

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 10th November 2024

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Chester drug dealing hub shut down under closure order

Chester City Beat Team have secured a closure order against a disruptive property that was a hot spot for drug crime.

The Beat Team secured the three-month order against the address on Charlotte Court, Chester, on Thursday 7 November. During the hearing at Chester Magistrates' Court, it was heard that the occupant of the property, a 59-year-old man, regularly allowed the both usage and supply of class A and class B drugs to take place inside - with him also engaging in criminality. This frequent drug-related activity moving to and from the address, understandably, caused significant fear and concern amongst other residents living nearby.

PC Fraser-Jones, of City Centre Beat, worked with residents living nearby to gather a considerable amount of evidence to progress the team's application for a full closure order against the property, benefiting the entire local community. Now that the order has been issued, the property will be closed for a period of three months, with all doors and windows boarded up to secure it. During this timeframe, anyone who attempts to enter the address could face a fine or even a prison sentence.

PC Cara-Jean Fraser-Jones, of Chester City Centre Beat Team, said: *"This was this an example of excellent community engagement between our team of officers and those who lived in the area, who have been incredibly supportive and are extremely grateful for the closure – without them we would not have secured this result that we have today. The occupant of this address has now been ordered to leave the property and find alternative accommodation, with all windows and doors being boarded up early February 2025. Anyone who enters the address during that time will be committing a criminal offence and could be arrested. If you have any concerns about illegal activity or anti-social behaviour occurring in your local community, please do not hesitate to contact your local beat team and we will do all we can to alleviate any disruptions."*

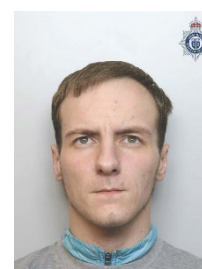


Ellesmere Port man jailed for seven years for drugs offences

A man from Ellesmere Port has been jailed for over seven and a half years after being spotted dealing cocaine behind a supermarket and whilst awaiting sentencing for similar offences.

Lyndon Hodgkinson, 24, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 17 October, where he was jailed for seven years and nine months after pleading guilty to possession with intent to supply class A drugs (cocaine) and concerned in the supply of class A drugs (cocaine)

It was heard during his hearing that on Friday 27 September, two officers from the Western Problem-Solving Team had spotted Hodgkinson outside of a supermarket near to Western Avenue, Blacon, along with several other individuals who were congregating outside of premises. The officers witnessed Hodgkinson hand a known local drug user something and then leave the area. Acting quickly, the officers approached Hodgkinson and attempted to detain him, however he became aggressive and actively resisted arrest - even questioning whether the officers were members of the police.



After being successfully detained, officers searched Hodgkinson and found three wraps of white powder in his jacket pocket - one of which was the size of a golf ball. As it recovered, Hodgkinson told officers "it's flake", and he was subsequently arrested. The 6.9kg worth powder was later tested and it was found to contain cocaine that was destined for onward supply - it was estimated to be worth between £300 and £950.

At the time of the incident, Hodgkinson was also awaiting sentencing for a separate incident of supplying class A drugs (cocaine) following an investigation by the Serious and Organised Crime Unit. In custody, Hodgkinson stated that he was addicted to cocaine and had purchased the nearly seven grams found on his person to sustain him over a weekend and denied he was supplying drugs. Despite this, he was subsequently charged and pleaded guilty on Thursday 17 October.

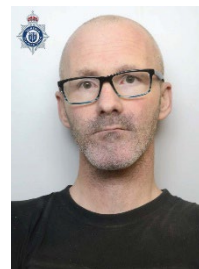
Hodgkinson received a sentence of five years and nine months for being concerned in the supply of class A drugs (cocaine) and was ordered to serve a further two years consecutively for possession with intent to supply class A drugs (cocaine).

Following sentencing, PC Bryan, of the Western Problem-Solving Team, said: *"This is a great result that shows that our officers take a zero-tolerance stance on drug dealing on Cheshire's streets. We know that drug crime can play a part in many other types of criminality and anti-social behaviour, so if you have any information relating to drug-related behaviour or illegal activity in your area, we would strongly encourage you to get in touch with your local officers and we will take swift action to put an end to it."*

Sex offender jailed for possessing indecent images of children

A prolific sex offender who was found with indecent images of children on his device has been jailed.

