

# Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 2 March 2025

## Cheshire News & Appeals



### Latest Cheshire News

#### **County-wide cannabis farm operation disrupts the sale of over £5.4M worth of drugs in 2024**

Officers working as part of Operation Onions, an initiative specifically designed to tackle the dismantling of cannabis farms across Cheshire, seized over £5.4M worth of drugs in 2024.

It was recently revealed that between March 2023 and March 2024, Cheshire Constabulary saw an increase of 160% in drug seizures compared to the previous year, which is the force's largest recorded number of seizures since 2006. The increase follows the force's robust approach in tackling Serious and Organised Crime and dismantling County Lines. Continuing this trend into 2024, officers launched Operation Onion in March, with officers from the Northern Problem-Solving Team executing a warrant at a disused pub in Warrington town centre which resulted in the recovery of 720 cannabis plants.

The proactive investigation utilised the Constabulary's Drone Unit to detect heat sources within properties to identify cannabis cultivation from above, so officers are certain that the addresses they are targeting possess the plants before forcing entry. Across the remainder of the year, officers continued working hard to dismantle cannabis farms with operations at a further 15 locations across the county. They seized well in excess of 1,500 plants and have made a number of arrests and subsequent charges in relation to those involved. All of this has prevented £5.4M worth of illegal drugs from flooding the county's streets.

Supt Sarah Heath, of Northern Local Policing, said: *"The disruption of the distribution of drugs within our county is part of the Constabulary's day-to-day business and these fantastic results have led to us having hauled millions of pounds worth of illegal drugs off the streets and has disrupted those engaging in the serious and organised crime that is associated with it. Cheshire is a county that sits between two very large metropolitan areas, in the form Manchester and Liverpool, and we know that organised crime gangs do regularly attempt to utilise the road networks to distribute their goods across those areas, so we will continue in our relentless focus on this type of criminality as we move into 2025. Our officers remain committed in the continued intensification of efforts to combat the supply of illegal drugs of all kinds, and we will continue to do so until all those who think they can sell illegal drugs in our county's communities have been prosecuted and held accountable for their actions."*

If you have any information on illegal drug activity in your area, contact police on 101 or via [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us). Alternatively, information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## Police appeal for information and witnesses following high value burglary in Alderley Edge

Detectives are appealing for information and witnesses following a burglary at an address in Alderley Edge where unique handbags and items of jewellery were stolen.

On Monday 17 February between 7pm and 11pm unknown offenders gained access to the side of the property using a ladder and entered through a skylight. The offenders are believed to have left the property along Macclesfield Road. The offenders stole a number of high-value items. These include a number of jewellery items and over 100 rare and one-of-a-kind designer handbags. A number of items stolen during the burglary included several unique Hermes handbags and a gold watch



DS Laura Fox, of Macclesfield CID, said: *"Our enquiries are ongoing, and we would urge anyone who witnessed this incident or saw anything suspicious to get in touch with us. The same goes for anyone with dashcam footage or CCTV which might aid our investigation. We also want to hear from anyone who thinks they may have information regarding the whereabouts of the items that were stolen."*

If you have any information, please contact us [via the website](#) or call 101, quoting IML-2034130.

## Appeal for information following serious collision in Widnes

Detectives are appealing for witnesses and video footage following a serious collision in Widnes.

Shortly after 5pm on Thursday 27 February, police were called to reports of a collision on the westbound carriageway of the A562 Speke Road, between Ditton Road and Hale Road. Police and paramedics attended the scene and on arrival they found there had been a collision between a HGV, a silver Renault Megane and a red and white motorbike. The rider of the motorbike, a 40-year-old man from Liverpool, sustained serious injuries and he was taken to Aintree Hospital where he remains at this time. There were no reports of any other injuries.

Enquiries in relation to the collision are ongoing and officers are keen to hear from anyone with any information or video footage which may aid their investigation. Anyone with any information is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101 or visit [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us), quoting IML-2036639.

## Former teacher charged with sexual offences

A former teacher from Ellesmere Port has been charged with almost 30 counts of sexual offences involving children.

Simon Clarke, a former teacher at a school in the North Wales area, was originally arrested in August 2023 as part of an investigation by the Online Child Abuse Investigation Team at Cheshire Police. The 46-year-old, of no fixed abode, Ellesmere Port, was subsequently released on conditional bail and a number of safeguarding measures were put in place.

Following a detailed investigation, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has authorised Cheshire Constabulary to charge him with the following offences:

- One count of inciting a child under 13 to engage in penetrative sexual activity.
- Two counts of inciting a child under 13 to engage in non-penetrative sexual activity.
- Two counts of inciting a child under 16 to engage in non-penetrative sexual activity.
- 21 counts of engaging in sexual communication with a child under 16.
- Making 26 indecent images of children of Category A.
- Make 29 indecent images of children of Category B.
- Make 81 indecent images of children of Category C.

The charges all relate to 26 victims under the age of 16 and are alleged to have taken place between November 2016 and April 2023. Clarke appeared at Chester Magistrates' Court on Friday 28 February where he was released on conditional bail. He is next set to appeal at Chester Crown Court on Friday 28 March.

Cheshire Constabulary and the Crown Prosecution Service reminds all concerned that criminal proceedings against Clarke are now active and that he has a right to a fair trial. It is extremely important that there should be no reporting, commentary or sharing of information online which could in any way prejudice these proceedings.

