

# Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 20 July 2025

## Cheshire News & Appeals



### Latest Cheshire News

#### **Warrington based organised crime gang jailed for total of 55 years and 5 months after being caught facilitating drugs and firearm activity on EncroChat**

The members of a Warrington based Organised Crime Gang (OCG) who led their commercial drugs operation through EncroChat have been jailed.

Seven men appeared at Liverpool Crown Court today, Thursday 17 July, to be sentenced for their involvement in the large-scale supply of class A and B drugs. These included:

- Nathan Simpson, 33, of Birtles Road, Warrington, jailed for 16 years and 2 months for conspiracy to supply class A drugs (cocaine), two counts of conspiracy to supply class B drugs (amphetamine, cannabis), possession of class B drugs (cannabis), and possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence to another.
- Nathan Davies, 33, of Hume Street, Warrington, jailed for 9 years and 8 months for conspiracy to supply class B drugs (cannabis), production of class B drugs (cannabis extracts), possession of class B drugs (cannabis), and possession of a firearm with intent to cause fear of violence to another.
- John Lally, 33, of Fairclough Street, Warrington, jailed for 12 years and 4 months years for conspiracy to supply class A drugs (cocaine), three counts of conspiracy to supply class B drugs (amphetamine and cannabis), possession with intent to supply class A drugs (cocaine), handling stolen goods, encourage and assisting in the commission of an offence, and arson with intent to endanger life.
- Steven Dodd, 33, of Watkin Street, Warrington, jailed for 6 years and 9 months for conspiracy to supply class A drugs (cocaine), conspiracy to supply class B drugs (cannabis), and possession of class B drugs (cannabis).
- Connor Lawton, 30, of Aspinall Close, Warrington, jailed for 3 years and 4 months for conspiracy to supply class B drugs (cannabis)
- Daniel Roberts, 34, of Sandfields Crescent, Warrington, jailed for 3 years and 6 months for conspiracy to supply class B drugs (cannabis)
- Dominic Bourdet, 40, of Thelwall Lane, Warrington, jailed for 3 years and 8 months for conspiracy to supply class B drugs (cannabis), possession of class B drugs (amphetamine), possession of class B drugs (cannabis)

Operation Havoc is an investigation conducted by Cheshire Police's Serious and Organised Crime Unit into the sale and distribution of illegal drugs and firearms offences in Warrington. The investigation began when international law enforcement officers, working with the National Crime Agency, infiltrated a previously encrypted data system known as EncroChat. Following the breakthrough officers discovered thousands of messages posted by criminals across the world, each with their own unique username to ensure their anonymity. An analysis of the data allowed detectives to attribute usernames 'Gardenfella', 'Chillifella', 'Silverfella', 'Snowyspring',

‘Stickygreen’ and ‘Greenidol’ to seven of the defendants (Simpson, Davies, Lally, Dodd, Roberts, Bourdet and Lawton), evidencing their involvement in the conspiracy to supply significant quantities of controlled drugs.

[https://youtu.be/Rd1DUwPf\\_Rc](https://youtu.be/Rd1DUwPf_Rc)

The supply network operated at an industrial level, obtaining multi-kilo amounts of cannabis, cocaine, and amphetamine through several sources, predominately from the Manchester, Liverpool and Birmingham areas. Once obtained, the drugs were stored, prepared for onward sale, and later distributed to middle market suppliers, who in turn supplied the drugs to others.

Nathan Simpson, Nathan Davies and John Lally were classed as having leading roles in the crime group. Between them, they made direct contact with upstream suppliers and were involved in the transportation, storage, and distribution of cannabis, cocaine, and amphetamine at a significant scale. Simpson and Davies shared control of viable firearms and planned drive by shootings of rival OCG members. Simpson also conspired with others with the intention of hiring them to carry out punishment shootings of rival OCG members following a dispute.