Gavin Collins appeared at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 6 November where he was sentenced to 30 months in prison. The 40-year-old had previously pleaded guilty to possession of indecent images of children, two counts of making indecent images of children, and two breaches of his Sexual Harm Prevention Order (SHPO).



The case against Collins began on Tuesday 16 April, when officers from the Sex Offenders Management Unit attended Collins' home address on Middlewich Road, Northwich, as part of the routine checks made to monitor registered sex offenders. While at the address, officers used risk management software on Collins' devices to detect any keywords of concern.

The software alerted officers to a number of concerning searches and posts, indicating that Collins had been reoffending. He was immediately arrested on suspicion of possessing indecent images of children and his devices were sent for forensic examination. The seized devices were found to contain 92 indecent images of children - 91 category C images, and 1 category A image. Following analysis of his devices, officers found Collins was also in breach of his SHPO after discovering he had been using a messaging app that destroys messages and images after 14 days. Collins was subsequently charged with the offences and left with no choice but to plead guilty.

Following the sentencing, DS Keith Campbell said: *"Collins has repeatedly demonstrated the high risk he poses to the local community, and he shows a complete lack of remorse. He thought he could go on to offend without disruption, but thankfully our officers were able to intervene and put him behind bars. The work of Cheshire Constabulary's Sex Offenders Management Unit is paramount to ensuring sexual predators like Collins face the consequences of their heinous and despicable crimes."*

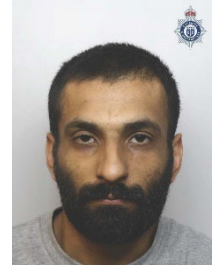
"It is important to note that these crimes are not victimless, and I hope this result shows we remain steadfast in pursuing and bringing to justice those who engage in online child sexual exploitation and play a part in the sexual abuse of children in Cheshire and beyond."

To report a sexual offence call Cheshire Constabulary on 101 or [visit the website](#). Information can also be passed on anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.

Man jailed following Chester drugs raid

A man from Chester has been jailed after the Western Problem Solving team conducted a drugs raid at his home.

Tahir Ahmed was sentenced to 45 months imprisonment after the 30-year-old pleaded guilty to two counts being of concerned in supply of Class A drugs (cocaine and Crack cocaine) and possession of class B drugs (cannabis).



The court heard that investigating officers' enquiries had led to discovering a phone number linked to Ahmed, with the sender offering to supply the recipient with cocaine and crack cocaine on several occasions. Following these enquiries, officers from the Western Problem Solving team conducted a warrant at Ahmed's address on Sherbourne Avenue, Chester, on Friday 5 July.

During the search, officers found Ahmed in his bedroom, along with the phone used to send the messages relating to the supply of drugs, several sets of weighing scales and a quantity of cannabis valued between £700 and £800. Everything was seized, with Ahmed's phone revealing even more text message evidence relating to the of drug supply, with texts referencing "dark" products (heroin) for sale along with "haze" (cannabis) being available. Officers also found a snap-bag bicarbonate of soda - an element commonly used by those in the supply of cocaine and crack cocaine - a burner-style phone and around £2300 in cash hidden under the mattress of a baby cot.

The 30-year-old was subsequently arrested, but despite being given the chance to explain his side of the story, he chose to answer "no comment" to all questions put to him, and was subsequently charged. Ahmed appeared at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 7 November where he was jailed for 45 months.

Following sentencing, the lead investigating officer from the Western Problem Solving team said: *"While Ahmed is now serving a considerable sentence as a result of his actions, our fight against illegal drugs is never over, and we are committed to doing all we can to hold people responsible. But we must stress that this is not an issue that police can tackle alone - information from communities on drug-related behaviour is vital and I would appeal to anyone who has information to come forward."*

MP summonsed to court following assault in Frodsham

A man has been summonsed to court in relation to an assault in Frodsham.

Mike Amesbury MP, of Frodsham, Cheshire, has been summonsed to court to face the charge of section 39 assault. The 55-year-old is set to appear at Chester Magistrates Court on Monday 30 December 2024. The charge relates to reports of an assault on a 45-year-old man on Main Street, Frodsham, which was reported to police at 2.48am on Saturday 26 October.

Man charged with multiple offences in Congleton

Detectives investigating a number of incidents in Congleton have charged a man.

Levi Barnett, of Teasel Close, Sandbach, was arrested on Sunday 3 November. The 21-year-old was subsequently charged with burglary of a dwelling, assault, robbery, and aggravated burglary. He has since been remanded in custody to appear at Chester Magistrates' Court today, Tuesday 5 November. The charges relate to three separate incidents which occurred in Congleton on Wednesday 15 May, Wednesday 30 October, and Thursday 31 October.