### **Painter by day, dealer by night: Men who ran painting and decorating business jailed for drug supply operation in Cheshire**

Three men involved in a large-scale supply network of cocaine and cannabis in Chester and north Wales have been sentenced to a combined total of over 20 years in prison.

The ringleaders of the drug operation, Paul Ibell, 32, of Marys Road, Chester, and Sean Mooney, 29, of Kensington Green, Chester shared a legitimate painting and decorating business. The pair used their business vehicle as a means of covertly transporting multi-kilo supplies of cannabis and conducting criminal meetings. As their criminal enterprise grew, Ibell and Mooney employed their associate, Edward Kaye, 30, of Bridge Court, Chester, to assist in the cultivation of cannabis at a property in north Wales.

The investigation, referred to as 'Operation Leonardo' by detectives within Cheshire Constabulary's Serious and Organised Crime Unit (SOCU), began as a result of a national operation into the encrypted messaging service EncroChat (a secretive communications network used exclusively by serious and organised criminals).

[https://youtu.be/gmobZ\\_hjcJ4](https://youtu.be/gmobZ_hjcJ4)

A robust analysis of the encrypted data, which spanned between March to June 2020, identified that Ibell had been conspiring to supply bulk amounts of cocaine and cannabis with other like-minded criminals, under the username 'Holysoda'. Evidence gathered from the messages established the scale of criminality that Ibell was involved in. It's believed that between March and June 2020, Ibell sold a minimum of 43 kilos of cannabis during the EncroChat phase of the operation. Within the messages, Ibell himself acknowledges that his cocaine supply has been slow –

this was likely due to Covid-19 and the restrictions in place at that time, and so the total amount of cocaine he is believed to have sold is between 1-3 kilos. Six images recovered from the Encrochat data, which displayed a hand holding a cannabis bud, were also forensically examined. A fingerprint analysis identified Ibell as the person holding the cannabis in the images.

As the investigation into Ibell's criminality continued, a second phase of Operation Leonardo was launched in 2023, which demonstrated Ibell operating in a similar way to that outlined in his EncroChat communications. During this time, it was identified that Ibell was working closely with his business partner, Mooney, and their associate, Kaye, to facilitate a sophisticated and well-established supply network of cannabis in Cheshire and north Wales.

Ibell and Mooney owned a painting and decorating business, along with café companies, all while playing leading roles in their OCG and the cannabis conspiracy. The pair would receive bulk amounts of cannabis from their upstream suppliers, working specifically with an Albanian OCG who operated nationally. They would then store the drugs in rural stash houses before selling the supply to downstream customers.

A number of locations controlled by the OCG were identified throughout the investigation that were crucial to the supply network. Two properties at addresses in Balderton, Chester, and Oil Sites Road, Ellesmere Port, were used as stash houses where Ibell and Mooney would not only store their supply but would conduct drug exchanges with their suppliers and customers. Edward Kaye was also employed by Ibell and Mooney to assist with the sourcing and maintenance of their cannabis farm which had been set up at a property in the Gresford area of Wrexham, north Wales.

As the policing operation began to close in on them, a series of warrants were executed by SOCU officers at the primary addresses used by the OCG, one of which was found to contain over 60 cannabis plants in a sophisticated set-up. The other locations stored large quantities of cannabis, cash, and drug paraphernalia - all of which were recovered by officers.

Detectives established that Ibell, Mooney, and Kaye, were involved in the sale of at least 200 kilos of cannabis as a result of their operation in Chester, Merseyside and north Wales. The men were arrested during a strike day on Wednesday 6 March 2024 and subsequently charged with conspiracy to supply class B drugs (cannabis). Ibell was also charged with conspiracy to supply cocaine and conspiracy to supply cannabis in relation to EncroChat evidence. The men pleaded guilty to all charges put to them.

They appeared at Chester Crown Court today, Wednesday 26 February, where they were sentenced for their roles in the supply in illegal drugs. Ibell was sentenced to 16 years in prison, Mooney was sentenced to five years, and Kaye was sentenced to three years and four months.

Following the sentencing, DCI Nick Henderson, of Cheshire Constabulary's Serious and Organised Crime Unit, said: *"These men were operating at a sophisticated level, selling multi-kilo drug supplies while living luxuriously on their illegal proceeds. Their attempts to conceal their drugs conspiracy through "legitimate" business ventures had them believing they were untouchable. They had no idea our team were one step ahead, working behind the scenes gathering evidence in order to put them before the courts. Along with their own production, Ibell and Mooney sourced their drugs from Albanian OCG's who supplied them with bulk amounts of cannabis."*

*“Operation Leonardo has since dismantled a Chester based OCG, who sold substantial quantities of illegal drugs to well-established organised criminals in Cheshire, Merseyside and north Wales. We have also targeted an Albanian OCG which operates on a national scale, seizing six courier vehicles, £120,000 worth of cannabis, and have made a number of arrests for drug supply and immigration offences.*

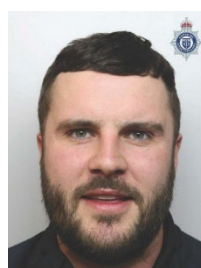
*“I hope the conclusion of this case, and the lengthy prison sentences handed to Ibell, Mooney, and Kaye, reassures the community that we are committed to tackling organised criminals and their illegal drugs activity and if anyone has any concerns about this happening in their neighbourhood, they should get in touch with us through our website or by calling 101. You can also report information anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.”*



Edward Kay



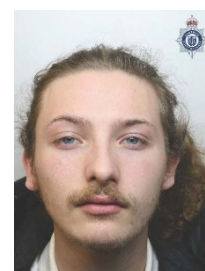
Paul Ibell



Sean Mooney

### **Manchester man jailed for three years after attempting to smuggle drugs into Creamfields in his underwear**

A 20-year-old man from Manchester has been jailed for three years after attempting to smuggle cocaine into the Daresbury music festival in a roll of deodorant concealed in his underpants.