Lally was responsible for coordinating the supply and distribution of drugs through subordinates within the OCG. He was involved in the collection and movement of substantial quantities of money and cocaine, reporting directly to Simpson. Lally was also involved in the dispute with a rival organised crime group and conspired with Simpson and Daniel Roberts to commit grievous bodily harm whereby he planned to set fire to home addresses, vehicles and business premises of rival gang members. Daniel Roberts, Steven Dodd, Connor Lawton, and Dominic Bourdet were evidenced as having significant roles and were trusted members of the crime group, helping to collect, store and distribute the OCG’s drugs.

From the evidence gathered, experts were able to assess the group’s involvement in the supply of 115.283kg of cannabis, 10.982kg of cocaine, and 63.44kg of amphetamine. This resulted in warrants being conducted by officers at multiple addresses across Warrington on Wednesday 27 November 2024, and amounted in the arrest of Simpson, Davies, Lally, Dodd, Bourdet, and Roberts. Lawton was later arrested on Friday 6 December 2024 at Manchester Airport. During the warrants, officers seized quantities of drugs, cash, mobile phones, and luxury items such as Rolex watches and other designer goods. The men were subsequently charged, and due to the strength of the evidence against them, all seven OCG members pleaded guilty to their involvement.

DCI Nick Henderson, of the Serious and Organised Crime Unit said: *“Today’s sentencing brings to a close what has been an extremely lengthy and complex investigation, and I welcome the sentences that have been handed to all seven men. Davies, Simpson, and Lally were all key players in the large-scale commercial drugs business supplying substantial amounts of cannabis, cocaine, and amphetamine in Warrington and the wider Northwest Region. They entrusted their subordinates to assist in the onward sale of the drugs and even conspired to start a war with a rival gang, putting the lives of innocent members of the public at risk while they hid behind the proceeds of their crimes. They used EncroChat believing that they could operate under the radar, using an encrypted and sophisticated device that would keep their communication secretive in order to avoid detection. However, after EncroChat was infiltrated officers were able to comb through all the messages and reveal their illegal activities, meaning that they are now facing a combined total of 55 years and 5*

*months behind bars. This shows that no matter what you think you are doing to cover your tracks, we are one step ahead. We will do everything we can to make sure that each member of these OCGs pay for the misery that they bring to communities across Cheshire."*

Anyone with information about drug activity in their community is urged to [contact Cheshire Police via our website](#).

### **Police urge parents to speak with their children about Snapchat safety following reports of a concerning group chat in Warrington**

Police are urging parents to speak with their children about Snapchat safety ahead of the summer holidays following reports that the group chat, made up of over 100 children in Warrington, was used to share indecent images of adults. The group, previously called "Hype Group", has since been renamed as "Nag FC". Those identified as involved have been spoken to by their respective school and parents made aware.

DS Joe Davies said: *"I understand that this incident is likely to have caused considerable concern to the local community, and I would like to reassure parents and carers that we will always take immediate action when it comes to ensuring children are protected. We are also working closely with our partner agencies, local schools and Warrington Borough Council, to ensure all children are safeguarded. As part of our enquiries, we are keen to identify members of the group and ask that parents and carers speak with their children and check if they too are a part of the group. Anyone who believes their children are part of this group chat are urged to contact us via [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us) or call 101 quoting IML 2134439."*

For a complete parent guide on how to keep your child safe online which includes explanation of communication and gaming applications, visit [Online safety blog | NSPCC](#).

### **Man charged in connection with burglaries across Cheshire and North Wales**

A wanted man has been charged with multiple offences following his arrest earlier this week.

Jerry Berry, 39, of no fixed abode, is charged with five counts of burglary from residential properties, and a count of burglary from a commercial premises. The charges relate to incidents across Wrexham, Flintshire and Cheshire which were reported between Tuesday 24 June and Tuesday 15 July. Berry is also charged with driving offences in connection with a pursuit with officers in Bangor on Thursday 10 July and driving whilst disqualified on Wednesday 16 July. He was remanded into custody to appear before Mold Magistrates court today, Friday 18 July, where he was further remanded to appear before Mold Crown Court on Friday 15 August.