Northwich caravan closed following persistent anti-social behaviour

Police have closed down a caravan that has blighted a community in Northwich with persistent anti-social behaviour and drug related activity.

On Thursday 31 October officers from Northwich Neighbourhood Team secured the closure order for a caravan on wasteland off Liverpool Street. They applied for the order, which was granted by Warrington Magistrates' Court under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, after gathering a catalogue of evidence in relation to numerous reports of anti-social behaviour and drug related activity at the property. Following the hearing the caravan has now been boarded up for a period of up to three months. Anyone who enters the property during that time is committing an offence and can be arrested and prosecuted.

PC Alex Aston, of Northwich Neighbourhood Team said: *"This is a fantastic result for residents, who have reported numerous instances of drug related activity and ASB connected to the caravan over recent months. The behaviour of the occupants was totally unacceptable and was having a significant detrimental impact on the quality of life of local residents. We want people to be able to live in their homes without having to endure this sort of behaviour and the closure order is another example of our commitment to targeting those who undermine our communities and bring misery to others. At Northwich LPU we will continue to tackle those who engage in anti-social or criminal activity at their own home. Those who do so risk losing their property."*

Officers will conduct regular checks of the caravan over the next three months to ensure that the closure order is not breached. If anyone is found to have breached the order, they are liable to be arrested and face up to six months in prison, a £5,000 fine or both.

Anyone who is concerned about anti-social behaviour in their community is urged to call Cheshire police on 101 or visit www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us. Alternatively, residents can report information anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Cheshire Police conduct week-long operation protecting vulnerable people

Cheshire Police recently launched Operation Guardians, a week-long effort in protecting young and vulnerable people across the county.

Operation Guardians is a reoccurring operation run by Cheshire Constabulary that combines the efforts of several policing units and functions, including neighbourhood policing, the Serious Organised Crime Unit (SOCU), the Online Child Abuse Images Team (OCAIT), and the Sex Offender Management Unit (SOMU), among others. Together, more than 200 officers and staff worked to target and deter predators, conduct checks on known offenders and suspects, and build bridges with vulnerable young people to prevent them from coming to harm.

This year, the operation ran between Monday 21 October and Friday 25 October. Over the course of the week of activity, SOMU officers visited registered sex offenders to ensure they were complying with the conditions of their sexual harm prevention orders, and OCAIT officers visited suspects to check that bail

terms were being adhered to. Several smaller operations were also conducted as part of Operation Guardians across the county.

As part of Operation Accommodate, officers from the Western Exploitation team joined Trading Standards in an operation on Wednesday 23 October to target stores in Ellesmere Port linked to immigration crime, seizing over £50,000 worth of illegal tobacco and cigarettes. During the day of operation activity, the team were joined by officers from Trading Standards and visited five commercial properties across the town, with search dogs finding four sophisticated concealments, controlled by high-powered electromagnets, hiding the illegal tobacco, cigarettes and vapes.

The products that were found during the operation were being sold to the stores in large quantities and were, in turn, being sold on at half the price of genuine tobacco-products. In total, officers found:

- 77,140 fake/illegal cigarettes
- 6.15kg of illegal hand-rolling tobacco
- 1963 Illegal Vapes



Officers in Ellesmere Port found over £50,000 worth of illegal tobacco and cigarettes during Operation Accommodate as part of Operation Guardians. Operations were launched locally by policing units over the course of the week, designed to directly tackle the uploading and sharing of indecent images of children - one suspect was arrested, and another issued a Sexual Risk Order.

Officers in Macclesfield also conducted home checks, protecting vulnerable people who may have fallen victim to cuckooing and drug dealing, as part of Operation Excel. As well as this, police patrols in Warrington conducted regular checks of derelict buildings across the town that missing people and drug users have been known to frequent.

In total, the week-long operation saw:

- Over 70 hi-visibility and plain clothes operations undertaken
- Over 10 arrests were made for Indecent images of children, drug supply, possession of offensive weapons, immigration offences and possession of counterfeit goods
- The Integrated Offender Management team visited 39 priority offenders identified as being high-risk
- Over 20 visits undertaken by PVP Exploitation teams to high-risk children
- 6 OCAIT warrants executed
- 8 warrants were executed

This year's operation was also launched to coincide with the national Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) campaign, 'WhenYouAreReady'. The campaign centres on a hard-hitting three-minute film which features the voices of victims and survivors who have experienced child sexual abuse and exploitation.