Lucas Greene, 20, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Friday 21 February where he pleaded guilty to possession of a class A drug (cocaine), one count of possession with intent to supply a class A drugs (MDMA), one count of possession with intent to supply a class B drug (ketamine) and one count of possession of a class B drug (cannabis). As a result, he was ordered to serve three years in a youth offender institution and that the quantity of drugs he was found with be destroyed.

It was heard in court that on Sunday 25 August, Greene was stopped by officers as he attempted to enter the Creamfields music festival in Daresbury, Warrington, at the south entrance. Officers had stopped Greene after a drug detection dog indicated to them that Greene may be in possession of illegal substances. Upon being challenged, Greene removed a roll-on deodorant container from his underpants which had a quantity of drugs inside. He was found to be in possession of shampoo bottles containing snap bags of white powder, cannabis and yellow pills. As a result, Greene was arrested on suspicion of drug possession and supply offences.

Whilst interviewed, Greene told officers that he was well aware of the risks of taking drugs into Creamfields and had seen the warning signs on approach to the festival entrance, intending to bring them inside to hand over to a drug dealer in order to settle a drugs debt. Despite this, he would be charged with possession of a class A drug (cocaine), possession with intent to supply a class A drugs (MDMA), possession with intent to supply a class B drug (ketamine) and possession of a class

B drug (cannabis). Greene, St Hildas View, Audenshaw, would then plead guilty to the offences at Chester Crown Court at the first opportunity on Tuesday 7 January.

PC Lisa Green, of the Constabulary's Creamfields Team, said: *"Despite the countless warnings we issue each year regarding the usage and supply of drugs within Creamfields, there are still those who are brazen enough to think they can get into the site without being detected. Disrupting the distribution of drugs within Warrington and the wider county is part of the Constabulary's day-to-day business, so I hope his sentence sends a clear message to those who think they can travel to Cheshire to sell illegal drugs – you will be prosecuted and we will hold you accountable for your actions."*

### **Man charged following Warrington dog attack**

Detectives investigating an incident where a man was savagely attacked by a dog in Warrington have now charged a man in relation to the incident.

Sean Garner was arrested on Wednesday 26 February following the incident on Monday 24 February where an 84-year-old man was attacked by a dog on Bardsley Avenue. The 30-year-old of Bardsley Avenue, Warrington, has since been charged with one count of being the owner of a dog dangerously out of control causing serious injury and one count of possession of a fighting dog. Garner appeared at Chester Magistrates' Court on Thursday 27 February where he was released on conditional bail. He is next set to appear at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 27 March. A 29-year-old woman who was arrested as part of the investigation has been released on conditional bail.

The victim remains in hospital at this time where his condition is described as critical.

### **Crewe man jailed for controlling and assaulting his partner**

A 33-year-old man from Crewe been jailed for assaulting his ex-partner and attempting to control her life.

Sebastian Mroz appeared at Chester Crown Court on Friday 21 February, where he was sentenced to 13 months in prison for assaulting his partner and controlling where she went and who she spoke to. The 33-year-old, of Crewe, was also issued with a Restraining Order preventing him from contacting his victim. The sentencing comes after, on 6 September 2024, officers from Crewe Local Policing Unit (LPU) responded to a call from a 39-year-old woman reporting that she had been assaulted by her partner at their home near Crewe town centre. Upon arrival, officers were met outside of the address by Mroz who informed them that his television had fallen onto his partner and smashed, causing her injury. Entering the property, the woman who made the 999 call also was located, with officers speaking to the pair separately.

The woman disclosed that she had been staying with a friend and had come to the address to collect a number of her possessions as she wanted to end her relationship with Mroz. Mroz, who was under the influence of drugs and alcohol at the time, responded by pushing her into the television and causing a serious laceration to her leg. She went on to say that Mroz had also taken her phone away from her after she called the police, but she was able to retrieve it before the





officer's arrival. During the conversation with the officer, the victim explained that she had also been assaulted a few days earlier when she had initially attempted to end the relationship. In this instance, Mroz pulled her to the floor, dragging her across the downstairs of the property. Despite disclosing these incidents, she was hesitant to provide officers with a statement. Regardless, Mroz was arrested on suspicion of section 18 assault and taken into custody. He would later be released on bail with conditions of not contacting the victim or returning to their address.

However, despite being on conditional bail, Mroz continued engaging with the victim and her family members, on one occasion messaging her son and telling him that he was going to burn her house down and smash her windows. The victim eventually came around to providing officers with a statement, claiming she was in a "living nightmare" as he was constantly accusing her of cheating and attempting to prevent her from leaving the house. In her statement, the victim told officers that since ending her relationship with Mroz he had been continuously calling her, on one instance receiving 32 calls from him that were all unwanted. He also appeared outside of her address at 12.30am on 4 November and demanded he talk to her, a breach of his bail conditions.

