

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 13 September 2026

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Widnes drug dealer jailed

A Widnes man has been jailed once again following a drugs investigation into the supply of cocaine and cannabis.

Travis McDonnell, aged 21, from Terrace Road, Widnes appeared at Liverpool Crown Court on 10 September and pleaded guilty to being concerned in the supply of cocaine, being concerned in the supply of a controlled Class B (cannabis) and possession with intent to supply a controlled drug of Class A (cocaine). McDonnell was sentenced to five years and six months imprisonment. He was arrested on 12 June 2026 in relation to an ongoing investigation into the supply of cocaine and cannabis in the Widnes area.



During his arrest he jumped out of a bedroom window and tried to flee from officers but was detained outside of the address. A further search of his home address was completed with a quantity of cocaine, heroin and cannabis seized along with a mobile phone containing messages relating to the supply of cocaine, heroin and cannabis. McDonnell was re-arrested on 10 August 2026 and was subsequently charged with being concerned in the supply of cocaine and cannabis and possession with intent to supply cocaine, heroin and cannabis and he was remanded into custody.

Following conviction PC Nicholls said: *'Travis McDonnell is a prolific offender who has once again shown that he will return to his old ways of drug dealing as soon as he is released from prison. I would urge McDonnell to take this lengthy custodial sentence to re-evaluate the poor decisions that he has continued to make and conclude that drug dealing is not a trade that he can master. I hope this sentence will act as a reminder to anybody who thinks Widnes is an easy area to set up a drugs empire, to think again.'*

Drug dealer jailed for three-and-a-half years

A drug dealer who was arrested after carrying a knife in Crewe has been jailed.

Daniel Fletcher appeared at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 3 September where he was jailed for 42 months. The 38-year-old, of Bateman Close, Crewe, had pleaded guilty to possession with intent to supply cocaine and possession of a knife in a public place. At 6.40pm on 26 March 2026, police were called to the Bateman Close area of Crewe following reports of a man in possession of a knife. Officers attended and Fletcher was found wearing no top and no shoes in the street. He was witnessed discarding a knife into the bushes next to him and he was subsequently detained. Officers located the kitchen knife in



the bushes. They then attended Fletcher's address to check the welfare of the other occupants, and a large quantity of white powder was located in Fletcher's room. The 5oz ball of cocaine was estimated to be worth between £10,500 and £17,500. A mobile phone was also recovered which contained evidence of drugs supply.

Detective Sergeant Kevin Williams said: *"Fletcher has been handed a substantial custodial sentence after pleading guilty to these offences thanks to evidence against him. His arrest and conviction have also meant a large quantity of drugs has been taken off the streets. Let this serve as a reminder that drugs-related offences and possession of weapons will not be tolerated and those who choose to break the law will be held accountable."*

Man arrested following collisions in Sandbach and Crewe

Officers have arrested a man following a series of collisions in Sandbach and Crewe.

At around 12.13pm on Friday 11 September, officers were called to reports of an incident in the Redwing Road area of Sandbach. It was reported that a red BMW had collided with a house and then drove away from the scene. Further collisions involving the same vehicle were reported in the Platt Avenue in Sandbach, along with incidents on Nantwich Road and Gresty Road in Crewe. At around 12.39pm, officers located the vehicle in the Gresty Road area of Crewe and a 39-year-old local man was arrested on suspicion of theft of motor vehicle, dangerous driving, failing to stop at two accidents and criminal damage.

Anyone with any information in relation to the incident is asked to contact Cheshire Police via the website, or on 101, quoting reference number IML-2415325.

Gymnastics coach charged with sexual offences

A gymnastics coach in Warrington has been charged as part of an investigation by Cheshire Constabulary's Online Child Abuse Investigation Team.

Paul Plumpton was arrested on Tuesday 8 September. The 71-year-old of, Warrington, has since been charged with three counts of making indecent images of children, two counts of distributing indecent images of children, and one count of engaging in sexual communication with a child. Plumpton appeared at Chester Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 9 September, where he was bailed to next appear at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 7 October.

Anyone with any concerns is asked to contact Cheshire police on 101, or at www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us quoting IML 2415301.

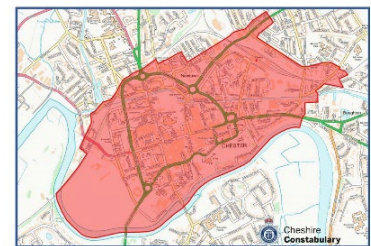
Third deployment of Live Facial Recognition technology to take place in Chester city centre as part of Operation Vigilant

Cheshire Constabulary will be deploying Live Facial Recognition (LFR) technology in Chester city centre on Saturday 12 September as part of Operation Vigilant.

The deployment will support officers in identifying people who are wanted by police, outstanding suspects and those who pose a risk 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, allowing them to take appropriate action where necessary.

During the deployment, officers will be available to speak with members of the public and local businesses to explain the technology, listen to concerns and offer reassurance about the safeguards in place. Strict privacy, data protection, and human rights safeguards are 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. The force will clearly signpost the use of the technology throughout the deployment area, with information also available online explaining how Live Facial Recognition works and the safeguards in place to protect privacy.

As well as the LFR deployment, a dispersal order will be in place from 10am on Friday 11 September until 10am on Sunday 13 September. The dispersal order will allow officers to ban anyone from the area for up to 48 hours to prevent disorder. The area covered by the order is highlighted in the attached map. The map is provided to anyone issued with a direction to leave.



