

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 26 July 2026

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Pair sentenced for Northwich child neglect offences

A pair from Northwich have been sentenced for neglecting a child in their care.

Ella Jones and Kevin Fields appeared at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 22 July for sentencing after they both pleaded guilty to causing the ill treatment/neglect to a child at an earlier hearing. Fields, 29, of Mill Street, Crewe, was sentenced to two years imprisonment. Whereas 28-year-old Jones, of Hesketh Drive, Northwich, was sentenced to two years imprisonment, suspended for two years.



The court heard that on the 27 May 2025, Cheshire Police officers were contacted by a paediatrician who raised concerns over a 12-week-old baby that had been brought into Leighton Hospital that evening. The doctor explained to officers that the baby, who was in the care of Fields and Jones at the time, had been brought into the Accident and Emergency Department as they had become unresponsive. It was observed by staff that the pair appeared to be under the influence of drugs and did not appear to be particularly concerned over the state of the infant. They went on to tell staff that the baby had suffered a similar episode three days prior, but they did not attend hospital as the baby had later come round.

Further concerns were raised when the baby had been admitted on to a ward, with both Fields and Jones immediately leaving the hospital, telling nurses they would “probably be asleep” if anyone tried to contact them in the event of an emergency. A toxicology test would later result in doctors finding traces cocaine in the infant’s system, the likely cause of how the baby came to be unresponsive prior to admission. Doctors believed the drug had somehow been ingested and raised concerns that the pair had been taking the drug in the presence of the infant. Based on this information, Fields and Jones were arrested on 3 June and taken into custody.

During interview, they would both admit to taking cocaine in the presence of the baby and that the infant had suffered a medical episode just days prior to admission to Leighton Hospital. They could not explain how the cocaine came to be in the baby’s system, however, a review of Fields’ phone found that, a day prior to the baby’s second collapse, he had arranged for a quantity of cocaine to be delivered. They would both plead guilty to the offences at the first opportunity. Alongside Jones’ suspended sentence, she was also handed 25 rehabilitation activity days, a 12-month mental health treatment requirement order, and 150 unpaid work hours.

Following their sentencing, Sergeant Ann Muldowney said: *“Class A drugs like cocaine can have seriously damaging health effects in adults, so it is a miracle that Fields and Jones’ utterly deplorable and reckless actions didn’t result in a fatality when a child came to ingest the substance.*

These two squandered the great responsibility that comes with looking after a child, taking no consideration for the needs of someone who has been in the world for only three months and cannot yet look after themselves and needs round-the-clock care and attention.

"Our officers treat reports of this nature with the utmost seriousness and will thoroughly investigate any allegations made. I would strongly urge anyone who has any concerns in relation to child neglect or abuse to please contact Cheshire Police via the website, or on 101."

Alternatively, information can be passed on anonymously to police via Crimestoppers, who can be contacted on 0800 555 111.

Cheshire Constabulary to deploy Live Facial Recognition technology 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 25 July as part of Operation Vigilant.

The deployment forms part of the Constabulary's ongoing work to protect women and girls, safeguard vulnerable people and prevent crime in areas experiencing high footfall, particularly within the night-time economy. With Chester set to welcome increased numbers of visitors for Chester Races, officers will be using LFR technology to support policing activity, identify individuals wanted by police for serious offences and help prevent harm before it occurs. Live Facial Recognition allows officers to receive an alert in real time if a person on a specific, pre-approved watchlist enters the area being scanned. Any potential match is reviewed by a trained officer before any action is taken.

The operation follows Cheshire Police's first Operation Vigilant LFR deployment earlier this month, which delivered several positive outcomes and supported broader safeguarding activity in the city centre. Alongside the deployment, neighbourhood officers and partner agencies will be engaging with members of the public, local businesses and visitors to provide advice, reassurance and information about how the technology is used. The use of LFR is governed by strict legal, ethical and operational safeguards. Only images of individuals included on a pre-approved watchlist are used by the system. Data relating to anyone who is not matched against that watchlist is automatically and immediately deleted. 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.

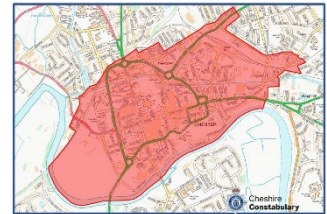
As well as the LFR deployment, a dispersal order will be in place from 10am on Friday 24 July until 10am on Sunday 26 July 2026. The dispersal order will allow officers to ban anyone from the area for up to 48 hours to prevent disorder. The area covered by the order is highlighted in the attached map. The map is provided to anyone issued with a direction to leave.

Detective Chief Inspector Robert Pritchard said: *"Operation Vigilant is focused on protecting vulnerable people, preventing crime and identifying those who seek to prey on others, particularly within busy night-time economy settings. The deployment of Live Facial Recognition technology provides us with an additional capability to identify individuals who are wanted by police or who may pose a risk to the public, allowing officers to take positive action where necessary. Following*

the success of our first Operation Vigilant deployment, this latest operation will support our efforts to keep Chester safe during what we expect to be another busy weekend in the city."