On November 8 Mroz was arrested again after officers received another 999 call from the victim stating that she had been again contacted by him on a different number. To the victims' distress, Mroz had begun asking where she was and who she was with and demanding that he come and see her. He also told her not to tell police about any of his efforts to contact her. Upon being interviewed by officers in relation to harassing his ex-partner, Mroz admitted that he had repeatedly contacted her and sent her unwanted messages, claiming that he only wanted to sort things out between them. He denied stalking her. Despite this, Sebastian Mroz was subsequently charged and summonsed to court on Friday 31 January 2025 where he pleaded guilty to engaging in controlling and coercive behaviour and section 47 assault. He was jailed for 13 months on Friday 21 February and handed an indefinite Restraining Order, preventing him from contacting the victim upon his release.

Following Mroz's sentencing, PC Chloe Beckett, of Crewe's Area Investigation Team, said: *"It was Sebastian Mroz's insecurity and refusal to accept the wishes of the victim that was his ultimate undoing, with our officers viewing countless text messages and phone calls that he had directed at her, begging her to talk to him and attempting to tell her what she could and could not do. No one should be hurt by the person who is meant to care for them, so I hope that now Mroz will be spending the foreseeable future behind bars, the victim can begin to move on with her life without fearing for her safety. We take all reports of abuse and controlling and coercive behaviour very seriously and we always put the needs of the victim at the centre of all we do - getting them the justice and closure they need is our top priority."*

### **Man jailed for Crewe cannabis production following police warrant**

A cannabis grower has been jailed after local officers acting on information searched a house in Crewe.

Ilir Mucmata, of no fixed address, appeared at Chester Crown Court on 18 February to be sentenced after pleading guilty to producing cannabis. The 56-year-old was jailed for 12 months and the plants and equipment ordered for destruction. On Monday 20 January officers from Crewe Local Policing Unit executed a warrant at



an address in Goode Way in Crewe. Officers found 100 plants, growing equipment and scales. Mucmata was arrested at the scene.

PC Justin Taylor said: *"This is another good example of the work we are doing in our community to rid the streets of illegal drugs and protect people from the harm and the crime that comes with illegal drug activity."*

If you have any information on illegal drug activity in your area, contact police on 101 or via [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us). Alternatively, information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

### **Police appeal to trace wanted man from Warrington**

Police in Warrington are appealing to the public for help in tracing a wanted man.

Tony Cheadle, 50, is wanted for failing to attend Liverpool Crown Court. Cheadle is described as 6 feet tall, of medium build, with brown facial hair and blue eyes. He is from Warrington and has links to the Leigh area of Greater Manchester.



Anyone with any information regarding Cheadle's whereabouts is asked to contact Cheshire Police via the website or 101, quoting 24000924520.

### **Man jailed for having extreme images and attempting to engage in sexual activity with a child**

A man who had thousands of sickening images on his mobile phone and tried to engage in sexual activity with a child has been jailed.

Kevin Astbury, from Central Grove, Rudheath appeared at Chester Crown Court to be sentenced on 21 February after pleading guilty at an earlier hearing to possession of extreme pornographic images and images portraying assault by penetration, attempting to cause or incite a girl aged 13 to 15 to engage in sexual activity, being an adult attempting to engage in sexual communication with a child, and being an adult meeting a girl under 16 years of age following grooming. The 65-year-old was sentenced to three years and four months in prison. He was also subject to an indefinite sexual harm prevention order and will be on the sex offenders register for life.



Astbury came to the attention of police after paedophile hunters began messaging him under the guise of being a 13-year-old girl. He continued to engage in sexualised communication with the 'girl' between 22 June and 9 July 2022. He arranged to meet her but changed plans at the last minute. The group attended his home and confronted him as well as alerting police. Astbury was arrested, and his digital devices seized.

DC Kelly Mitchell said: *"When we interrogated the devices we were appalled to find 3,755 extreme and sickening images involving animals. The vile images accumulated between 2015 and 2022 was vast and extremely offensive. This and his attempts to communicate and incite what he thought was a child into performing sexual acts is not only criminal but unfathomable and truly shocking. I'm pleased to see that Astbury is now going to be serving time for his warped behaviour."*



### **Man arrested following dog attack in Warrington**

Detectives investigating an incident in Warrington where a man was savagely attacked by a dog have now arrested a man in relation to the incident.

The 30-year-old man was arrested earlier today (Wednesday 26 January) following an incident on Monday 24 February where an 84-year-old man was attacked on Bardsley Avenue by a dog which had escaped from a nearby address. The dog, believed to be an XL Bully, attacked the pensioner in the garden causing life changing injuries; he remains in hospital where his condition is described as critical.

The 30-year-old local man has been arrested on suspicion of being in possession of a dog dangerously out of control causing serious injury. He is currently being held in police custody assisting officers with their enquiries. A 29-year-old woman who was arrested as part of the investigation has now been released on conditional bail

Enquiries in relation to the incident remain ongoing and anyone with any information is urged to contact Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 2034464.

### **Brothers jailed following Winsford stabbings**

Two brothers have been jailed after two men were stabbed following a minor disagreement in Winsford.

Lewis and Declan Dixon appeared at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 25 January where they were sentenced to five years in prison.

Seventeen-year-old Lewis was sentenced to four years in prison, while 20-year-old Declan was jailed for 12 months. Lewis had previously pleaded guilty to two counts of section 18 assault and possession of a knife in a public place, while Declan admitted one count of affray.