Detective Chief Inspector Robert Pritchard said: *"As part of Operation Vigilant, our officers will continue working to protect vulnerable people, deter criminal activity and identify those who seek to exploit others within Chester's night-time economy. Live Facial Recognition technology provides us with an enhanced capability to identify people who are wanted by police or who may present a risk to the public, enabling officers to take swift and appropriate action where necessary. Building on the positive outcomes of previous operations, this deployment will support our ongoing efforts to keep residents and visitors safe while they enjoy everything the city has to offer."*

Inspector James Wilson said: *"We're expecting Chester to be particularly busy this weekend, and our priority is ensuring that everyone can enjoy their time in the city safely and responsibly. To support this, there will be an enhanced police presence alongside a dispersal order, giving officers additional powers to tackle anti-social behaviour at an early stage and prevent incidents from escalating."*

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. Anyone with information about anti-social behaviour in their area is urged to contact Cheshire Police via the Cheshire Police website or call 101.

Man jailed after sexually assaulting teenage girl in Widnes

A man has been jailed for more than six years after sexually assaulting a teenage girl in Widnes.

James Eves, of Waltham Road, Boreham, Chelmsford, was sentenced to six years and eight months after appearing at Liverpool Crown Court on Thursday 10 September. The 51-year-old had pleaded guilty to engaging in sexual activity with a child, sexually assaulting a child by penetration, and inciting a child to engage in sexual activity.



In February 2025, Eves attended Widnes Police Station to report that he had recently sexually assaulted a teenage girl. He was subsequently arrested and the victim was contacted and spoken to. She disclosed she had been sexually assaulted by Eves. Despite his original admissions, Eves refused to answer further questions put to him in interview. Following a thorough investigation into the allegations, he was charged with multiple offences. On top of his custodial sentence, Eves must sign the Sex Offender Register indefinitely, is subject to a Sexual Harm Prevention Order, and must comply with a restraining order.

Detective Sergeant Dan Argent said: *"I am thankful to the courts for the lengthy custodial sentence handed to Eves and while I hope this brings the victim some closure, no sentence is ever going to undo what Eves did. Eves took advantage of a young girl for his own twisted sexual gratification. He knew what he was doing was wrong, evidenced by his guilty pleas thanks to the evidence secured against him. I would like to extend my thanks to the officers involved in this case, as their dedication has ensured that this man has been brought to justice."*

Sergeant Michaela Flynn added: *"I would like to commend the victim for her bravery throughout this investigation and the subsequent court process. No-one should ever have to endure what she went through, and I hope this may serve as some reassurance to anyone who has been a victim of a sexual offence that you will be listened to and offences will be investigated thoroughly and sensitively. Anyone wishing to report a sexual offence can report it to Cheshire Police through our website or by calling 101."*

Northwich drug dealer sentenced

A drug dealer who tried to evade officers by hiding in the changing rooms at a shop in Northwich has been jailed.

Jake Dickens appeared at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 10 September where he was sentenced to 38 months in prison. The 33-year-old of Britton Crescent, Mouton, had earlier pleaded guilty to being concerned in the supply of class A and B drugs (Cannabis and Cocaine) possession with intent to supply class A drugs (Cocaine) and possession of criminal property.



On Friday 24 April, plain clothed officers were on patrol in Northwich town centre when they spotted Dickens dealing drugs to another man. Officers attempted to intervene, but Dickens ran off, leading them on a foot chase across the town centre. He was eventually found hiding in the changing rooms at Matalan where he was promptly arrested and found in possession of almost £450 cash. Over £1,000 worth of illegal drugs and a mobile phone which Dickens dumped during the foot chase were also later recovered.

Following questioning, Dickens was released on conditional bail while the mobile phone was sent off for further analysis. However, officers recovered further mobile phone evidence which showed that he was continuing to deal drugs in the local area whilst on bail. Dickens was subsequently arrested again and charged with drug supply offences.

Following the sentencing, Police Constable Dan Lee, of Northwich Proactive CID said: *"Quite why Dickens thought it would be a good idea to hide in the changing rooms at a store when being chased by officers, we'll never know. Maybe he was planning ahead and thinking about what suit to wear in court. Despite his visit to Matalan, his choice of outfit obviously wasn't enough to impress the judge, and he's now gone straight to jail."*

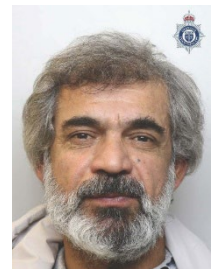
"The dangers of illegal drugs are well known and the team here at Northwich are committed to doing all we can to identify those responsible. However, this is not an issue we can tackle alone, we also need support from the public and I urge anyone with any information in relation to the supply of drugs to get in touch."

Information can be reported directly on 101, [on our website](#) or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Man sentenced for stalking in Crewe

A man has been found guilty of stalking his former neighbour in Crewe.

Taha Abdullah appeared at Blackburn Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 8 September where he was sentenced to 42 weeks imprisonment suspended for 12 months. The 46-year-old of Persia Street, Accrington, had previously been found guilty of stalking involving serious alarm.



The court heard that Abdullah began stalking his former neighbour in 2025 while living in Crewe. Over several months, he engaged in a pattern of unwanted behaviour that caused the victim significant distress. This included regularly staring at her, knocking on her door to ask her partner where she was, and repeatedly attempting to speak to the victim despite being asked to leave her alone. Abdullah also left roses and chocolates outside the victim's home and placed roses on her car on two separate occasions.

During one instance, while the victim was walking her dog in the early hours of the morning, Abdullah approached her and attempted to start a conversation. She again told him to leave her alone. The matter was reported to police and Abdullah was arrested. However, despite being released on bail with conditions not to contact the victim while officers conducted their enquiries, Abdullah persisted in trying to engage with the victim, loitering outside her home and waving at her. He was subsequently charged with stalking following an investigation carried out by the force's Harm Reduction Unit.

Detective Sergeant Nichola McClellan said: *"Abdullah's actions became increasingly persistent, leaving the victim feeling vulnerable and unsafe. She told officers that his behaviour had forced her to change her routine and made her feel as though she could not escape him. Thankfully, Abdullah has now been held accountable for his actions, and his deeply concerning behaviour has finally been*

brought to a stop. I hope that the conclusion of this case will provide some closure for his victim and enable her to rebuild and move forward with her life."