Inspector James Wilson said: *"This weekend will see thousands of people visiting Chester, and we want everyone to enjoy themselves safely. Alongside an increased police presence, officers will be using a range of tactics to keep people safe, including Live Facial Recognition technology and a dispersal order covering the city centre. These measures help us identify those who may pose a risk to others, tackle anti-social behaviour and take action to prevent harm before it occurs, particularly as part of our ongoing work under Operation Vigilant to protect women, girls and other vulnerable people."*

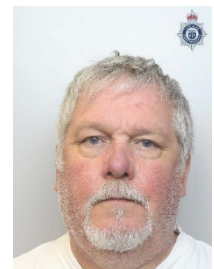
Members of the public can find more information about Live Facial Recognition [on the Constabulary's website](#), including details on how the technology works and the safeguards that govern its use. Anyone with information about anti-social behaviour in their area is urged to contact Cheshire Police [via the website](#) or call 101.



Convicted sex offender sent back to jail

A convicted sex offender has been sent back to jail for a further string of sexual offences.

Christopher Hall, of no fixed address, appeared at Chester Crown Court on 22nd July to be sentenced after pleading guilty to four counts of making indecent photographs, possession of extreme pornographic images involving animals, possession of indecent photographs, three counts of distributing indecent photographs and being an adult attempting to engage in sexual communication with a child. The 58-year-old was sentenced to three years in prison. As part of his Sexual Harm Prevention Order conditions, the 58-year-old has to agree to unannounced visits by police, and checks on his devices to ensure he is compliant with the order.



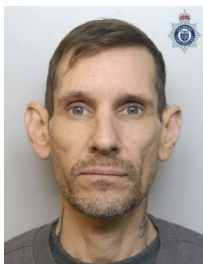
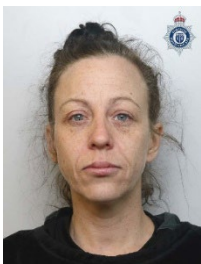
On Friday 13th February 2026 officers attended his address and looked at his iPhone 14. Evidence of indecent images led to his electronic devices being seized for further investigation. They found 32 category A videos, one category B image, 16 category B videos, 7 category C images and 14 extreme pornographic videos. They also found that he had been using an app to speak to someone who clearly stated the were 14 years old and made continued sexualised comments and conversation with them.

PC Ell Estcourt said: *"This is Hall's second sexual offence of this nature. He knew he had to adhere to conditions in order to stay out of prison, yet he still went ahead and carried on with his predatory and disturbing behaviour. I hope this goes as a warning to those who are subject to such conditions, that we do check and we will take action in order to protect children and young people from harm."*

Three sentenced for Runcorn burglary

Three people have been sentenced after burgling a house in Runcorn.

The two men and one woman appeared at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 21 July 2026 for sentence after each pleading guilty to conspiracy to commit burglary:

Andrew Little, 50, of no fixed abode, was sentenced to three years.	Gemma Collins, 36, of Birchen Road, Halewood, Merseyside, was sentenced to two years.	David McKuhen, 46, of Oak Drive, Runcorn, was sentenced to 16 months suspended for 18 months.
		

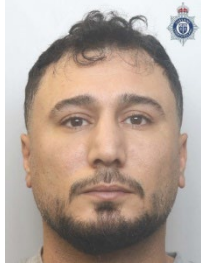
Little, Collins and McKuhen conspired with each other to commit a burglary at an address on Exmouth Crescent, Runcorn, on 16 April 2025. Collins, who was known to the victim, lured him out of his address to go to shops nearby. This enabled Little to commit the burglary while the address was empty. He gained access by smashing a kitchen window and stole a rare coin collection, electrical goods and cash. McKuhen was also present and ensured they were able to leave the area before the victim returned home. Collins later met with both Little and McKuhen. Following enquiries, all three defendants were linked to the offence.

PC Davies of Halton Proactive CID, said: *"I welcome the sentences handed out and I hope it acts as a deterrent to others thinking of committing burglary in Halton. Little, Collins and McKuhen meticulously planned this burglary between them, targeting the victim knowing what items of value were inside the address, and ensuring each had their own role to play in the crime. The impact a burglary has on a victim cannot be underestimated and we will continue making every effort to bring offenders to justice by putting them before the courts."*

Two men each jailed for 11 years after raping woman in Winsford

Two men have been jailed after raping a woman in Winsford.

Diyar Mohammed Abdulsalm and Dilgash Adil, both of Ledward Street, Winsford, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Friday 24 July for sentence. Abdulsalm, 28, was sentenced to 11 years after being found guilty of two counts of rape. Adil, 32, was also sentenced to 11 years after being found guilty of one count of rape. The pair, who are both Syrian nationals, must sign the sex offender register indefinitely.