The court heard how on Monday 11 November 2024, the victims, two men aged 22 and 35, were stood outside a sandwich shop on Delamere Street when a grey BMW pulled up at the side of the road. The driver, a woman, and three men exited the car, including the Dixon brothers. As they got out of the vehicle, a comment was made by one of the victims in relation to the manner in which the vehicle was being driven. The situation quickly escalated and following a short verbal altercation, Lewis stabbed both victims. One of the men suffered a puncture wound to his back, while the second man was stabbed in the buttocks, along with a slash wound on his shin and a small cut on his right thigh. Both men were treated at the scene by paramedics before being taken to the Royal Stoke Hospital for treatment. Following the attack the brothers fled the scene on foot before later handing themselves into officers at Middlewich Custody Unit.

Following the sentencing DC Sarah Ollier of Northwich CID, said: *“Not only did this incident leave two men with serious injuries, but it also occurred in broad daylight on a busy street with other members of the public present. The actions shown by these brothers was totally unacceptable and the sentences handed to them are reflective of their actions that day. I also hope the conclusion of this case will reassure the local community, as well as anyone who may have witnessed this traumatic event unfold.”*

DS James Elliott, of Northwich CID, added: *"Incidents involving knives are extremely rare in the Winford area and I welcome the sentences that have been handed to these men. On this occasion both of the victims have now recovered from their injuries, however as we have seen in other knife crime cases across the country this is not always the case. That is why we are committed to doing all that we can to tackle the issue, however, this is not an issue police can tackle on their own, we also need to support from the public. Our goal is to achieve weapons-free streets throughout the county, and we endeavour – through education, awareness and action – to make Cheshire an area where no-one carries a knife or feels that there is a reason to do so."*

### **Drug dealer jailed following mobile phone stop-check**

A man from Burnley has been jailed and up to £100,000 worth of class B drugs seized after he was stopped by officers in Cheshire for driving while using a mobile phone.

Mark Danson appeared at Chester Crown Court on Friday 21 February where he was sentenced to seven years and two months in prison. The 42-year-old of Beatrice Avenue, Burnley, had earlier pleaded guilty to one count of possession with intent to supply class B drugs (amphetamine).

On Wednesday 28 August 2024 officers from the Cheshire Police Roads and Crime Unit were patrolling the M6 when they spotted Danson driving a grey Mitsubishi Shogun while using a mobile phone. Police stopped the car, and Danson was issued with the paperwork for the driving offence. After issuing the penalty notice, officers conducted a number of checks on the vehicle, at which point Danson appeared uncomfortable and stood in front of the boot in an attempt to stop officers looking inside. Due to his behaviour officers searched the boot where they discovered several bags containing 62.5kg of amphetamine, with an estimated value of £40-£100k. Danson was arrested at the scene and during questioning he claimed that he was transporting the drugs for somebody else in order to pay off a drugs debt.



<https://youtu.be/UEhISf4eo4>

Following the sentencing PC Tyler Campbell, of Crewe Proactive CID said: *"This is another fantastic result, following a simple stop check for driving while using a mobile phone we've recovered up to £100,000 worth of Class B drugs and another drug dealer is now behind bars. The impact that illegal drugs have on our communities cannot be underestimated which is why we will not stop with our efforts to make Cheshire a hostile environment for criminals. I hope this result sends out a strong warning to other offenders that if you come to Cheshire to commit crime, you will be caught and you will be brought to justice."*

Anyone with information about illegal drug activity in their area can report it to Cheshire Police via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us> or report it to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

### **Three arrested following police pursuit in Macclesfield**

Officers from the Cheshire Police Roads and Crime Unit have arrested three people following a pursuit in Macclesfield.

At around 10.20pm on Monday 24 February, officers on patrol were alerted to a potential clone vehicle. Following an area search, a silver Audi A3 matching the description was sighted on Congleton Road, Macclesfield. Police attempted to stop the vehicle, but the driver made off at speed, and a pursuit was subsequently authorised. Officers followed the vehicle as it travelled at excess speeds through pedestrian only zones in Macclesfield town centre.

A police stinger was used to slow the vehicle, and the pursuit was subsequently brought to a safe conclusion on Mill Street, Macclesfield. The driver of the vehicle, a 31-year-old man from Macclesfield, was arrested on suspicion of dangerous driving, drug driving. The two passengers in the vehicle, a 35-year-old man and a 39-year-old woman, both from Macclesfield, were arrested on suspicion of being carried in a vehicle taken without the owner's consent. The woman was also arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the supply of crack cocaine.

Following the incident CI John Forshaw, of the Cheshire Police Road and Crime unit, said: *"This was a great example of teamwork from different units across the force, each of which were pivotal in securing the arrest of three individuals who clearly showed no regard for the safety of members of the public. Thanks to our officers working together, we were able to keep up with the suspect and eventually bring his dangerous behaviour to an end. This should serve as an example that if you try and commit crime in Cheshire, we will find you, and you will be arrested for your actions."*

### **Cheshire Police's consent campaign to feature in BBC documentary**

A documentary featuring Cheshire Police's sexual consent campaign will air on BBC One and BBC Three this week.

This comes following the publication of the PEEL (Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy) Inspection Report by HMICFRS (His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services) where the Constabulary was graded 'outstanding' at protecting vulnerable people and managing offenders, with the consent campaign recognised by inspectors as innovative practice.