If you are a victim of stalking, please call us on 101 or [visit the website](#). Information can also be passed anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111. Alternatively, advice and support are available via the National Stalking Helpline on 0808 802 0300.

Three cars seized following Alderley Edge car meet deployment

Officers have seized three cars following reports of dangerous and anti-social driving at a car meet in Alderley Edge.

On Sunday 30 August, officers from Macclesfield Local Policing Unit responded to reports of illegal car meetings taking place across the Alderley Edge area. Following a number of post-event enquiries, officers identified three vehicles that had, amongst others, been committing road traffic offences. These offences included vehicles being driven without due care and attention and drivers being seen to use a phone whilst behind the wheel. The owners of the cars, a blue BMW M4, a white Toyota Supra and a black BMW M140i, were subsequently located and the vehicles seized under section 59 of the Road Traffic Act.

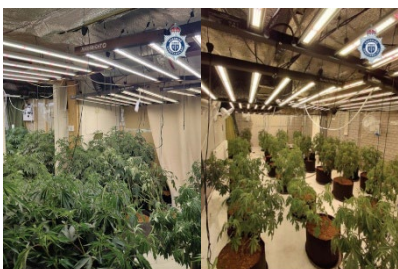


Chief Inspector Zoe Bowden, of Macclesfield Local Policing Unit, said: *"We know that dangerous driving and large-scale illegal car meets are a real issue for residents in Alderley Edge and Wilmslow, which is why we regularly conduct proactive operations to provide some reassurance and act as a warning to those planning to come to Cheshire to engage in reckless activities. As part of efforts to further deter anti-social driving, officers also regularly review social media content posted by these show-boaters who think they can use the roads of Alderley Edge as their own personal racetracks. Like the owners of the three vehicles we seized following the car meeting on the Bank Holiday Weekend, anyone caught committing driving offences can look forward to a visit from officers and expect to see their beloved cars on the back of our flatbed lorries."*

Cannabis farm dismantled in Northwich

A large cannabis farm has been shut down in Northwich thanks to intelligence from the local community.

At around 2.30pm on Wednesday 9 September officers attended an industrial building on Pickmere Lane, Wincham, following reports of a suspicious activity at the premises.



Upon entering the premises, they discovered a professional cannabis farm with approximately 650 cannabis plants, all at varying stages of growth, along with heat lighting, fans, irrigation systems. The electricity had also been tampered with. The plants seized are believed to have a potential street value of up to £220,000. Enquiries are ongoing into identifying those responsible.

Sergeant Rogan Ogden, of Northwich Local Policing Unit, said: *“This is another great result which demonstrates the value of intelligence from the public. As a result of the information provided we’ve removed a significant quantity of cannabis the streets of Northwich and the wider area. The supply and use of illegal drugs have an incredibly negative impact on the community, and our fight against this type of behaviour is never over. We will continue to do all we can to put a stop to this activity.*

“While no arrests have been made at this time, our enquiries remain ongoing and I urge anyone with any information or video footage which may aid the investigation into the discovery to get in touch on 101, or at www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us quoting IML 2414099.”

There are a number of signs that could indicate that a property is being used as a cannabis farm, including:

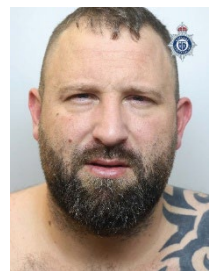
- A strong and sickly-sweet smell
- Equipment to grow cannabis being taken into a property, such as lighting and ventilation equipment
- Constantly covered or blocked-off windows – cannabis farms often have constantly closed curtains, black-out blinds, or foil coverings
- People coming and going at all hours or neighbours you never see
- Strong and constant lighting day and night
- High levels of heat and condensation – cannabis farms often give off heat, and the windows stay misted up
- A constant buzz of ventilation – listen out for a whirring sound as the growers try to create an ideal climate for cannabis plants to grow.
- Lots of power cables – offenders often dig underground to lay cables that hook up to things like lamp posts, so they do not have to pay for the enormous amounts of electricity they use.

To report a suspected cannabis farm or any other type of drug-related offence, call us 101, give the details online at www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us.

Winsford rapist jailed for 14 years

A man from Winsford who raped and assaulted a woman has been jailed.

Damon Furmedge appeared at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 10 September where he was sentenced to 14-years in prison. He was also ordered to sign the sex offenders register and handed an indefinite restraining order. The 36-year-old, previously from Weaver Street, Winsford. had previously been found guilty of rape, assault and two counts of controlling and coercive behaviour following an eight-day trial which concluded on Friday 29 May.



The case began in November 2024 when police received an anonymous call about Furmedge’s behaviour towards the victim. The victim was spoken to on her own but was reluctant to give any information and said she was scared. After gaining the women’s trust, she went on to disclose how she had been raped, strangled and abused by Furmedge. The woman told officers that the first time she was assaulted Furmedge threw her fully clothed into a bath-full of water and held her under the water by her neck. He did this twice and left her terrified she was going to die. What followed

was a catalogue of threats, violence and controlling behaviour which left her so scared that she considered taking her own life to escape. She told officers that Furmedge had installed cameras and microphones at her home, he had also monitored her movements by tracking her phone and threatened to harm her.

Following the sentencing, Detective Constable Hannah Lamborn from Northwich CID said: *"I welcome the sentence handed to Furmedge, which reflects the nature of his offending, and I hope that it provides some reassurance to the victim. The level of intimidation and violence was terrifying for the victim who wanted to report Furmedge but was scared of the repercussions. The anonymous call that night gave her the courage to speak out about her ordeal. I think that's a vital example of how concerned friends and family can call out this horrific behaviour and help their loved-one break free. I would personally like to thank the victim for her courage in supporting the police investigation so that justice could be served. Our officers are here to help you, with the assistance of specialist agencies, to break the cycle of abuse and get the perpetrator away from you and convict them of their abhorrent crimes."*

130 new officers welcomed at latest passing out ceremony

The Constabulary's ranks have been further bolstered as 130 new officers are officially welcomed to the force.