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

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

The properties on Norris Road and Burton Road have been shut down by officers who secured closure orders under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 from Chester Magistrates' Court on 16 July. Officers also secured a partial closure order at an address on Canterbury Road to prevent anyone other than the tenant being at the property due to concerns that the woman at the address is vulnerable and the address is being used for drug activity. The orders, which came into effect from 16 July and will run for three months, are a direct result of officers responding to the concerns of residents regarding the behaviour at the properties, including drug activity and antisocial behaviour.



Residents in the local area provided enough evidence of the issues coming from the addresses for the team to be successful in obtaining the orders. This closure orders will hopefully bring some peace for the local community which was having to endure such disruptive and harmful behaviour. Closures such as these could not be possible without the valuable input of residents, local authority, housing associations and private landlords. By working together, communities can only benefit from the positive action the beat team can take on their behalf.

The occupants of the properties have been ordered to leave and find alternative accommodation, with all windows and doors being secured for a period of three months. Anyone who enters the address during that time will be committing a criminal offence and could be arrested. The partial order should protect the man from harm and stop unwanted visitors.

Sgt Gemma Ashton, from the Blacon Beat Team said: *"As you can see here, we're continuing in our efforts to deter anti-social behaviour and illegal activity by taking positive action against further addresses identified as ASB hotspots. I want to urge anyone with concerns about ASB or other criminality in their community to please contact local officers and we will do everything we can to address these issues as we have done here."*

Anyone with concerns about anti-social or suspicious behaviour in their area is asked to report it to Cheshire Police via the [Cheshire Police website](#) or call 101.

### **Officers in Chester take part in multi-agency operation**

A multi-agency operation has taken place in Chester to ensure shops, restaurants, takeaways and pubs were complying with regulations.

The operation took place on Wednesday 16 July focusing on Brook Street, Chester. This involved units from across the force, including Chester Beat Team, Western Exploitation Team, Foreign National Offender Officers, and the Bike Unit, along with HMRC, Trading Standards, Immigration, DWP, Cheshire Fire and Rescue, plus Local Authority Food Hygiene and Parking Services. A total of 16 premises, including shops, restaurants and public houses, were visited as part of the operation, with all the agencies carrying out inspections. This resulted in a number of illegal cigarettes and vapes being seized and immigration statuses being checked. Follow-up visits will be undertaken by partner agencies. While the visits were taking place, the Bike Unit carried out a number of stop checks and enforcement activity in relation to delivery drivers and riders in the area to ensure they were observing regulations. Two TORs (Traffic Offence Reports) were issued. Local Authority Parking Services also deployed to enforce the parking restrictions in the street.

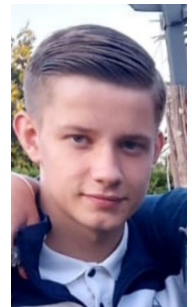
The work falls under the Constabulary's Safer Streets Summer initiative, which runs from June until September. The national initiative is part of ongoing neighbourhood policing work, with officers increasing their presence in hotspot areas and working with partner agencies to keep town centres across the county safe.

Insp James Wilson said: *"The presence of all the agencies working together had a significant disruptive effect and sent out a clear message to anyone engaged in crime that Cheshire Police works with a range of agencies to target any criminality or failure to follow regulations. It also provided an opportunity for officers to build relationships with other agencies, as well as the businesses in the area. We are committed to ensuring Chester continues to be a safe place for everyone. By working together we are able to go further in tackling the issues that matter the most to our communities and ensure the city remains a safe place for everyone who lives, works and visits here."*

### **Tribute issued following fatal collision in Dodleston**

The family of a 17-year-old boy who died following a collision in Dodleston have paid tribute to him.