Diyar Mohammed Abdulsalm		Dilgash Adil	
--------------------------	---	--------------	---

At 4.55am on Sunday 21 December police were called to concerns for an 18-year-old woman in Winsford. It was reported she had been on a night out in the town when she started speaking to two men - Abdulsalm and Adil - and had travelled to their home address with them. Contact was made with the woman, who was found near to The Drumber, Winsford. She then disclosed to officers that she had been raped. Abdulsalm and Adil were subsequently arrested and later charged.

Detective Chief Inspector Ian Murray said: *"Abdulsalm and Adil targeted a young woman who could not consent due to intoxication. Officers quickly ensured the victim was safeguarded and arrested the pair in connection with the offences. "Despite their denials, the jury found them guilty and they have now been jailed for their crimes. Although the victim will never be able to forget what happened, I hope these sentences provide her with some closure, knowing that these men are behind bars and justice has been served."*

"Anyone wishing to report a sexual offence can contact Cheshire Police on 101, or by visiting the Cheshire Police website."

Crewe man who attempted to meet up with teenager for sex jailed

A man who thought he was going to meet a 14-year-old girl for sex has been jailed.

Terrence O'Neil from Gresty Road in Crewe appeared at Chester Crown Court on 20 July to be sentenced after pleading guilty to arranging the commission of a sexual offence of sexual activity with a child, being an adult attempting to engage in sexual communication with a child and breaching a sexual harm prevention order at an earlier hearing. The 42-year-old was sentenced to five years in prison.



O'Neil had been chatting online to who he thought was a 14-year-old girl between 14 April and 22 April this year. From the start he commented on her looks and was soon telling her what he'd like to do to her, before arranging to meet up with her for sex. The evidence was handed over to police and O'Neil was arrested and later charged despite denying the evidence laid out to him.

DC Hollie Ikin said: *"O'Neil ignored his conditions preventing him from contacting underage girls and actively sought them out on an online chat service with clear intentions. His disregard for the Sexual Harm Prevention Order was called out, and he is now going to be serving a considerable time in prison for his despicable actions."*

UKFPU | Statement in response to Home Office statistics 2025/26

Following the Home Office publication of the latest football crime statistics, below is a comment from Chief Constable Mark Roberts QPM, the NPCC Lead for Football Policing: *"Almost 48 million people attended men's domestic and international matches during the 2025/26 season, and the vast majority of those were law-abiding citizens who wanted to support their team. Unfortunately, as the figures released today demonstrate, there continues to be a small number of fans who commit offences, and we will continue to work closely with the CPS and our other partners to ensure that they are held accountable."*

“The latest statistics show that there has once again been an increase in the number of matches where incidents were reported, rising from 1,580 in 2024/25, to 1,644 in 2025/26 (a 4% increase) – the highest figure ever reordered since the UKFPU began collating statistics in 2017/18. Particular areas of concern include incidents involving youth supporters, which have doubled over the past year, from 235 in 2024/25, to 516 in 2025/26. We also continue to see an increase in the number of hate crimes (up from 421 in 2024/25, to 491 in 2025/26).

“However, as the figures show, we are continuing to take action against those responsible, with 2,460 supporters now subject to football banning orders – the highest number since November 2012. In addition, 1,695 fans were arrested in 2025/26, while action was also taken against a further 269 supporters.

“Moving forward, we will continue to work with our partners including the CPS, Premier League, EFL and FA to collectively make football a safe environment for the overwhelming majority of supporters who just want to enjoy the game. However, a key part of this is looking at the funding provided to police forces by football clubs as the current model simply doesn’t work. Football-related crime doesn’t simply stop when fans exit the stadium, but under the current system multi-billion-pound football clubs do not have to pay a penny towards the policing outside their grounds. This means that taxpayers are left footing the £70m bill each season, which simply cannot continue.”

Man charged following assault in Chester

A man has been charged following a serious assault in Chester.

Jamie Spencer was arrested on Monday 20 July 2026. The 22-year-old, of no fixed abode, has since been charged with section 18 assault. He appeared at Chester Magistrates’ Court on Wednesday 22 July 2026 where he was remanded in custody to appear at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 19 August 2026. The charge relates to reports of an assault in the Chester area on Monday 20 July 2026 in which a man suffered serious injuries.

Cheshire Constabulary's Serious Organised Crime Unit charge 12 people with drugs offences

Cheshire Constabulary's Serious Organised Crime Unit (SOCU) have now charged 11 men and one woman, following an operation targeting organised crime.