<https://youtu.be/njdbwZJjUMU>

On Tuesday 8 September, a total of 130 new officers attended the latest Cheshire Constabulary passing out parade as our new recruits, including both officers and Police Dogs, were officially welcomed to the force. The event, which took place at Arley Hall and Gardens in Northwich, welcomed a number of guests and VIP dignitaries including Chief Constable Mark Roberts, ACC Alison Ross, The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Alex Tate and her Consort, Mr Phil Tate, Chair of Cheshire Magistrates Bench, Patricia Peters, J.P and High Sheriff Lynn Pegler. Chief Constable Mark Roberts inspected the parade before speaking to the new recruits.

The event took place ahead of Student Week of Celebration 2026 - a week designed to recognise achievements, support wellbeing and help student officers make the most of their careers within the Constabulary. Following the official passing out parade, Cheshire now has 2,408 officers helping to keep the county a hostile environment for crime.

Chief Constable Mark Roberts said: *"This latest intake of student officers allows us to continue to make Cheshire one of the safest places in the country. It is my absolute pleasure to have been there and welcome them all to the Constabulary. I know from the quality of new officers and the hard work of the training and recruitment teams, we have got a large group of officers that can go on and make the difference in our communities."*

"Days like today make me proud to be Chief Constable, with family and friends so elated in seeing their loved ones passing out and going on to be a respected police officer. Crime rates in Cheshire continue to drop, and I hope that with this increase in police officer numbers we will see them drop even further, whilst bringing even more offenders to justice and protecting more vulnerable people. I wish all of our new officers the very best for their careers in policing."

Warrington man charged with drugs offences following investigation into drug dealing in the town

A man has been charged with drugs offences following an investigation by detectives from Warrington Proactive CID into drug dealing in the town.

Alexander McColl, 29, from Henshall Avenue in Latchford has been charged with being concerned in the supply of cocaine and being concerned in the supply of cannabis. He appeared at Chester Magistrates Court on 9 September and was remanded in custody to appear at Chester Crown Court on 2 October.

Four men charged with county lines drug dealing in Chester

Detectives investigating the supply of class A drugs in Chester have charged four men from Greater Manchester.

Jake Ashworth, Ashley Brown, Owen Hartley, and Daniel Willcocks were all arrested on Wednesday 9 September as part of an ongoing investigation into the supply of heroin and crack cocaine in the city between 1 February and 5 March 2026. Following questioning, the Crown Prosecution Service has authorised the following charges:

- Ashworth, 22-years-old of Nelson Street, Middleton, charged with two counts of being concerned in the supply of class A drugs (heroin and crack cocaine) and possession with intent to supply class B drugs (cannabis).
- Brown, 20-years-old, of Manchester Road, Shaw, charged with two counts of being concerned in the supply of class A drugs (heroin and crack cocaine).
- Hartley, 21-years-old of Cowlshaw Lane, Shaw, charged with two counts of being concerned in the supply of class A drugs (heroin and crack cocaine).
- Willocks, 22-years-old, of Princess Road, Manchester, charged with two counts of being concerned in the supply of class A drugs (heroin and crack cocaine) and possession with intent to supply class B drugs (cannabis).

All four men have been remanded in custody and are set to appear at Chester Magistrates Court on Thursday 10 September.

Man jailed for attempting to send sexual messages to a child

A Registered Sex Offender has been jailed after breaching his notification requirements by sending sexualised messages to who he believed was a child.

Neil Tobijanski, of no fixed abode, was sentenced to 26 months in prison on Wednesday 2 September at Chester Crown Court. The 58-year-old had pleaded guilty to attempting to engage in sexual communication with a child, breaching a Sexual Harm Prevention Order (SHPO), and breaching sex offender notification requirements.



Between 19 May 2026 and 8 June 2026, Tobijanski had been sending sexual messages online to who he believed was a 12-year-old boy but was in fact a decoy. Tobijanski is a registered sex offender and had previously served a custodial sentence in relation to possession of indecent images of children. Tobijanski was linked to the account which was sending the sexualised

messages to the decoy and information placed him in the Tattenhall area. Officers attended this location on 1 July 2026, and he was arrested and transported to custody.

DC Shortall said: *"Tobijanski had strict conditions and he breached these by talking to someone who he believed was a child, sending sexual messages and even explicit images of himself. Although there was no young victim in this case, the reality could have been very different, and that is why registered sex offenders are robustly managed, and any breaches of their conditions dealt with."*

Seven charged following warrants as part of drugs investigation

A total of seven people have been charged in connection with an investigation into the supply of drugs in the Runcorn area of Cheshire.

The six men and one woman were arrested on Wednesday 9 September and are now set to appear at Chester Magistrates' Court on Thursday 10 September charged with conspiracy to supply class A, B and C drugs. These include:

- Michael McDonagh, 37, of Granville Park West, Aughton, Lancashire
- Declan Wain, 23, of Granville Park West, Aughton, Lancashire
- Sophia Cheung, 32, of Granville Park West, Aughton, Lancashire
- Shaun Wright, 35, of Christie Street, Widnes
- Dean Daniel, 43, of Bell House Road, Widnes
- Graham Stapleton, 40, of Grange Road, Runcorn
- Ian Farnan, 40, of Bodmin Close, Runcorn

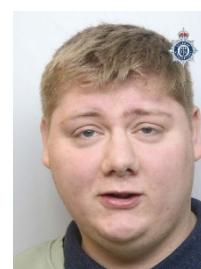
Cheung and Stapleton have also been charged with money laundering. The charges relate to an investigation into the supply of cocaine, cannabis and prescription drugs.

A number of warrants were carried out on Wednesday 9 September by officers from Cheshire Police's Serious and Organised Crime Unit, leading to arrests in Runcorn and Widnes in Cheshire, Carlisle in Cumbria, Aughton in Lancashire and Huyton in Liverpool.