Ronnie Tillot, from Chester, died on Friday 11 July following a collision on Welsh Road. Following his tragic death, Ronnie's family said: *"As a family, we are devastated and heartbroken at the loss of a wonderful son and brother. Ronnie was the most compassionate, hardworking and just an all-round great kid. Our lives will never be the same. Ronnie will be truly missed by all his friends and family."*



Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and anyone with any information to get in touch. Anyone with information or footage that may be relevant to the investigation is asked to call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 2130452, or give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us>.

### **Football disorder stats show 18% rise in incidents at football matches**

The latest football disorder statistics have shown an 18% increase in the number of football matches with reported incidents across England and Wales (1,583 in 2024/25 compared to 1,341 in 2023/24).

Hate crime (+6%) and drugs in football stadiums (+25%) make up the majority of the increase. Meanwhile, there have been decreases in the number of pitch encroachments (-12%) and pyrotechnics offences (-19%), demonstrating the positive work police forces have done with the clubs to tackle the issues. Despite the increase in the number of football-related incidents, the number of arrests has fallen by 11%. However, this does not mean that people are not facing consequences for their actions. Many incidents are now being dealt with in slow time, with suspects voluntarily attending interviews at a later date, rather than being immediately arrested, meaning that they are not always included within the statistics. A contributing factor of the decrease is down to the fact that many police forces have difficulties policing matches as forces are having to make hard choices with tightened finances – this is compounded by the inability to fairly recover policing costs.

Despite the decrease in arrests, the number of Football Banning Orders (FBOs) has continued to increase (2,439 in June 2025, compared to 2,172 in August 2024) demonstrating that positive action is being taken to tackle football-related crime. The majority of these FBOs are for violent offences such as missile throwing, assaults and public order offences. This illustrates that the right people are being punished by removing them from the game so that the rest of the football fans – the overwhelming majority of which go to have a good time without causing any problems whatsoever - can safely do so.

Chief Constable Mark Roberts, NPCC National Football Policing Lead, said: *“These figures show that we are continuing to see a worrying level of offending at men’s football matches across the country at all levels, which is leading to an increasing strain on policing resources and demonstrates why it is essential that football clubs need to start paying their fair share towards policing matches. Policing men’s football creates significantly more demand than any other event in terms of public order deployments nationally, meaning every week officers are taken away from policing communities to facilitate matches. Given the frequency of the games in the UK, it is a huge drain on our resources and means that we are essentially losing around 800-1200 officers every year to policing football.*

*“The cost to the public purse for policing football matches is extortionate, with taxpayers now providing £70m of policing each season – which cannot continue. As things stand, football clubs are only required to cover the costs incurred inside their ground or on their property – they do not have to pay a penny towards the policing of surrounding streets, city centres or towards the increasing marches to stadiums by fans. On top of this, 48% of games across all leagues incur no charges for policing, with 95% of the National League being police-free so to suggest fair cost recovery would put small clubs out of business is wide of the mark. In a nutshell, this means that we as the police are subsidising clubs that quite happily spend up to a £1bn in a single transfer window. That is why I am continuing to call for the government to speed up the ongoing consultation process into the current legislation.”*

Chief Constable Roberts, added: *“Despite the increasing financial strain, police forces are continuing to work hard to tackle football related offences. 2,439 fans are now subject to football banning orders, an increase of 12% compared 2024, meaning that they cannot attend any matches, including those at international tournaments. The reporting of online hate crime has reduced this year. This is down to us continuing excellent work with social media companies to ensure that action can be taken against those responsible for online hate crimes. They have speeded up their processes and many now utilise filters to greater effect, thereby preventing offensive posts being published. However, further work needs to be done in these areas. We know that online abuse is still widely underreported, and we would encourage anyone affected by these despicable crimes to come forward and report them. Collectively we need to make football a safer space for the overwhelming majority of fans who want to enjoy the game. Anyone who commits a criminal offence either outside or inside a football ground can expect to face the consequences of their actions.”*

### **Cheshire Speed Watch volunteers take part in National Day of Action**

Volunteers were out in force across Cheshire for National Community Speed Watch Day.