The following defendants have been charged:

- Martin Rimmer, 58, of Haydn Road, Liverpool, has been charged with conspiracy to supply Class A drugs, conspiracy to supply Class B drugs, and possession of criminal property
- Kyle Ashcroft, 38, of Ridgeway Drive, Lydiate, Merseyside, has been charged with conspiracy to supply Class A drugs, conspiracy to supply Class B drugs, possession of criminal property, and concealing criminal property
- Callum Ashcroft, 33, of Quarry Way, Huyton, has been charged with conspiracy to supply Class A drugs, conspiracy to supply Class B drugs, and possession of criminal property
- Anthony Mulvaney, 33, of no fixed abode in Widnes, has been charged with conspiracy to supply Class A drugs and conspiracy to supply Class B drugs

- Christopher Crossland, 34, of Blyth Close, Runcorn, has been charged with conspiracy to supply Class A drugs and conspiracy to supply Class B drugs
- Scott Fell, 22, of The Glebe, Runcorn, has been charged with conspiracy to supply Class A drugs and conspiracy to supply Class B drugs, and possession of criminal property
- Jack Storey, 32, of Stanley Street, Runcorn, has been charged with conspiracy to supply Class A drugs and conspiracy to supply Class B drugs
- Callum Pope, 26, of Castle Rise, Runcorn, has been charged with conspiracy to supply Class A drugs and conspiracy to supply Class B drugs
- Scott Ryan, 38, of Hartsbourne Avenue, Liverpool, has been charged with conspiracy to supply Class A drugs, conspiracy to supply Class B drugs, possession of criminal property, possession with intent to supply Class A drugs, and possession with intent to supply Class B drugs
- Wade Goudie, 26, of Quarry Way, Huyton, has been charged with conspiracy to supply Class A drugs, conspiracy to supply Class B drugs, and possession of criminal property
- Sean Meadows, 37, of Alnwick Drive, Ellesmere Port, has been charged with conspiracy to supply Class A drugs and conspiracy to supply Class B drugs
- Nicole Archibald, 24, Whinsmoor Drive, Carlisle, has been charged with conspiracy to supply Class A drugs and conspiracy to supply Class B drugs

All 12 have been remanded in custody to appear at Chester Magistrates' Court today, Thursday 23 July. The charges relate to Operation Clocked, during which warrants were carried out at addresses across Cheshire, Merseyside, Cumbria and Humberside on Wednesday 22 July as part of an ongoing investigation into an alleged drugs conspiracy.

Man charged following offences in Northwich

A man has been charged with criminal damage and assault in Northwich.

Peter Bebbington was arrested on Monday 20 July 2026. The 41-year-old, of Nantwich Road, Crewe, has since been charged with two counts of criminal damage, one count of intentional suffocation and one count of assault occasioning actual bodily harm. He appeared at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 22 July 2026 where he was remanded in custody until a hearing at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 19 August 2026. The charges relate to reports of an assault on a woman in the Northwich area on Monday 20 July 2026.

Family pay tribute to "friend to many" great grandmother who died following Macclesfield collision

The family of Ann Johnson, who sadly died following a serious collision in Macclesfield, have paid tribute to her.

At 11.04am on Thursday 2 July, police were called to reports of a collision in Black Lane, Macclesfield. Officers attended and found there had been a collision between a car and a pedestrian. The pedestrian, 77-year-old Ann Johnson, suffered serious injuries and was taken to hospital. Sadly, Ann sadly passed away on Tuesday 7 July.



Ann's family have now paid tribute to her, they said: *"Our family have been left devastated and heartbroken by the tragic events of the 2nd July. Ann was a beloved mother and mother-in-law, sister, aunt, grandmother and great grandmother, and a friend to many whose lives she touched. Twice widowed, she was at her happiest helping others and her love and support will be sorely missed. Life will never be the same, however the many messages we have received are a great source of comfort and solace. We would like to thank everyone who helped at the scene of the accident, the Air Ambulance crew who attended and who provide such an amazing service, and lastly the staff at Manchester Royal Infirmary who were amazing to the end."*

Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and anyone with any information is asked to call Cheshire Police on 101 or visit www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us quoting IML-2363945.

Man found guilty of sexual assault in Malpas

A man who sexually assaulted a woman in a pub in Malpas has been found guilty of the offence.

Gary Taylor, of Belvedere Road, Burnley, was found guilty of one count of assault by penetration on Thursday 16 July 2026. The 41-year-old will appear back at Chester Crown Court on Friday 11 September 2026 for sentence.

On the evening of Thursday 18 January 2024, the victim – a woman in her 20s – attended a bar in Old Hall Street, Malpas. Taylor approached her and the victim described how he had been making sexual references towards her. When she left the bar area to go up to the accommodation section of the premises, Taylor sexually assaulted her in a bathroom. The victim managed to pull away from him and left the room. Taylor was arrested at his home address in Burnley two days later and subsequently charged with the offence.

DC Vicki Scott said: *"Taylor chose to take advantage of a young woman while she was enjoying an evening out and I welcome the verdict reached by the jury. I hope this brings the victim some sense of closure, knowing that justice has been served and Taylor has been held accountable for his horrific actions. I would also like to thank the victim for her bravery, especially after Taylor refused to accept what he had done."*

"If you have been a victim of a sexual offence, you can report information to Cheshire Police by calling 101 or visit our website to report online."

Three people admit holding a man against his will in Cheshire

Three people have admitted holding a man against his will and assaulting him at a flat in Winsford.