Nantwich man jailed for online sex offences involving children

A man, originally from Nantwich, who used social media to blackmail children into sending him indecent images of themselves has been jailed.

Ethan Mason appeared at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 9 September, where he was sentenced to four years in prison. The 22-year-old, now of Hyacinth Court, Newcastle-under-Lyme, was also ordered to sign the sex offenders register indefinitely and handed indefinite restraining orders in relation to the victims. He had earlier pleaded guilty to two counts of making indecent images of children, three counts of engaging in sexual communications with a child, distribution of indecent images of children, causing a child to engage in sexual activity and sending a photograph of genitals to cause alarm, distress or humiliation.



The investigation began in February 2023 when the mother of a teenage girl in Manchester contacted police reporting that her 12-year-old daughter had been engaging with a man on

Snapchat who was using the username 'CHESHIREPOLICE1'. During the conversations the user had threatened the victim, stating that if she didn't send him naked images of herself, then he would come to her house. Fearing for what he may do, the victim sent a number of images and videos of herself to the offender. Following the reports an investigation was initially launched by Greater Manchester Police, who traced the account and identified Ethan Mason as the offender, who was residing in Cheshire. The investigation was subsequently passed to Cheshire Police and on Wednesday 14 August 2024, officers conducted a warrant at his former home on Glover Drive, Willaston.

Mason was arrested at the scene and during the search officers located several mobile phones along with a set of police style handcuffs, several pairs of children's shoes and a knife. In his interviews Mason answered no comment to all the questions put to him by officers and he was subsequently released on conditional bail while his mobile devices were sent for further analysis. While on bail he spoke to a neighbour about his arrest, admitting that he had blackmailed a 14-year-old girl using snapchat. He also made further admissions in relation to blackmailing second teenage girl along with possession of indecent images. His neighbour posted the disclosure on social media, which resulted in Mason being moved to other addresses while the investigation progressed.

During analysis of his mobile phones, officers recovered 11 category B and C images, along with four category B videos. Officers also identified the second victim as a 14-year-old girl in Lancashire. Within the messages sent to the teenager, Mason stated he was going to post all over social media that the victim had sexually assaulted him if she didn't send him the images requested. After speaking to the teenager, officers also identified a third victim, a 14-year-old-girl from Lancashire, who had also been groomed by Mason. After gathering a full file of evidence, Mason was subsequently charged in relation to the allegations.

Following the sentencing, Detective Constable Corinne Kinvig, of the Online Child Abuse Investigation Team at Cheshire Police said: *"Engaging in communications with young people solely for the purpose of sexual gratification is truly abhorrent, and I welcome the sentence handed Ethan Mason today. Mason was fully aware that his victims were children, but he purposefully chose to target them with intimidating and threatening messages, even going as far as using an account called 'CheshirePolice1'. He believed that hiding behind a screen would allow him to avoid detection, but he was wrong. Thanks to courage of the victims who spoke out about what had happened, along with the work of the dedicated team of officers here at the Online Child Abuse Investigation Team, Mason's identity has now been revealed, and he has now been held accountable for his actions.*

Detective Constable Corinne Kinvig, added: *"While Mason is now behind bars, unfortunately we know that there are many other offenders who are using social media to prey on young children. That is why we want all parents to speak to their children about what they are doing on their phones, what apps they've got installed and who they're communicating with. While we understand that this can be a difficult conversation, it essential that young people understand that it's not normal to view or share inappropriate images and videos online, not only is it really dangerous and harmful, but also once an image has been sent, they never know where it will end up."*

Further advice and support for parents in relation to online child abuse is available on the Cheshire Police website at <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/caa/child-abuse/online-child-abuse/> and at <https://www.getsafeonline.org/>.

Man charged with drugs offences in Warrington

A man has been charged with drugs offences following a stop check in Warrington.

Brett McDonald, of Spittal Hardwick Lane, Castleford, was arrested on Sunday 6 September. The 23-year-old has since been charged with possession with intent to supply class A drugs (cocaine), and possession of criminal property. He's been remanded in custody to appear at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 6 October. The charges relate to a stop check on Bridgewater Avenue, Latchford, on Sunday 6 September.

Two men charged with drug dealing in Northwich

Officers investigating the supply of illegal drugs in Northwich have charged two men.

Kenzie Finlay and Dahir Shariff were both arrested on Tuesday 8 September, as part of an ongoing investigation in relation to the supply of class A and B drugs. Searches were conducted following the arrests, resulting in the recovery of a quantity of cannabis and cannabis resin. Following questioning, Finlay, 19, of Warren Avenue, Lostock, has been charged with conspiracy to supply class B drugs (cannabis); concerned in supply of class A drugs (cocaine); possession with intent to supply class B drugs (cannabis); dangerous driving; handling stolen goods and possession of criminal property. Shariff, 19, of George Street, Accrington, has been charged with conspiracy to supply class B drugs; and possession of class B drugs (Cannabis). Both men have been remanded in custody and are due to appear at Chester Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 9 September.

Man sentenced for dangerous driving in Chester

A man who drove onto the pavement and hit someone with his vehicle in Chester has been sentenced.

Paul Rudd, 58, of Mold Road, Broughton, was sentenced to 17 months suspended for 18 months on Friday 4 September. He is also disqualified from driving for two years. Rudd had pleaded guilty to inflicting grievous bodily harm without intent and causing serious injury by dangerous driving.



At around 2.30am on Saturday 7 February 2026, Rudd called the ambulance service stating that he had hit a man with his car in Church Road, Dodleston. He stated that the man had walked out in front of his vehicle. Officers and paramedics attended the scene, with witnesses stating that the driver had mounted the kerb and driven at the victim on purpose. It was established that there was animosity between Rudd and the victim.