DCI Chris Williams, who was responsible for coordinating the operation, said: *"Operation Guardians is an opportunity to highlight to the public the great work our officers do every to protect and safeguard children in Cheshire. The protection of children is a priority to all of our Cheshire Police officers and staff – that's why a big focus of this particular version of Operation Guardians was to ensure that known offenders and suspects that are on bail are not doing anything that will cause further harm.*

"It's vital that those who would harm children in Cheshire know that we won't let it go unchecked and unchallenged – this operation may have shone a light on this activity, but it's very much our business as usual the whole year round.

"This year's operation also coincided with the launch of the 'When You are Ready' campaign, a national initiative which is designed to encourage further victims and survivors to reach out for support if that's the

right thing to do for them - we want victims to know that we will always be here to support and listen to your concerns."

Anyone who has information relating to child abuse and exploitation or has concerns can call Cheshire Constabulary on 101 or report online via our website. Information can also be provided anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Police appeal for information following burglary in Chester

Police are appealing for witnesses following a burglary at a property in Great Boughton.

Between 5.30pm and 6pm on Wednesday 6 November, an unknown man forcibly gained access to an address on Belgrave Road, Great Boughton. Whilst inside the property, the man was disturbed by the occupant and fled along Belgrave Road. The man was described as white, being in his 30s, around 5'7" tall, of stocky build, clean shaven and wearing a brown beanie hat and a blue zipped up jacket.

As part of ongoing enquiries officers are keen to hear from anyone who witnessed the incident, has CCTV or dashcam footage or was in the area at the time of the incident and has any information which may aid the investigation to get in touch.

DI Rupert Morrey, of CID Proactive West, said: *"This investigation is ongoing and we're keen to hear from anyone who may have seen anything or anyone suspicious in the area around the time of the incident. The same goes for anyone with any CCTV, dashcam or video footage which may aid our enquiries. I'd particularly like to hear from any drivers who will have been driving along Belgrave Road or Whitchurch Road and may have seen the offender leaving the scene."*

To report any information, you can contact Cheshire Police via www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us or call 101, quoting IML-1957703.

Appeal renewed following Northwich burglary series.

Detectives investigating a series of burglaries in Northwich have renewed their appeal for information.

Over recent months officers have received reports of a number of burglaries in the Hartford and Cuddington areas of the town. All of the incidents have taken place in the early hours of the morning and are believed to involve the same offender.

The most recent incidents are believed to have occurred at around 1am on Saturday 2 November when two properties on Wharburton Close and Sandington Drive, Cuddington, were targeted and a number of tools were stolen. The incidents in Harford occurred in August and September at addresses on Priory Way, Chester Road and Hodge Lane.

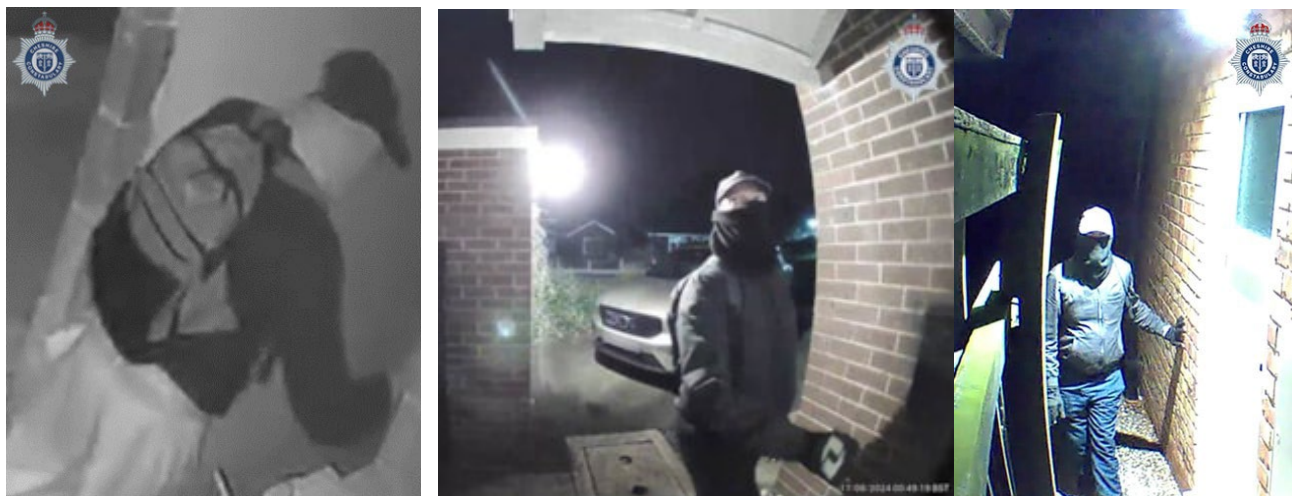
Enquiries in relation to the incident have been ongoing and as part of their investigation officers have released a CCTV image of a man they are looking to identify.