Millie McGreavy, Joshua Hastie and Reece Jackson all appeared at Chester Crown Court on Monday 21 July where they pleaded guilty to false imprisonment and assault. An additional charge of kidnap has been discontinued as part of a plea agreement which was accepted by the prosecution.

The case against the trio began at around 2.30pm on Tuesday 27 January when police were contacted by the mother of a man in Winsford. The woman reported that her son had disappeared and she had received a number of messages and phone calls from an unknown person threatening

to harm him. The offenders had demanded the woman meet them at Knights Grange and hand over £2,000 or her son would be killed and 'chopped up'. An investigation into the reports was launched and a number of searches were undertaken.

Shortly after 10pm on 27 January, a resident from Hemswell Close, Winsford, contacted police and reported that an unknown man had attended her address stating that he had been kidnapped and was too scared to leave the property. Officers attended and on arrival it was confirmed to be the same person. When spoken to by officers the man stated that McGreavy, Hastie and Jackson had attended his home at around 3am on 27 January and forced him into the back of a black vehicle. He had his hood pulled over his face and was then driven to an unknown flat where he was placed on a chair with his legs tied to the chair legs and his arms tied in front of him. He was then systematically attacked by McGreavy, Hastie and Jackson. This included being hit with a metal bar, having his head forcibly pushed into a bath full of water and having ammonia poured into his mouth. Thankfully, the victim managed to escape the flat after around 19 hours.

Following the allegations a manhunt was launched to locate the trio. Hastie was located in the local area after being spotted fleeing the scene by an attending officer. Meanwhile, Jackson and McGreavy were both located in Grimsby on Monday 2 February. During questioning all three defendants answered no comment to all the questions put to them by officers. Despite their silence they were all charged in relation to the incident. Following their guilty pleas, McGreavy, 28, of Launceston Close; Hastie, 33, of Weaver Grove; and Jackson, 35, of Austin Close, have all been remanded in custody and are set to be sentenced at Chester Crown Court on Monday 17 October.

Following the hearing, Detective Sergeant Neil Mooney, of Northwich CID said: *"Firstly, I would like to recognise the dedication and determination of the officers in this case. Thanks to the comprehensive evidential package they provided, including video interview evidence, witness statements, identification evidence, and digital materials, the defendants had no option but to admit their guilt. I would also like to recognise the bravery of the victim. To be forcibly held against your will, tied to a chair and repeatedly attacked must have been terrifying and something that nobody should ever have to experience. While he will never be able to forget what happened to him that day, I do hope the fact that McGreavy, Hastie and Jackson have all been held accountable for their actions will provide him with some closure."*

The fight against serious and organised crime continues as detectives make 12 arrests during raids

In the early hours of this morning, Wednesday 22 July, more than 250 officers took part in executing 10 warrants at addresses across Cheshire, Merseyside, Cumbria, and Humberside, as part of Cheshire Constabulary's ongoing mission to target those involved in serious and organised crime.

Today's strike, known as Operation Clocked, is the culmination of a complex and lengthy investigation by the Constabulary's Serious and Organised Crime Unit (SOCU) into an Organised Crime Group (OCG) believed to be involved in money laundering and the large-scale supply of illegal drugs throughout the North West region.

During the warrants, a total of 12 people were arrested, including:

- A 58-year-old man arrested at an address on Haydn Road, Liverpool

- A 38-year-old man arrested at an address on Ridgeway Drive, Lydiate, Merseyside
- A 33-year-old man arrested at an address on Quarry Way, Huyton
- A 22-year-old man arrested at an address on The Glebe, Runcorn
- A 32-year-old man arrested at an address on Foxley Heath, Widnes
- A 26-year-old man arrested at an address on Castle Rise, Runcorn
- A 38-year-old man arrested at an address on Hartsbourne Avenue, Liverpool
- A 26-year-old man arrested at an address of Powderworks Lane, Melling
- A 37-year-old man arrested at an address on Lowther Street, Carlisle
- A 24-year-old woman arrested at an address on Whinsmoor Drive, Carlisle

A 33-year-old man from HMP Buckley Hall and a 34-year-old man from HMP Berwyn were also arrested in connection with the investigation after being produced from prison. The suspects have been arrested on suspicion of a number of serious offences, and all currently remain in custody, assisting police with their enquiries.

Detective Sergeant Sophie Davies, who led the operation, said: *“This morning’s strike action follows a lengthy investigation into an OCG suspected of facilitating the supply and transportation of Class A and B drugs from Merseyside into Cheshire. Illegal drugs have a devastating impact on our communities, and by disrupting supply chains and removing those responsible from our streets, we are helping to break the cycle of serious and organised crime and make Cheshire a safer place for everyone. Today’s warrants send a clear message that criminality does not stop at county borders. No matter where you are based, if you come into Cheshire to deal drugs, we will use every power available to ensure that you are brought before the courts.*

“If you suspect drug-related criminality is taking place in your neighbourhood, please report it to us. The information you provide can play a vital role in helping us protect our communities and bring offenders to justice.”

To report serious and organised anonymously please call 0800 555 111 or [visit the Crimestoppers website](#).