The victim had been in Chester city centre that evening and after exiting a taxi, Rudd drove past and then returned, mounting the pavement and hitting the victim with his car. Rudd was arrested at the

scene and was subject to a driving impairment test. It showed he was not under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or impaired in any way. Examination of his phone showed he had sent messages saying, 'If he gets out of the taxi, I am going to run the **** over.' The victim suffered severe cuts and bruising as a result of the incident. In interview, Rudd claimed the victim had been intoxicated and walked into the path of his vehicle. He stated he did not remember sending the text messages threatening to run him over.

Detective Constable Lorna Postlethwaite said: *"Rudd let his anger get the better of him and his actions could seriously have put the victim's life at risk. There is never any excuse for using a vehicle in this way. I hope the conclusion of this case will give the victim some closure over the incident."*

Police deliver training to Warrington hotels to help spot signs of child exploitation

Officers from Warrington's Protecting Vulnerable People Unit have delivered training to local hotel staff to help spot the signs of child exploitation.

On Monday 7 September, representatives from hotels across Warrington joined officers from the Local Neighbourhood Team and the Protecting Vulnerable People Unit for a morning of training and discussion regarding keeping children and young people safe from exploitation. Ten hotels from across Warrington were invited to meet with officers following a test purchase operation conducted across the local area. The hotel representatives will in turn be delivering this training to their staff to help them spot the signs of exploitation and, where necessary, swiftly alert police to intervene prior to any young person at risk of abuse. The partnership forms part of Operation Makesafe – a national campaign aimed at raising awareness of child exploitation, including criminal and sexual, in the business community.

Inspector Matt Lagar, who delivered the session, said: *"Sadly, the exploitation of children can happen anywhere but particularly in hotels where perpetrators can hide behind a do not disturb sign - which is why it's vital we take action to protect the vulnerable from harm by speaking with those who work in hotels and the leisure industry. You may now see one of the Op Makesafe posters in the hotel foyers of a hotel you visit, meaning the staff are alert and fully aware of what they need to do to keep our children safe. We want to make it difficult for these criminals to carry out their exploitation, whether they are grooming children to carry out crimes on their behalf, such as selling drugs, or to sexually exploit them."*

"I would like to thank the representatives from the hotels who attended for giving us their time and being so open and engaging with the training that was delivered. This was not about blame, nor was it about criticism. This training was a direct response to a wider test purchase operation that was conducted to recognise any vulnerabilities and to enable staff to feel more empowered to respond appropriately to any potential incidents in the future."

You can find out more by going to [Operation Makesafe | Cheshire Constabulary](#)

Man jailed for dealing drugs in Ellesmere Port

A 31-year-old man has been jailed for selling cannabis in Ellesmere Port.

Edward Kaye from Pyecroft Street in Chester appeared at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 3 September to be sentenced after pleading guilty to being concerned in the supply of a controlled drug of class B (cannabis). Kaye was jailed for 14 months.



Detectives from Western Proactive CID identified that a phone number believed to be linked to Kaye was advertising the sale of cannabis in Ellesmere Port. Further enquiries confirmed this and a warrant was executed at his home in Pyecroft Street, Chester. More than a kilogram of cannabis in various deal sizes as well as digital scales and cash were seized along with the mobile phone that led officers to Kaye's door. The street value range of the drugs was between £5,660 and £9435.

DC Jack Ryder said: *"This is one of many dealers we've successfully taken off the streets and seized their drugs for destruction. We will continue with our efforts to tackle drug dealing in our community."*

Man charged with sex offences following warrant in Northwich

A man who was arrested by the Cheshire Police Sex Offender Management Unit following a warrant in Northwich has now been charged.

Derek Sefton was arrested at around 7am on Friday 4 September, after officers executed a warrant at his home on Vicarage Road in Northwich. Following questioning, the 66-year-old, was charged with:

- Three counts of making an indecent photograph/pseudo-photograph of a child
- Three counts of distributing an indecent photograph/pseudo-photograph of a child
- Possess a prohibited image of a child
- Sex offenders register - fail comply with notification requirements - SOA 2003
- Five counts of breaching a Sexual Harm Prevention Order Breach (SHPO)/interim SHPO

Sefton appeared at Warrington Magistrates Court on Saturday 5 September where he was remanded in custody; he is next set to appear at Chester Crown Court on Monday 19 October.

Officers urge residents to remain vigilant following reports of romance fraud

Cheshire Police is urging residents to remain vigilant after recent reports of suspected romance fraud across the county.

Romance fraud relates to criminals creating fake identities online and building a relationship with their victims. This can go on for some time to build trust before criminals start asking for money, despite never meeting in person. Offenders claim the money is for a variety of reasons, such as medical bills, travel expenses, business problems or another type of emergency. Throughout August, bank staff and police officers in Cheshire worked together to safeguard several individuals who were attempting to send money to people they had met online. In some cases, victims had transferred significant sums of money over many months. This includes being persuaded to send

money overseas, taking out loans, purchasing gift cards, and transferring funds to people they had met through social media, dating websites or messaging applications.

Jim Day, Financial Abuse Safeguarding and Prevention Officer, said: *"Romance fraud is one of the most emotionally damaging types of fraud we encounter. During these offences, victims are not just losing money, they are losing trust in relationships and often experience significant emotional harm. But remember, if you have been a victim of romance fraud, it is not your fault and it can happen to anyone. Criminals are professional manipulators and will often spend months building a relationship before asking for money. If someone you have only met online starts discussing financial difficulties and asking for financial assistance, please be vigilant. If you believe you have been a victim of romance fraud, contact your bank immediately and report the incident to Report Fraud. Also report to Cheshire Police by calling 101 or reporting through the Cheshire Police website. Anyone concerned that a friend or family member may be a victim of romance fraud is encouraged to speak with them and raise awareness."*

How you can help to protect yourself from romance fraud:

- Never send money to someone you have only met online.
- Be suspicious if someone avoids video calls or meeting in person, and claims they can't because they are working overseas, in the military or on an oil rig.
- Do not share personal or financial information with online contacts.
- Trust your instincts if something feels wrong and speak with family and friends about the situation.
- Be vigilant for requests for money for medical emergencies, requests to purchase gift cards or being asked to send money through transfer services.
- Look out for promises of future wealth, inheritance payments or repayment once a problem is resolved.
- Be wary of any attempts to isolate the victim from their family and friends.

