and other evidence linking Owens to the supply of Class A drugs

DI Rupert Morrey said: *"This is another example of our proactive team removing illegal drugs off the streets and disrupting the supply. I'd urge anyone with information on illegal drug dealing to contact us so that we can continue to rid the streets of crack cocaine and heroin – drugs which have a huge detrimental impact on those addicted to them, and those suffering the consequences of addictions' effect on the wider community."*

Warrington teenager pleads guilty to manslaughter

An 18-year-old has pleaded guilty to manslaughter after he admitted causing the death of his mother in Warrington.

Frederico Canuzo, from Warrington, appeared at Liverpool Crown Court on Monday 27 January. He entered a guilty plea to the manslaughter of his mother, 48-year-old Chintzia McIntyre, on the grounds of diminished responsibility. At around 9.40am on Tuesday 29 August 2023, Cheshire Police received reports of a woman being attacked outside her home address in Phoenix Place, Great Sankey.

Police and ambulance teams were sent to the scene, but Chintzia was sadly pronounced dead. It was determined she had suffered at least 29 blows to the head with a claw hammer. The report had been made to police by her husband, who became aware of the attack after he received a notification sent to his phone from his video doorbell while he was working away in a different area of the country. The activations had shown Canuzo attacking Chintzia, before fleeing from the scene.

Officers subsequently discovered Canuzo had boarded a train heading to London Euston. British Transport Police and the Metropolitan Police were informed and arrested him as he arrived on the platform in London. Canuzo was transported back to Cheshire and the following day, 30 August, he was charged with murder. He has now entered a guilty plea to manslaughter which has been accepted by the prosecution based on medical evidence. Canuzo has been remanded in custody and is set to be sentenced at Liverpool Crown Court on Tuesday 18 March.

DI Eli Atkinson, who led the investigation, said: "This was an exceptionally traumatic incident for all those involved, especially Chintzia's family and neighbours and emergency services who tried to help her. While nothing can ever be done to bring Chintzia back, I do hope that the conclusion of this case will bring her family some closure. Our thoughts remain with Chintzia's friends and family at this time, and we would like to thank them for their assistance throughout our investigation."

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Man wanted in connection with theft in Crewe

Police are appealing for help in tracing a man who is wanted in connection with breaching his Criminal Behaviour Order and theft.

Ian McIntyre, 46, lives in the Crewe area and is described as 5' 8" tall, of medium build and has short, greying hair. Anyone with information about his whereabouts should contact Cheshire Police via www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us or call 101 quoting 25000071615.



Officers appeal for witnesses and footage following fires near Tarporley

Officers are appealing for witnesses or those with footage to get in touch with them following a number of recent fires at a building near Tarporley.

Police have received reports of fires at a vacant building, Tilstone House, just off A51 Nantwich Road, on three occasions throughout January. At around 8.15pm on Sunday 12 January, police received reports of a fire at the building which was dealt with by Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service. A second report of a fire at an outbuilding next to the vacant property was received by police at 4.30pm on Saturday 25 January. The third report relates to calls to police shortly after 5.15pm on Monday 27 January reporting a fire at the building again. It is believed that these fires have been set deliberately.

DC Laura Irwin said: "We are currently investigating these three incidents and believe that each fire has been set deliberately. Not only is this incredibly dangerous behaviour, but it is also a drain on police and fire resources who must then attend these incidents. We would therefore like to appeal for any witnesses or anyone who has seen any suspicious behaviour at the location to get in touch with us. The same goes for anyone who may have any footage, including dashcam footage which could help us to trace any potential suspects. You can report information to us via www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us, or call 101, quoting 25000066999."

CCTV Images released following Chester burglary

Officers investigating reports of a burglary in Chester have released CCTV images of two men they would like to speak to in relation to the incident.

At around 9.35pm on Wednesday 15 January two unknown offenders gained entry into a hotel on Hoole Road. Once inside the premises the pair walked around the building and stole an eBike and a rucksack. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and as part of the investigation officers have now released CCTV images two men they would like to speak to in relation.

PC James Wright of Chester Proactive Team said: *"Enquiries in relation to this incident are ongoing and we're committed to doing all we can to identify the people responsible. As part of our investigation we would like to appeal to anyone who recognises the men pictured in the CCTV images as we believe they may hold vital information. The same goes for anyone with any information in relation to the incident. We would also urge the men pictured to contact us."*



Image 1

Image 2

You can report information to Cheshire Police via www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us or call 101, quoting IML 2006992.