Man sentenced for driving offences

A man has been sentenced after leading police on a pursuit before crashing into a wall in Winterley.

James Cheetham, of Alton Street, Crewe, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 16 July 2026 where he was sentenced to 15 months suspended for 18 months. The 39-year-old had pleaded guilty to dangerous driving and drug driving. On 21 December 2025, an officer attempted to stop a Peugeot 207 being driven by Cheetham in Crewe Road, Wheelock. The vehicle initially stopped but waited until the officer had exited his vehicle before making off at speed. The vehicle reached speeds of 70mph in a 30mph zone. After a short pursuit, the vehicle crashed into a wall outside a residential property in Winterley and Cheetham attempted to run from the scene. The officer detained Cheetham, who tested positive for benzoylecgonine (a metabolite of cocaine). He gave a reading of 595ug/l of benzoylecgonine, above the legal limit of 50ug/l.

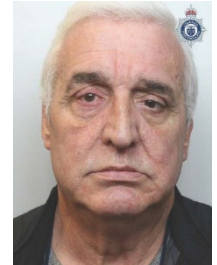


Sergeant Martin Hilditch said: *“Cheetham knew he shouldn’t have been driving after having cocaine in his system and attempted to outrun us. Thankfully, he didn’t make it very far – although it is a miracle there were no pedestrians walking along the pavement at the moment he crashed, or the outcome could have been very different. Cheetham has now been disqualified from driving for 18 months for his actions and before he can drive again, he must pass an extended test.”*

Man convicted of historic sexual abuse in Wilmslow

A man has been found guilty sexually abusing a child in Wilmslow.

Andrew Grierson was found guilty of four counts of sexual assault on a girl under 13, and five counts of indecent assault on a girl under 14, following a 7-day trial at Chester Crown Court which concluded on Thursday 16 July. The 64-year-old of McCormack Drive, Wigan, has since been remanded in custody and is set to be sentenced at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 6 October. The court heard how Grierson sexually abused the victim between 1996 and 2004.



Detective Inspector Claire Miles said: *“This has been a complex and lengthy investigation which ultimately uncovered Grierson’s despicable behaviour. It was apparent throughout the investigation that Grierson is a sexual predator who had preyed on a vulnerable child in order to fulfil his own sexual gratification. His actions have had a lasting impact on the victim, and I would like to praise her for the courage and bravery that she has shown throughout the trial. Having to relive her ordeal in court was not easy, but thanks to the strength of her evidence, Grierson has now been held accountable for his actions.*

“As this case shows, we treat all reports of non-recent sexual offences seriously, with the wishes and needs of the victim as our main priority, and any allegations will be thoroughly investigated. Anyone who has been a victim of sexual abuse – no matter how long ago the incident took place – is urged to come forward and report it to Cheshire Police on 101 or through our website.”

Man given indefinite hospital order after killing his estranged mother

A man who killed his estranged mother in Macclesfield has been given an indefinite hospital order.

Simon Carter, 50, of no fixed address, appeared at Chester Crown Court on 20 July 2026 to be sentenced after pleading guilty to the diminished responsibility manslaughter of his mother Gwyneth Carter. He was given an indeterminate section 37 hospital order with a section 41 restriction under the Mental Health Act 1983.



Carter who has remained detained under the Mental Health Act since his arrest on 20 July 2025, had attended his mother’s address on Pearson Street on 12 July 2025 to enquire about his father. Carter who had been living in Torquay and estranged from his mother for the past 19 years, turned up at the address completely unannounced. He was informed by Gwyneth that his father had died two years earlier and he then left the address after a short 10-15 minute visit.

Gwyneth had been concerned regarding the behaviour of Simon when he visited and told her sister Janis she wasn't sure if he had been on drink and drugs and that he wasn't behaving like her son. When Janis failed to get any response from Gwyneth by texts and calls over the next couple of days, she went over to Gwyneth's house and alerted a neighbour on 18 July. That was when they made the sad and distressing discovery. Officers and paramedics attended, and Gwyneth, 72, was sadly pronounced dead at the scene. A Home Office Post Mortem concluded cause of death was from multiple injuries to the head and neck.

DI Simon Mills said: *"The investigation was long and complex and over 4,000 hours of CCTV footage was recovered in the local area. Through our enquiries the movements of Carter were evidenced in the local area showing him coming and going from the address at the relevant times. Extremely strong forensic evidence placed him at the scene through his DNA and footwear – we held an extremely strong hand of evidence. It was sadly apparent through the enquiries that Carter had been behaving erratically and that he likely had undiagnosed mental health issues. Once arrested strong medical evidence showed that Carter did not have the required capacity at the time of the murder, hence why the plea of diminished responsibility manslaughter was accepted by the prosecution."*

"Our thoughts are with the family of Gwyneth, and hopefully this indeterminable sentence can allow the family to grieve and process the extremely sad events they have been subjected to. I also wish to take the opportunity to thank all the members of the public that assisted with enquiries and responded to our witness appeals. The evidence that we held by the end of the investigation was overwhelming."