The volunteers gathered together on roadsides across the county on Friday 11 July alongside local officers in a coordinated day of action. They joined volunteers across the country for the first time as part of the National Police Chiefs Council's Operation Spotlight, which focuses on tackling the Fatal Five driving offences.



The main contributory factors to serious and fatal collisions on Cheshire roads in 2022 and 2023 were careless driving, drink and drug driving, not wearing a seatbelt, using a mobile phone, and speeding, which became the focus of Cheshire's Fatal Five campaign to try and reduce the number of serious and fatal collisions on our road network. With speed being one of the contributory factors of serious collisions, volunteers play an important part in our road safety prevention and education messages.



In Cheshire we have 60 Speed Watch schemes, and nationally there are nearly 2,500 Community Speed Watch schemes all supported by members of the community who kindly volunteer to help make our roads safer. The volunteers record the speed of passing traffic on approved detection devices and those exceeding the speed limit are sent a letter explaining the potential risks and consequences of their behaviour. On Friday in total our Cheshire volunteers

recorded 811 speeding drivers who will all be expecting a letter through the post.

CI Cameron Taylor said: *"Community Speed Watch is about education, and policing supports the committed teams of volunteers who work together to improve the safety of our local roads. Everyone should take responsibility for their actions behind the wheel to make our roads safer to all who use them. Here in Cheshire, we are very grateful to our community volunteers for their support in this message."*

### **Man charged following investigation into Handforth Greggs Bakery attempted robbery**

Detectives investigating an attempted robbery at Greggs bakery in Handforth have charged a man.

Vincent Foley, 43, from Bailey Lane, Manchester was charged with burglary and theft, attempted robbery, section 18 wounding with intent, possession of an offensive weapon in a public place and fraud by false representation. The charges relate to an attempted robbery at the bakery in Wilmslow Road in Handforth on 4 July and a burglary at an address in Meriton Road, Handforth on the same day. The fraud relates to using stolen cheques on 7 July. He was remanded to appear at Chester Magistrates on 16 July.

### **Two men charged with drug dealing in Chester and Ellesmere Port**

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

Daniel Lacey and Bradley McNay were both arrested earlier this year as part of an investigation into the supply of illegal drugs in Chester and Ellesmere Port. McNay, 26, of Bateman Close, Ellesmere Port, has since been charged with two counts of possession with intent to supply class A drugs (cocaine and MDMA), possession of class B drugs (cannabis). Lacey, 27, of Coventry Avenue, Great

Sutton, has been charged with being concerned in the supply of Class A drugs. The pair are both set to appear at Chester Magistrates Court on Friday 22 August.

### **Drug driver sentenced following serious collision in Chester**

A drug driver who caused a serious collision in Chester city centre has now been sentenced.

Matthew Cumpsty appeared at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 15 July, where he was handed a 12 month community order, including 200 hours community service. He was also ordered to pay £85 costs and £114 surcharge. The 52-year-old, of Oldfield Drive, Great Boughton, had earlier pleaded guilty to drug driving and dangerous driving.

The court heard that at around 6.30am on Tuesday 1 April, Cumpsty was driving a silver Mercedes E-Class on Green Lane in Chester. As he approached the junction with the A51, Vicars Cross Road, he drove straight through a red light, into the path of a JCB tractor, which had been travelling out of Chester. The impact of the collision caused the tractor then veer off path, causing the vehicle to crash into homes at the side of the road. Emergency services attended the scene and on arrival they found that two properties had suffered serious structural damage, but thankfully, there were no reports of any injuries as a result of the incident.

Cumpsty was arrested at the scene after failing a roadside drugs swipe. A toxicology report later reveal that he was over the limit for benzoylecgonine (cocaine) with 65 micrograms per litre of blood, over the limit of 50 micrograms per litre. CCTV footage recovered from the scene also showed him clearly driving through the red light.