The documentary - Hunting The Online Sex Predators - follows an entrepreneur and social media influencer from Northern Ireland, James Blake, as he takes an in-depth look at 'cybersex' crime in the UK and beyond. The documentary sees James sit alongside students from The Whitby High School in Ellesmere Port to see first-hand how Cheshire Police is helping to educate young people about cybersex crimes, and witness the Constabulary's educational consent campaign being delivered to pupils. James then discussed the campaign with the students, who highlighted how beneficial it was for them, whilst flagging their concerns of how harmful and violent content pops up on their social media channels. This leads James to investigate what's going on, explore algorithms, whether social media is promoting harmful content, and to the discovery that British men are among the worst in the world for the purchase of live-streamed abuse. As part of his research, he also follows a live investigation by the Constabulary's Online Child Abuse Investigation

Team (OCAIT), where a 21-year-old man was subsequently arrested for possession of indecent images of children.

DCI for the Force's Protecting Vulnerable People team, Adam Alexander, said: *"Online sexual offending is wide ranging, it includes the sexual grooming of children, the taking and distribution of child sexual abuse material, the live streaming of children being sexually abused and 'sextortion' – a form of online blackmail where criminals threaten to share sexual pictures, videos, or information about a victim. These types of crimes can leave victims and survivors with devastating physical, psychological and emotional traumas that they subsequently have to live with for the rest of their lives. It is so important to educate young people on the possible dangers of the online space and protect them from these dangers. I am pleased the public will see just how hard the Constabulary works to keep young people in Cheshire and further afield safe and make sure anyone involved in these heinous crimes are made to face the consequences of their actions."*

Hunting The Online Sex Predators will air on BBC One on Tuesday 25 February from 10.40pm, and BBC Three on Wednesday 26 February from 9pm. The programme will be available to view after broadcast via BBC iPlayer.

The Constabulary's sexual consent campaign was launched in September 2024 to all secondary schools across Cheshire following an increase (since 2019) of just over 60 per cent in recorded sexual offences in Cheshire where the victim and the suspect/offender are both under the age of 18. The campaign features five scenarios that young people could find themselves in, and they all play out in different ways – some positive and some negative. These scenarios have been shown to groups of young people and their thought-provoking reactions and discussions captured on camera – all packaged together to be used as educational tools in the classroom.

[Visit our website](#) for more information about the Constabulary's consent campaign.

### **Woman arrested following XL Bully attack in Warrington**

Officers have arrested a woman after a pensioner was viciously attacked by a dog in Warrington.

At around 6.40pm on Monday 24 February, an 84-year-old man was walking along Bardsley Avenue when he was attacked by a dog which had escaped from a nearby address. The dog, believed to be an XL Bully, attacked the pensioner in the garden causing serious injuries. Officers attended the scene and on arrival the dog was destroyed by firearms officers outside the address. A second suspected XL Bully was also destroyed inside the property and a third smaller dog was also seized. The victim, a local man, was taken to Aintree Hospital, where his condition is currently described as critical but stable.

Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and a 29-year-old woman, has since been arrested on suspicion of being in possession of a dog dangerously out of control causing serious injury. She is currently being held in police custody assisting officers with their enquiries. Enquiries are also ongoing to locate a 40-year-old man in relation to the incident.

Cheshire Constabulary Chief Constable Mark Roberts, said: *"This was an innocent man who was simply walking in the street when he was horrifically attacked by a suspected unregistered XL Bully."*

*These dogs are like weapons; their physical attributes can make it like owning a loaded firearm with a questionable safety catch. The sheer size and ferocity of these animals mean that our firearms officers had to discharge 19 shots – all of which hit their targets - in order to bring the incident to a conclusion and ensure the safety of the public. While the victim is now receiving the treatment that he requires, there is no doubt that this incident will impact him for the rest of his life.*

*The danger to the public that these dogs pose is well known, which is why Cheshire Constabulary has been extremely proactive in enforcing the new regulations. So far we have already removed more than 100 XL Bullies from the streets of Cheshire, and we are committed to doing all we can to ensure that those who don't comply with the new regulations are held accountable."*

Anyone with any information is asked to contact Cheshire Police at [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us), or call 101, quoting IML 2034464. For more details in relation to the laws surrounding XL Bully dogs visit - [Ban on XL Bully dogs - GOV.UK](http://Ban.on.XL.Bully.dogs.GOV.UK).

### **Man attacked by XL Bully in Warrington**

At around 6.40pm on Monday 24 February police were called to reports of a dog attack at an address on Bardsley Avenue, Warrington.

Local officers, supported by the firearms unit, attended the scene and on arrival they found that an 84-year-old man had sustained serious injuries; he has since been taken to Aintree Hospital. Two dogs, believed to be XL bullies, were destroyed by officers at the scene and a third small dog was also seized.

Enquiries to establish the full circumstance surrounding the incident are ongoing and officers remain in attendance at the scene. Anyone with any information is asked to contact us online [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us), or call 101, quoting IML 2034464.

### **Warrington Police continue tackling anti-social and dangerous vehicles in day of action**

Officers from Warrington Local Policing Unit (LPU) conducted a day of action as part of continued efforts to reduce the dangerous and anti-social riding of illegal off-road vehicles and e-bikes across the town.

Operation Hardhit, a Warrington LPU-based multi-department initiative designed to curb the dangerous and illegal riding of non-road legal and off-road vehicles in the town's pedestrianised areas, was launched last year in direct response to concerns from members of the local community. Since its launch in March last year, the Warrington Beat Team and the wider LPU have been protectively working proactively to dismantle the groups of individuals intent on causing anti-social behaviour in the town, endangering themselves and pedestrians.