Her family said at the time: *"She was a hardworking, strong lady with a laugh you could not forget, she was well known years ago for playing darts for a local team, she was competitive and always up for a good time. She was stubborn, known for always standing her ground and protective of those she loved. In recent years she found comfort and companionship with her beloved dog, Oscar."*



Two further suspects arrested following serious allegations at a religious group in Crewe

Detectives investigating reports of serious offences involving members of a religious group in Crewe have arrested two further suspects.

On Monday 20 July, a 53-year-old Mexican woman was arrested in Middlewich on suspicion of human trafficking offences and child neglect, while a 43-year-old British man, was arrested in the Wilmslow area on suspicion of child neglect offences and attempting to pervert the course of justice. In addition, a 43-year-old American woman who was arrested following the warrant at Webb House on Wednesday 29 April, was also rearrested on suspicion of attempting to pervert the course of justice. All three suspects have since been released on bail pending further enquiries. Officers have also applied for a Slavery and Trafficking Risk Order (STRO) against the 53-year-old woman. The application is set to be heard in Magistrates' Court at a later date.

The arrests form part of an ongoing investigation which began in March 2026 when Cheshire Police were made aware of allegations of serious sexual offences, forced marriage and modern slavery, involving members of a religious group called the Ahmadi Religion of Peace and Light. This has since

raised concerns in relation to the welfare of children who were members of the group. Twelve other suspects have been arrested as part of the overall investigation; they are all currently on conditional bail which prevents them from entering Crewe.

Detective Inspector Eleanor Atkinson, of the Major Investigations Team at Cheshire Constabulary, said: *"During our ongoing enquiries concerns have come to light in relation to the welfare of the children at Webb House which has resulted in these arrests. I understand the concern that these new arrests are likely to cause and I would like to reassure local residents that the appropriate safeguarding measures have been put in place to ensure the safety of children who are members of the group and there is not believed to be any risk to the wider community. None of the allegations we have received relate to anyone outside of the Ahmadi Religion of Peace and Light, and all the suspects we have arrested are also members of the religious group."*

"While all the suspects we have arrested are members of the group, as we have stated from the beginning, this is not an investigation into the religion. Our investigation solely focuses on the serious allegations which have been reported to us. While our investigation continues, we continue to remind everyone that this case is likely to take some time, and we would ask people not to speculate."

Anyone with any information which could assist with the investigation is asked to contact Cheshire police at Public Portal (<https://mipp.police.uk/operation/07CH19D14-PO1>) or call 101.

Cheshire Constabulary to launch Summer Safety Roadshow to help communities stay safe

Communities across Cheshire are being invited to take part in a new Summer Safety Roadshow, an interactive series of events designed to help people stay safe, access support and start important conversations.

Running throughout the school summer holidays, the roadshow will visit towns, parks and community events across the county, bringing together police officers, staff and partner organisations to provide practical advice, engaging activities and information on a range of safety topics. Visitors will have the opportunity to learn more about personal safety, healthy relationships, consent and domestic abuse support, while taking part in interactive activities suitable for all ages.

One of the key attractions will be Cheshire Constabulary's Consent. It starts with a conversation activity area - where families, young people and adults can spin a wheel, test their knowledge through fun games and take away resources to help continue conversations at home. The roadshow will also feature a personal safety zone, offering practical crime prevention advice alongside a dedicated support area where Cheshire's Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre will be available to provide information and guidance around domestic abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls.

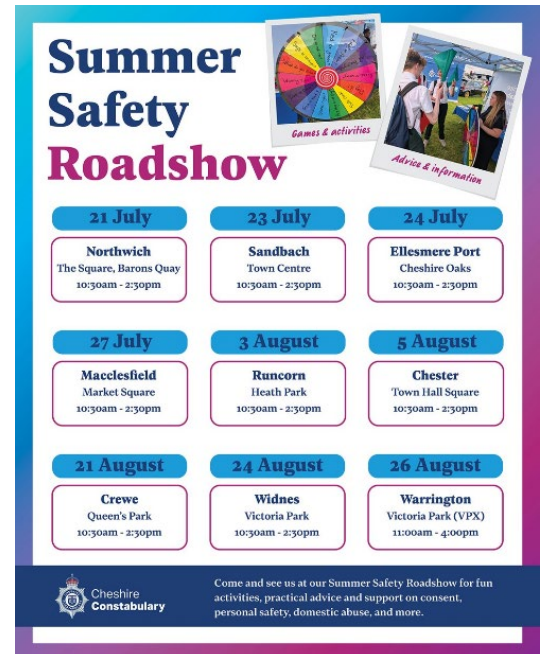
Head of local policing, Chief Superintendent Saf Ali, said: *"Keeping people safe is about more than responding when something has gone wrong. It's about helping people recognise risk, understand healthy relationships and feel confident having conversations that can prevent harm before it happens. We know that summer is a time when more people are out enjoying our towns, parks and events, so this roadshow gives us a fantastic opportunity to meet communities where they are,*

answer questions and provide practical advice in a friendly and engaging way. Whether you're bringing your children along, visiting with friends or simply passing by, we'd encourage everyone to come over, take part and have a conversation with us."