Police are appealing for information after woman found with unexplained injuries in Runcorn

Police are investigating an incident where a woman was found with serious injuries in Runcorn.

At around 8.52am on Saturday 25 January a 51-year-old woman was found in Thorn Road in a distressed state. She was taken to hospital with serious injuries. Police are appealing for anyone who saw anything of significance between the evening of Friday 24 January and 8.52am the following morning that may help us understand how she came by her injuries.

DC Abbie Jennett said: *"I'd urge anyone who has any information or has dashcam, CCTV or doorbell footage that may help us establish how she came by her injuries to contact us."*

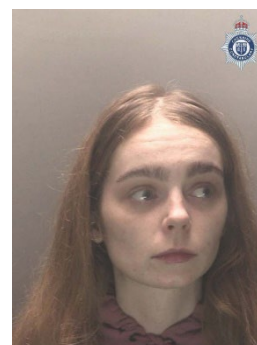
Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via the [website](http://www.cheshire.police.uk) quoting IML 2013357. Alternatively, information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Police appeal to trace wanted woman from Liverpool

Police are appealing for help from the public in tracing a wanted woman.

Georgia Searson is wanted in connection with an assault which occurred on Thursday 16 January in Widnes. The 27-year-old is described as white, of slim build, with blonde hair and green eyes. Searson has known links to the Merseyside area.

Anyone with any information as to Searson's whereabouts should contact Cheshire Police via cheshire.police.uk/tell-us, or call 101, quoting IML 2006547.



Police are appealing for witnesses to indecent exposures in Macclesfield Forest

Police are appealing for information following a number of indecent exposures in Macclesfield Forest over the past several months.

The suspect, described as being white, and in his 20s to 30s with dark hair has exposed himself to women walking in the forest.

Sgt Claire Lloyd said: *"While he doesn't make any attempt to approach them, it does cause them some alarm. We are actively making enquiries to find this man and are urging anyone who sees him to ring us immediately on 999 with your What3Words location so we can make every effort to catch him. If you haven't already, you can download the What3Words app from your phone app store. If you have seen similar incidents, but haven't reported it to police, please get in touch. Everyone has a right to feel safe when they go for a walk in the countryside. We will not tolerate this behaviour, and again would urge anyone who sees him to contact us immediately."*

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via the [website](#) quoting 25000055471. Alternatively, information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Police appeal for information following attempted armed robbery in Runcorn

Police investigating an attempted armed robbery in Runcorn are appealing for witnesses, information and CCTV footage.

At around 5.10pm on Sunday 26 January, officers responded to reports of an attempted armed robbery in Runcorn. The caller reported that a work colleague had been delivering packages on Coppice Place, Runcorn, and was returning to his delivery van when he was approached by three unknown men. The caller also reported that one of the men was seen carrying a small bat/club-like object, with the men demanding he hand over his van's keys, threatening to assault him if he did not do so. The delivery driver refused, with the men then fleeing the scene and nothing being taken. The men were described as being in their early 20s and dressed in all black.

DS Gary McClatchey, of CID Reactive East: *"No one should be subjected to violence or intimidation when going about their daily work and this incident left the victim feeling considerably shaken. As part of our investigation I'm keen to hear from anyone who was in the area at the time and believes that they may have seen anything suspicious. I'd also ask residents in the area to check their CCTV or video doorbell footage to see if they have anything which may aid our investigation. The same goes for any motorists with any dashcam footage who may have been passing at the time of the incident."*

Anyone with any information is asked to contact Cheshire police on 101, [or visit the website](#), quoting IML-2014040.

Police in Chester appeal for witnesses following spate of thefts from vehicles

Police in Chester are appealing for information following a spate of vehicle crime in the Huntington and Saughton housing estate area.

The thefts occurred overnight between 23 and 24 January in Gold Court, Normandy Crescent, Marcia Grove and Dragoon Drive. A number of items were stolen including cash cards.

PC Dan Malone said: *"We'd urge anyone with doorbell footage, dashcam or CCTV which could help us identify the suspects to contact us. We'd also urge residents to check they are locking their vehicle doors when unattended and not leaving anything of value in the car. Stay vigilant and report suspicious activity to police."*

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us quoting 25000062673. Alternatively, information can be passed anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)

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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