Over the past year, officers have made considerable strides in reducing the number of dangerously ridden vehicles and non-road-legal vehicles within Warrington, with a particular focus on dangerous and antisocial driving on busy roads and heavily populated pedestrian areas. Examples of this have



included several arrests and warrants in relation to anti-social driving, with numerous electric and petrol motorbikes, as well as quadbikes, being seized, along with other items linked to different kinds of criminality, including cannabis plants, controlled drugs, cash, designer goods and weapons including machetes, crossbows and batons. In addition, last September, officers from the Northern Problem-Solving Team and Neighbourhood Policing team crushed 20 illegal e-bikes, off-road bikes, and quadbikes that had previously been ridden antisocially or in pedestrianised areas of the town, permanently removing them from Warrington's streets. Last month, officers executed four search warrants across the Warrington area, seizing another twenty-one off-road vehicles and arresting two persons.



Most recently, on Friday 21 February, officers further intensified their efforts to remove these disruptive vehicles and launched a multi-faceted day of action involving several teams from within the Constabulary, including officers working under the county-wide Operation Scrambler team, the Roads and Crime Unit, Beat Teams, Tactical Training and Motorcycle Unit to disrupt criminality associated with the off-road and non-road legal vehicles. Their work across the day ranged from a town centre deployment with led by the Beat Management team with additional uniformed and plain clothed officers focusing on tackling e-scooters and electrically assisted pedal cycles (EAPCs). As a result, officers seized a total of 12 bikes, including illegally adapted EAPCs and e-scooters, which now means that well over 60 vehicles have been taken off of Warrington's roads since the launch of the campaign. A variety of Traffic Offence Reports, anti-social driving warnings, stop searches and dispersal notices were also issued across the day.

PC Matt Salmon, who led the day of action, said: *"We know that the use of illegal bikes and anti-social riding is closely linked with other kinds of criminality, which is why we have, again, intensified our actions in removing these dangerous riders from the roads. Today, we have been providing a visible presence in the town and on the roads to deter any dangerous riding and observing activity whilst utilising all our available resources on the ground that leaves criminals no place to hide. As we have now surpassed over 60 vehicles being seized under this operation, we remain committed to keeping the streets of Warrington safe from those who think they can get away with flouting the rules of the road, endangering their own lives and the lives of pedestrians."*

Anyone with information regarding the dangerous or illegal riding of non-road legal or off-road vehicles, including electric bikes, motorbikes or quad bikes, in Cheshire should contact Cheshire Constabulary on 101 or [give the details via the website](#). Alternatively, information can be reported to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 [or via the Crimestoppers website](#).



### **Prolific Warrington offender jailed again**

A prolific offender from Warrington has been jailed again after he pleaded guilty to multiple offences.

Leon Sherratt's latest offending began on Sunday 2 February when he stole items from vehicles in the Latchford area. Then, on Friday 21 February police were called to reports of a disturbance at an address on Cromwell Court. Officers attended the scene and located Sherratt along with a woman. He was searched at the address and found in possession of a quantity of amphetamine along with a bank card which was not in his name. The 40-year-old of Orange Grove, Poulton-with-Fearnhead, was arrested at the scene and later charged with two counts of theft from a motor vehicle, breaching a criminal behaviour order (CBO) and possession of class B drugs (amphetamine). Sherratt appeared at Warrington Magistrates Court on Saturday 22 February where he pleaded guilty to the charges. He was sentenced to a total of 20 weeks in prison and ordered to pay £154 court costs.

Following the sentencing PC Andy Schofield said: *"Sherratt is a prolific offender, and I welcome the fact that he is now back behind bars. During his crime spree he once again breached his CBO and also stole items from a number of cars. Thankfully, as a result of the work of the team here at Warrington, and intelligence we received from the local community, Sherratt was swiftly identified, and he is now being held accountable for his actions."*



### **Salford teen jailed for supplying class A drugs in Warrington**

A teenager from Salford has been jailed after he admitted being concerned in the supply of Class A drugs in Warrington.

Isaac Loremikan appeared at Chester Crown Court on Friday 21 February where he was sentenced to two years and nine months in a young offender's institute. The 19-year-old of Croft Street, Salford, had earlier pleaded guilty to two counts of being concerned in the supply of class A drugs (crack cocaine and heroin), possession of class B drugs (cannabis) and failing to surrender to officers. The court heard how in February 2024 officers from Warrington Local Policing unit were undertaking operation Excel, an ongoing operation which is aimed at protecting vulnerable people from having their homes taken over by exploitative drugs gangs.



As part of the operation officers attended the address of vulnerable 61-year-old woman on Troutbeck Avenue, Warrington, on Tuesday 27 February. After entering the address officers located the woman and her 48-year-old friend, along with Loremikan. The homeowner told police that she didn't know Loremikan, but believed he was a friend of the 48-year-old man. Loremikan was spoken to by officers and initially provided a false name and claimed that he had just come to the address for a sleep while he was waiting to return back to Crewe. However, officers subsequently identified him as being Isaac Loremikan from Salford and during a search he was found in possession of two mobile phones, more than £300 cash and a box containing cannabis. Loremikan was arrested at the scene for possession with intent to supply class B drugs and taken to custody. During a search of his phone officers recovered several messages indicated that he was involved in the supply class A drugs.