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Police appeal following ATM attack in Chester

Officers are appealing for information following an ATM attack in Chester.

Sometime between 1am and 2.30am on Sunday 6 September, offenders gained entry to the Spar store on High Street, Tattenhall. Once inside, they used tools to remove an ATM machine before transporting it out of the store using a small shopping trolley. The offenders then fled the scene. The ATM machine was later recovered on Belle Vue Lane, Guilden Sutton. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and officers are keen to hear from anyone with any information which may aid the investigation.

Police Constable James Wright said: *"Enquiries in relation to this incident are in the early stages and we are committed to doing all that we can to trace the people responsible. As part of our investigation we would like to hear from anyone who witnessed the incident or saw anything*

suspicious in the area. The same goes for anyone with any CCTV or dashcam footage which may aid the investigation."

Information and video footage can be submitted online [via the website](#), or by calling 101, quoting IML 2411957. Alternatively, information can be reported anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

Appeal for information following collision in Warrington

Officers investigating a collision in the Winwick Road area are appealing to the public for information.

At around 6.25pm on Wednesday 9 September, officers in Warrington responded to reports of a serious collision in the Winwick Road area of the town. It was reported that the collision occurred between a pedal cyclist and a BMW 218D. The cyclist, a 17-year-old boy, was taken to Salford Royal Hospital for treatment. As part of enquiries to fully establish the circumstances surrounding the incident, investigating officers are appealing to anyone who may have witnessed the collision, or has access to any relevant CCTV or dashcam footage, to get in touch.

Sergeant Russell Sime, of the Roads and Crime Unit, said: *"Enquiries remain ongoing in this investigation and, as they progress, we are asking anyone who was in the area and witnessed the collision to please get in touch. The incident occurred at a busy time of day on a main route through Warrington, so there will have been plenty of motorists on the road at the time. With that in mind, I would encourage any drivers who were travelling along Winwick Road at around the time of the collision to please review any dashcam footage they may have to see if they have captured anything that could aid our investigation. We are also aware of a number of rumours circulating on social media, so I would like to remind everyone that this is a live investigation and to not feed into any speculation."*

Anyone with any information is asked to contact Cheshire Police via the website, or on 101, quoting incident reference number IML-2414267.

Footage released following £115,000 Guinness theft

Officers investigating the theft of £115k worth Guinness barrels from a depot in Runcorn have released CCTV footage of two men they would like to speak too.

On Monday 31 August, officers in Runcorn responded to reports of the theft of [two HGV trailers containing approximately 880 barrels of Guinness](#). Following enquiries the trailers were located in Skelmersdale, Lancashire, with one having been deposited in the Hall Lane area at around 3.15am on Tuesday 1 September, and the second deposited in the Gillibrands Road area at around 12.07pm on Wednesday 2 September. At this time, the barrels of Guinness have not yet been located and no arrests have been made. As part of enquiries to fully establish the circumstances surrounding the incident, officers have now released CCTV images of two people they would like to speak to. It is believed they hold vital information in relation to the incident.

<https://youtu.be/1wbPpWkibuE>

Detective Sergeant McClatchey said: *"Our officers have been following numerous lines of enquiry since the incident was reported to us, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has gotten in contact so far. However, we will not settle for anything less than the full recovery of the near 900 stolen Guinness kegs and the locating of the offenders behind this brazen heist. As our investigation continues, we are now looking to identify the two men captured in the CCTV footage as we believe they hold vital information. I'd urge anyone who recognises these men contact us so that we can progress with our investigation and I would also strongly encourage the men in the footage to please come forward. As we have previously stated, these kegs are stolen goods that are looking to be sold on by criminals. So, we are continuing to urge anyone who is approached by any prospective Guinness sellers to remain cautious and, as always, report any suspicions to police."*

Anyone with any information is asked to contact Cheshire Police via the website, or by calling 101, and using incident reference number IML-2408641.

Appeal for information following serious collision in Macclesfield

Police are appealing for witnesses and video footage following a serious collision in Macclesfield.

At 8.37am on Tuesday 8 September, police were called to a collision on Coare Street, near to the junction of Westminster Road. Officers attended and found that the collision involved a DPD delivery van and a pedestrian. The pedestrian, a 68-year-old local woman, sustained serious injuries and was taken to Salford Royal Hospital by air ambulance; her condition is currently described as critical. The driver of the van, a 24-year-old man from Shelton, was arrested at the scene on suspicion of dangerous driving, drug driving and possession of a knife. The man remains in custody at this time. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and officers are appealing for anyone with any information to come forward.

Inspector Andy Dennison, of the Serious Collision Investigation Unit, said: *"This was a serious collision and we are committed to doing all we can to establish exactly what took place. As part of our investigation we would like to hear from anyone who witnessed the incident or anyone with any video footage. Anyone with any information or video footage which may aid the investigation is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101 or visit www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us quoting IML-2413238."*

Further appeal for information following the theft of Guinness stock in Runcorn

Officers investigating the theft of £115k worth Guinness barrels from a depot in Runcorn are continuing to appeal for information after the trailers used to store them were located.

On Monday 31 August, officers in Runcorn responded to reports of the theft of [two HGV trailers containing approximately 880 barrels of Guinness](#). The two trailers were subsequently recovered in the Lathom area of Skelmersdale by colleagues from Lancashire Constabulary. Further enquiries revealed that one trailer had been left in the Hall Lane area at around 3.05am on Tuesday 1 September, with the second having been left in the Gillibrands Road area at around 12.07pm on Wednesday 2 September. As the second trailer was deposited at the site, the HGV that had been

carrying it is believed to have pulled out in front of a silver/white Renault Captur that was being driven by a learner driver.