Following the sentencing, PC Richard Phillips, said: *"While Cumpsty has shown remorse for his actions, The impact of his actions that day were lifechanging and it was pure chance that nobody suffered any serious injuries. As a result of one bad decision to get behind the wheel while under the influence, several families were left homeless and commuters travelling into Chester were left with serious disruption for several weeks while repair work was undertaken. In addition, Cumpsty is facing a lengthy driving ban, I hope that this ban will give him time to reflect on his actions that day."*

### **Birmingham man jailed for drug dealing in Crewe**

A county lines drug dealer from Birmingham who was dealing class A drugs in Crewe has been jailed.

Videsh Raghoonanan appeared at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 8 July where he was sentenced to 4 years and 6 months. The 38-year-old of Alcester Street, Birmingham, had earlier pleaded guilty to being concerned in the supply of Class A drugs.



The investigation began after officers became aware that the 'Ghost' county lines gang were actively selling drugs in the Crewe area. Following enquiries, Raghoonanan was identified as the controller of the line after officers found the mobile number he used to send hundreds of 'flare' messages advertising the sale of drugs. At around 5.45pm on Monday 28 April, officers on patrol spotted Raghoonanan travelling in a BMW 5 Series along the A51, London Road, Nantwich, towards the Crewe area. Officers stopped the vehicle and Raghoonanan was arrested on suspicion of being



concerned in the supply of Class A drugs. Following a search, officers seized a quantity of drugs hidden in Raghoonanan's underwear. They also located the phone used by Raghoonanan to distribute and supply crack cocaine and heroin. A warrant conducted at his home in Birmingham revealed a quantity of cash, drugs, and drug paraphernalia. The drugs seized from Raghoonanan was valued at approximately £10,400.

Following the sentencing, a Cheshire Police Spokesperson said: *"Raghoonanan targeted Crewe thinking that it would be an easy place to deal drugs, what he didn't realise is that we were hot on his trail. We were able to provide a catalogue of evidence against Raghoonanan leaving him no option but to plead guilty to the charges against him. Illegal drugs can have a devastating impact on not only drug users, but the community around them. We are doing all we can to stop drug activity on our streets to make Crewe a safer place to live, work and visit, while also making it extremely hostile place for criminals. We will always act on any information about drug activity provided to us and would urge anyone who believes this activity is happening near to them, to please contact us on 101 or [visit the website](#)."*

### **Man jailed for attempted burglary in Runcorn**

A man has been jailed following two attempted burglaries in Runcorn.

Darren Cosgrove had appeared at Chester Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 8 July where he pleaded guilty to two counts of attempted burglary. The 58-year-old of East Lane, Runcorn, was sentenced that same day to 52 weeks in prison. The court heard how at around 10.20am on Sunday 6 July, Cosgrove had attempted to break into an address on Castle View House, while the occupants and their new-born baby were inside.



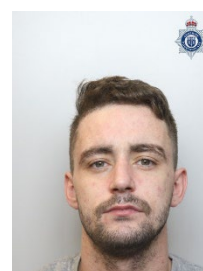
One of the occupant's challenged Cosgrove, who had been trying to enter the address through the front door. When challenged, Cosgrove left and advised he would not return. However, at around 8.35pm that day, Cosgrove returned to the address and tried the door handle once again, as well as the door handle of the opposite property. The occupant stopped Cosgrove from entering the address a second time and called Cheshire Police. Officers attended and immediately arrested Cosgrove. He was subsequently charged with two counts of attempted burglary with intent to steal.

Following the sentencing, PC Davies said: *"I welcome the sentence handed to Cosgrove and I hope it acts as a warning to other offenders planning to commit crime in our town. Burglary is a priority for us as we understand the impact it has, whether its someone's home or someone's livelihood. The effect this type of crime has on the victims and the local community should not be underestimated so we will continue to make every effort to find those responsible and put them before the courts."*

### **Man convicted of raping a child in Wilmslow**

A man has been found guilty of raping a child in Wilmslow.