The events are free to attend and are designed for people of all ages. Visitors can also speak directly with officers, specialist staff and partner organisations, pick up advice and support materials, and learn more about the work taking place across Cheshire to keep communities safe.

Roadshow dates:

- Tuesday 21 July – The Square Barons Quay, Northwich
- Thursday 23 July - Sandbach Town Centre
- Friday 24 July - Cheshire Oaks, Ellesmere Port
- Monday 27 July - Macclesfield Market Square
- Monday 3 August - Heath Park, Runcorn
- Wednesday 5 August – Chester City Centre
- Friday 21 August - Queen's Park, Crewe
- Monday 24 August - Victoria Park, Widnes
- Wednesday 26 August - Victoria Park, Warrington



For more information about the Summer Safety Roadshow, including event details and links to advice on personal safety, consent and support services, [visit our Summer Safety Roadshow webpage](#).

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Image released following collision in Orford Green

Police investigating a collision in Warrington have released a CCTV image of a vehicle they are looking to identify.

At around 7.20am on Tuesday 21 July, officers in Warrington responded to reports of a collision on Orford Green, near to the Tesco Express and fuel station. The collision involved an electric bicycle and a vehicle believed to be a dark-coloured Range Rover. Following the incident, the driver stopped briefly and spoke with the rider before leaving the area. The cyclist sustained minor injuries and later attended hospital as a precaution. Officers are now looking to identify the



driver of the Range Rover and have released an image of the vehicle believed to have been involved in the collision.

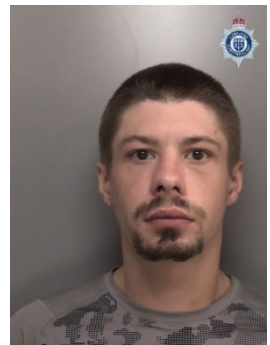
Police Constable Oliver Power, of the Roads and Crime Unit, said: *"Officers have been conducting a number of enquiries to fully establish what has taken place here and, as part of these enquiries, investigators are now seeking to trace the driver of the Range Rover believed to have been involved. We are also asking anyone who witnessed the collision itself take place, or who may have dashcam footage from the area around the time of the incident, to come forward."*

Anyone with any information is asked to contact Cheshire Police via the website, or on 101, quoting incident reference number IML-2378432.

Appeal to trace wanted man from St Helens

Officers in Widnes are appealing for help in tracing a wanted man from St Helens.

James Lockett is wanted in connection to shoplifting offences in Widnes. Lockett, 27, is described as white, with short dark brown hair and brown eyes. He is believed to reside in the St Helens area of Merseyside, however Lockett has links to Huyton, Whiston and Prescot. He is also known to visit the Widnes area regularly.



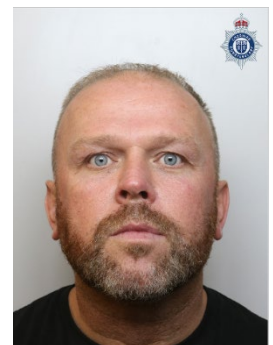
Anyone with any information regarding the whereabouts of Lockett, is asked to contact Cheshire Police via the website, or on 101, quoting incident reference number 26000536728.

Appeal to trace wanted man from Liverpool

Officers are appealing for help in tracing a wanted man from Liverpool.

John Pennington is wanted in connection to stalking offences. Pennington, 44, is described as white, with blue eyes and short blonde/mousey hair. He is from Liverpool but also has links to Widnes.

Anyone with any information regarding the whereabouts of Pennington is asked to contact Cheshire Police via the website, quoting incident reference number 26000541691.



Police appeal for information following Sandbach business burglaries

Police in Sandbach are appealing for information following four business burglaries in the town.

Between 13 and 21 July there have been four burglaries during the early hours. The suspect smashed glass to gain entry on each occasion and escaped with cash. On 13 July the suspect struck at Black Cat Coffee in Welles Street, and again at Doggy Day Care Wheelock on Game Street overnight on 13 July into the early hours of the next morning. On 21 July the Little Pea Play Cafe, Lodge Road was broken into along with Sandbach Cricket Club on Hind Heath Road.

Enquiries are continuing, and anyone who has any information, CCTV or doorbell footage should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via the [website](#) quoting 26000563785 for the Black Cat Cafe; 26000567795 for Doggy Daycare; 26000590689 for Little Play Café; and 26000592789 for Sandbach Cricket Club. Alternatively, information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 08000 555 111.

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)

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

Email: cheshirenw@outlook.com

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

Facebook page: facebook.com/cheshirenwa



In partnership with



Cheshire
Constabulary



Scan to visit website



To find out further information about the Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association, to log into your account or for Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Literature please visit our website: www.cheshirenw.org