The barrels of Guinness, which are believed to be worth approximately £115,000, have yet to be located and no arrests have been made at this time. Both HGVs used to transport the Guinness were believed to have been driven by men. The first man is described as white with a short dark beard and was wearing a beanie hat and the second believed to be wearing a cap. Following the recovery of the two trailers, officers are now appealing to residents of the Skelmersdale area for any information which may aid their enquiries to get in touch. Investigating officers are also keen to hear from anyone who may have been approached to purchase barrels of Guinness in bulk over the past few days.

Detective Sergeant McClatchey said: *"Whilst I am glad that we have located the HGV trailers taken from the depot some 30 miles away in Runcorn, our enquires into identifying who was behind this large-scale theft, along with the recovery of the stolen stout, remains ongoing. With that, we are now asking any residents of the wider Skelmersdale area, who may have seen anything suspicious or sighted the lorry trailers that housed the Guinness barrels, to please get in touch with police. In particular, we would like to speak to the learner driver or instructor that was in the Renault Captur when the the second HGV is believed to have deposited the trailer."*

"We would also like to hear from any local businesses or anyone who has been approached out of the blue regarding the purchase of barrels of Guinness over the past few days. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate that these kegs are stolen goods that are being sold on by black market criminals, so I would urge anyone who has any suspicions as to where a prospective seller may have got their goods from to contact police."

Anyone with any information is asked to contact Cheshire Police via the website, or by calling 101, and using incident reference number IML-2408641.

Appeal for information following bike robbery in Crewe

Officers investigating a bike robbery in Crewe are appealing for information and witnesses.

At around 5.45pm on Sunday 30 August, officers in Crewe responded to reports of a robbery in the town. The caller reported that they had been cycling their red Boardman mountain bike in the Queen Street Park area of Crewe, when an unknown man approached and stopped him. It was then reported that the man pulled out a knife and demanded the caller hand over his bike. The caller complied and the man rode the bike away in the direction of Lime Tree Avenue.



As part of enquiries into the incident, officers have since arrested a 19-year-old local man on suspicion of robbery. He has since been released on bail. To fully establish the circumstances surrounding the incident, officers are now appealing to anyone with any information to contact them.

Police Constable Shaun Lowe of Crewe CID said: *"As part of our ongoing investigation, we are asking anyone who has any information in relation to this incident to please get in touch with our officers. We are also confident that a number of motorists will have passed the incident as it was*

unfolding, so I would like to appeal to anyone who was driving in the area at the time and has access to a dashcam to please review it."

Anyone with any information, CCTV or dashcam footage can contact Cheshire Police via the website, quoting incident reference number 26000711577.

Image released following attempted arson in Warrington

Officers investigating an attempted arson in Warrington have released a CCTV image and are appealing for information and witnesses.

At around 11pm on Tuesday 14 July, an unknown man was captured on CCTV footage approaching an address in the Pocklington Court area of Warrington. It was reported that the man had attempted to set fire to a gas box outside of the property. Luckily nothing caught light. As part of enquiries into the incident, officers have now released a CCTV image of a man they are looking to identify.



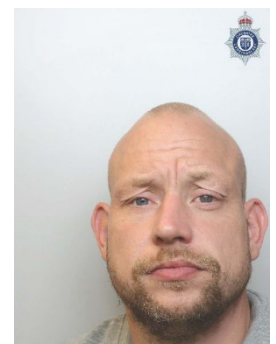
Detective Constable Jo Keppel said: *"We have been conducting a number of enquiries to fully establish the circumstances surrounding this incident and, as part of our ongoing investigation, we have released this CCTV image of a man we believe holds vital information. I would encourage anyone who believes they recognise this individual, or has information in relation to the incident, to please contact us. The same goes for the individual pictured. Anyone with any information is asked to contact Cheshire Police via the website, or by calling 101, and quoting incident reference number 26000571907."*

Police appeal for help in locating wanted Sandbach man

Police are appealing for help in tracing a wanted Sandbach man.

Ben Hargreaves is wanted on prison licence recall and has links to Sandbach, Crewe, Middlewich and Mold. The 37-year-old is described as being 183cm tall, of medium build with brown hair and blue eyes.

Anyone who sees Hargreaves or knows of his whereabouts should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via the [website](#) quoting reference number 26000700497. Alternatively, information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Appeal for information following serious collision in Ellesmere Port

Detectives from Cheshire Police are appealing for information following a serious collision in Ellesmere Port.

At 9.30am on Saturday 5 September, police were called to reports of a collision on Hookstone Drive, Little Sutton. Officers attended and found that there had been a collision between a pedestrian and a Mercedes Sprinter van which had been reversing. The pedestrian, an 89-year-old

local woman, sustained serious and was taken to the Countess of Chester Hospital; her condition is currently described as critical. The driver of the van, a 34-year-old man from Crewe, was uninjured and is assisting police with their enquiries.

Detective Sergeant Amy Collision, of the Serious Collision Investigation Unit said: *"Enquiries in relation to this incident are ongoing and I would urge anyone who witnessed what happened and has not already spoken to police to get in touch with us. The same goes for anyone with any relevant CCTV or dashcam footage from around the time of the incident."*

Anyone with any information or footage is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101 or at www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us quoting IML 2411290.

Appeal to trace wanted Winsford man

Police are appealing for help from the public in locating a wanted man from Winsford. Liam Crank is wanted in relation to allegations of harassment. The 38-year-old is described as 5' 6" tall, of a slim build, with short brown hair and blue eyes. He is currently of no fixed abode but is believed to be residing in the Winsford area. He also has links to Northwich.

Anyone with any information as to his whereabouts should contact Cheshire Police by calling 101, or visiting cheshire.police.uk/tell-us, quoting 26000184643.



Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)

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