Daniel Carter has been convicted of a string of sexual offences following a 4-day-trial at Chester Crown Court. On Thursday 10 July, Carter was found guilty by unanimous verdict of 10 counts of child sexual offences, including rape of a child



under 13, exposure, sexual assault, engaging in sexual activity in the presence of a child, and causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity. The 28-year-old of no fixed abode in the Macclesfield area, has since been remanded in custody and is set to be sentenced on Friday 12 September.

Cheshire Police launched the investigation in November 2022 following a disclosure made by the victim. The jury heard how Carter had begun sexually abusing the victim in 2019, when she was just nine years old, and continued over the course of three years. Carter was immediately arrested and subsequently charged with the offences.

Following the verdict, DC Steph Darbyshire said: *"Firstly, I want to commend the victim for her bravery and courage shown throughout this investigation and trial. Sadly, there are no winners in this case, however I truly hope this result will provide her closure. I would like to thank the victim's family who have whole-heartedly supported her and the investigation throughout. I would also like to thank my team and all those involved in securing this verdict – an immense amount of work has gone into ensuring the victim and other innocent children are safeguarded from what is an extremely dangerous sexual predator. Carter has shown no remorse for the horrific acts of abuse he subjected his victim to, and denied everything throughout the investigation, traumatising his victim further by putting her through a trial. Thankfully, the jury were able to see through his lies, and he will finally be held accountable for what he's done. I hope this result will enable the victim to move past this part of her life, with the comfort of knowing Carter will never be able to hurt her again."*

DC Darbyshire added: *"As this case shows, we treat all reports of sexual offences seriously, with the wishes and needs of the victims 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](#)."*

### **Officers in Chester help to ensure taxis are operating lawfully**

Chester Local Policing Unit has taken part in a further operation to ensure taxis are operating lawfully in the city.

Operation Recordings, which is carried out by both Chester Beat Management Team and the Special Constabulary, was established in a bid to ensure taxis are safe, correctly licenced, and compliant with all regulations. On Friday 11 July, officers worked with the taxi licensing team from Cheshire West and Chester Council, as well as teams from Flintshire and Wolverhampton, to make sure taxis were operating lawfully. This resulted in:

- 53 taxis being stopped
- Three taxis taken off the road due to defects
- Seven rectification notices issued
- One TOR (Traffic Offence Report) issued for defective tyres
- Advice given to 12 drivers in relation to not having any 'no smoking' stickers displayed

Insp James Wilson said: *"Countless people use taxis to get around Chester – from residents and those who work in the area, to visitors taking a trip to the city to enjoy all it has to offer. This is why we work alongside our partner agencies to make sure the vehicles and drivers transporting these*

*individuals are correctly licenced and compliant. These operations send a clear message that taxi drivers must comply with regulations for a reason - to ensure the safety of all those using taxis in the Chester area. All taxis must be road worthy with no defects, the driver needs to have an ID badge, there must be a fire extinguisher and first aid kit, and vehicles must display no smoking signs. Over the course of the operation, positive feedback was received from a number of taxi drivers and members of the public and we'd like to thank everyone for their cooperation."*

### **Wanted criminals targeted during a week-long cross-departmental operation**

Nearly 40 criminals who have been wanted for a variety of offences across the county have been arrested.

Operation Untolerated ran across Cheshire from Monday 7 July until Sunday 13 July and was specifically launched to target criminals who had previously evaded law enforcement and remained wanted by Cheshire Police. Last week, officers and staff from multiple departments across the seven main Local Policing Units were supported by the Special Constabulary and specialist units, such as the Online Child Abuse Investigation Team, Sex Offenders Management Unit, Economic Crime Unit and the Serious Organised Crime Unit, in concentrating their efforts and combining their expertise to bring in a list of individuals who remained outstanding for a range of offences.

The arrests were made in several places, including pubs, workplaces, town centres and addresses linked to offenders themselves. Several individuals wanted on warrants also handed themselves in after officers left no stone unturned in their pursuit to locate and arrest offenders. Across Cheshire, a total of 39 arrests were made as part of the operation, 35 of which were for those wanted for failing to attend court, with four being wanted on recall to prison. Officers also personally escorted an offender to the Crown Court for sentencing in relation to a drugs supply offences case.