DC Chris Forrest, of Northwich Proactive CID said: *"Enquiries in relation to these incidents are ongoing and as part of our investigation I'm keen to identify the man in the CCTV footage. During all of the incidents the man*



is wearing a snood, gloves and a distinctive backpack and I would urge anyone who thinks they may know who he is to contact the team here at Northwich."

Anyone with any information is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101, or visit www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us, quoting occurrence number IML 1954298.



Appeal for information following burglary in Weaverham

Police are appealing for witnesses and video footage following a burglary in Weaverham.

At around 00.30 on Tuesday 5 November two unknown offenders forced entry into an address on Longmeadow and stole the keys to a high-powered vehicle which was parked outside the house. As the pair were in the process of stealing the car they were disturbed by the homeowner and fled the scene empty handed. The pair ran off on foot, before getting into another vehicle which was parked further down Longmeadow, they then drove off onto Forest Street, travelling towards the A49.

As part of ongoing enquiries officers are keen to hear from anyone who witnessed the incident or anyone with any CCTV or dashcam footage which may aid the investigation. Officers would also like to speak to the driver of an unrelated vehicle which was captured on CCTV footage driving along Forest Street, travelling towards the A49, as the offenders were waiting to pull out of Longmeadow.

DC Lara Hill, or Northwich Proactive CID, said: *"This investigation is ongoing and we're keen to hear from anyone who may have seen anything suspicious in the area around the time of the incident. The same goes for anyone with any CCTV, dashcam or video footage which may aid our enquiries. I'd particularly like to hear from the driver of an unknown vehicle which was seen driving past Longmeadow as the offenders were fleeing the scene. To report any information, you can contact Cheshire Police via www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us or call 101, quoting IML-1956018."*

Police appeal for information following indecent exposure in Alsager

Police are appealing for information following an indecent exposure in Alsager.

On Monday 4 November 2024 between 10.15am and 10.45am a woman was walking along Pikemere Road with her dog in the direction of Sandbach Road when she was stopped by a man in a vehicle who was asking for directions, suggesting he was in need of medical attention. As the woman approached the vehicle to help, the man exposed himself and the woman walked away. The suspect is described as white, in his 40s and driving a dark coloured vehicle.

DC Rachel Lloyd: *"Firstly, we would like to reassure the community that we take offences of this nature seriously and we are conducting enquiries to identify the person responsible. We would like anyone who witnessed this incident or who saw a man driving a dark coloured vehicle acting suspiciously in the area to get in touch. Please can residents along Pikemere Road, or any other neighbouring roads check any dashcam, CCTV, or video doorbell footage from the day of the incident for anything which may be relevant to our investigation."*

"We would urge anyone who has been approached by this man to report it to Cheshire Police via cheshire.police.uk/tell-us or call 101, quoting IML 1955626. Please do not approach any vehicle if requested by someone that you do not know and report any incidents or concerns to police."

Police investigating Handforth indecent exposure release efit

Police have released an efit of a man they'd like to speak to in relation to an indecent exposure in Handforth.

At around 5.45pm on Tuesday 8 October a man was seen exposing himself on a public footpath that runs from Dean Row Road adjacent to the Colshaw Farm estate. The suspect is described as white, in his mid-30's, with an oval face which was pock-marked, especially round the chin. He was wearing mid-blue denim jeans which were unclean and a navy-blue raincoat which was mid-bottom-length and had a hood with a capped peak at the front. The raincoat appeared grubby.



DC Gary Thomas said: *"I'd urge anyone who recognises the man, or the man himself, to contact us so that we can progress with our investigation. We are continuing to make enquiries in the area and would urge anyone with information to get in touch."*

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via the [website](#) quoting IML 1936066. Alternatively, information can be given anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)

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