Following the sentencing, PC Matthew Salmon, of Warrington Problem Solving Team said:  
*“Loremikan is simply a callous criminal who exploited a vulnerable woman in order to profit from drug dealing, and I welcome the sentence that has been handed to him. Illegal drugs can have a devastating impact on not only drug users, but the community around them. Here in Warrington, we are doing all we can to stop drug activity on our streets to make the town a safer place to live and visit while also making it extremely difficult for these gangs to operate.*

*“However, this is not an issue that we can tackle alone, and I want to take this opportunity to urge residents to keep spotting the signs of vulnerability. Keep an eye out if they feel something isn’t right and to report it to us on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. We will always act on any information we receive, and I would urge anyone who believes this activity is happening near to them, to get in touch.”*

## **Latest Cheshire Appeals**

### **Appeal for witnesses following serious collision in Runcorn**

At around 12.58pm on Tuesday 25 February, officers in Runcorn were notified by ambulance crews of a collision on Hollybank Road.

Attending the scene, officers found that the collision involved a silver Toyota Yaris and a pedestrian. The pedestrian, a 58-year-old man from Wirral, sustained potentially life-threatening injuries and is currently being treated in hospital. The driver of the Toyota, a woman, was arrested in connection to the incident and has since been released under investigation. Enquiries in relation to the collision are ongoing and officers are keen to hear from anyone with information which may aid their investigation.

Inspr Steve Griffiths, of the Serious Collision Investigation's Unit, said: *“This was a serious collision which has left a man with potentially life-threatening injuries, and we’re committed to doing all we can to establish what took place. As part of our investigation, we are keen to hear from anyone who may have witnessed the collision or who may have dashcam or CCTV footage of it.”*

Anyone with information is urged to contact Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML-2034943 or [visit the website](#).

### **Police are continuing to appeal for witnesses following a serious collision in Warrington**

Enquiries into the collision, which occurred shortly before 7.15am on Wednesday 19 February near to the junction of Southworth Lane and Delph Lane in Croft, have led officers to appeal directly to a potential witness to the collision.

A dark coloured Tesla was driving behind the silver Peugeot 2008 when the collision with a blue Ford Fiesta occurred.

DC Emma Crabb said: *“The Tesla wasn’t involved in the collision but may have CCTV on board which has captured the incident. The driver may also be able to help us with our investigation into the*

*cause of the collision if they witnessed it. I'd urge the driver to get in touch as they may have information that will help us."*

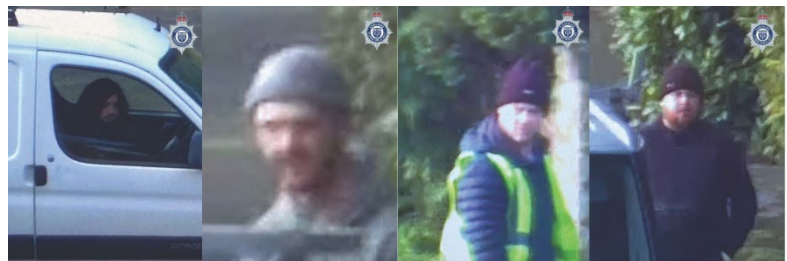
The driver of the Peugeot, an 86-year-old local man, suffered serious injuries as a result of the collision and was taken hospital where he remains. The driver of the Fiesta, a 60-year-old man from Widnes, was also injured during the incident and taken to hospital. His injuries are not believed to be life changing.

Enquiries in relation to the collision are ongoing and officers are keen to hear from anyone who witnessed the incident, or anyone with any dashcam footage which may aid the investigation. Anyone with any information is asked to contact Cheshire police on 101, or at [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us), quoting IML 2030531.

### **CCTV images released following theft of historic stones near Macclesfield**

Detectives investigating the theft of a number of historic stones from outside an address near Macclesfield.

At around 7.20am on Wednesday 5 February, two white vans parked up outside an address on London Road, Adlington. A number of men then got out of the vehicles and proceeded to take 23 stone flag stones from around



CCTV 1

CCTV2

CCTV 3

CCTV 4

the property. The stolen stones are believed to be worth around £1000. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and officers have released CCTV images of four men they are looking to speak to as part of the investigation.

PC Jonathan Lightfoot 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're keen to identify the four men in the CCTV images as they may hold vital information. I would also like to hear from anyone who was travelling through the area at the time and may have witnessed the incident or have any dashcam footage of the theft."*

Anyone with information is asked to contact Cheshire Police at [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us), or call 101, quoting IML 2024203. Alternatively, information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

### Police appeal to trace wanted man from Runcorn

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

David Marlowe, 37, is wanted on recall to prison. He is described as a white, with brown hair, around 5'8' tall and of slim build. Marlowe is from Runcorn and has links to Widnes, Merseyside, North Wales and is known to use the rail network frequently.

Anyone with information on his whereabouts can contact Cheshire Police 101 or via the website and quoting 25000140420.



### Police appeal to trace wanted man from Warrington

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

Simon Peter Cade is wanted in relation to harassment and assault offences. He is from Warrington and has links to the Orford and Bewsey and Whitecross areas of the town. Cade is described as white, around six feet tall, with short mousy brown hair and blue eyes.

Anyone with information on his whereabouts can call 101 or report online, quoting 25000021840.



## Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)

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

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

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

Facebook: [facebook.com/groups/cheshirenw](https://facebook.com/groups/cheshirenw)



Scan to visit [website](https://www.cheshirenw.org)

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](https://www.cheshirenw.org)