DCI Christian Morris, who oversaw the operation, said: *"In Cheshire, our officers work intently to keep the county a hostile environment for crime and do not tolerate the actions of those who actively evade law enforcement and, wrongly, think they can get away with committing crime without facing any repercussions. This is something our officers and staff do every day as part of their daily business, with this week being an opportunity to highlight that when we identify and arrest those who are a priority for us to find. This work also contributes to the Summer Safer Streets initiative, a campaign focused on neighbourhood policing and keeping our communities safe from crime and disruption, which the Constabulary has recently committed to alongside our fellow forces across England and Wales.*

*"I'd like to reassure members of the public that Cheshire Constabulary will always take action against those who commit crime, and we will continue to do everything possible to bring perpetrators to justice, continuing with our commitment to keep the residents of Cheshire safe. I would also like to address anyone who knows that we are looking for them and thinks they are above the law: we are constantly following enquiries and information provided to us, and our officers will not rest until you have been brought to justice for your crimes."*

### **Man sentenced for assaulting police officer**

A man who spat at a police officer has been sentenced.

Damian Harry appeared at Liverpool Crown Court on Wednesday 9 July where he was sentenced to 16 weeks' imprisonment, suspended for 2 years. The 52-year-old must also serve a three-month curfew. Harry, of Whinchat Drive, Birchwood, had earlier pleaded not guilty to obstructing an officer and assaulting an emergency services worker. The charges relate to an incident which occurred on Monday 30 August 2021 when officers were called to Harry's address following concerns for the safety of a child. On their attendance, Harry became both verbally and physically aggressive and obstructed officers in duty. The altercation went on for some time before Harry was detained and placed into a police van. Whilst in the van, an officer went to check on Harry after he complained that he was struggling to breathe. It was at this point that Harry spat in the officer's face. Harry was subsequently arrested and charged.

### **Cheshire Constabulary continues to urge residents to remain vigilant against courier fraud**

Cheshire Constabulary is supporting a national campaign urging people to remain vigilant against courier fraud.

New data from the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) - run by the City of London Police, the national lead force for fraud - reveals that 1,797 reports of courier fraud were received in the last financial year across the UK, with an average loss per victim of just over £12,000. In this time period, Cheshire Constabulary reported the third highest total losses from courier fraud offences out of police forces across the UK. In Cheshire, 17 incidents were reported, with collective losses amounting to £1,783,392.41.

Courier fraud is where a victim is contacted by fraudsters who pretend to be police officers or bank officials. This can be over the phone or in person. The victims are then told to withdraw or hand over cash or valuable items, to purchase EUROs or gift cards, or even provide bank cards or pin numbers. These are then collected from their home address or at another meeting place by a courier.

DS Christopher Jacques said: *"We recognise that, as a result of courier fraud, victims in Cheshire have lost a combined total of more than £1.7 million. These figures are among the highest in the country but it's important to take into account that the number of reported incidents is relatively low compared with other police forces, with 17 reports in the last financial year. But we are committed to tackling this type of offending, and in the past 12 months we have seen some promising results, with at least six arrests for courier fraud in Cheshire. A notable recent result included a man being sentenced to 33 months in prison for his involvement in several courier frauds in which he impersonated a police officer, spanning eight different areas of the UK – including Runcorn in Cheshire. As well as tracing those responsible for these crimes, we would urge everyone to spread awareness of these offences and remind people to be vigilant."*

*"Many people may think they would never be a victim of courier fraud, however this really can happen to anyone. We react very differently when under stress and these criminals are very sophisticated and use a whole host of tactics to persuade people to follow their instructions. Please remember that police officers and bank officials will never ask you to withdraw money, purchase*

*goods, hand over valuable items or disclose private banking details, for any reason. Help us to raise awareness by sharing this with your friends and family, especially if they are vulnerable or elderly."*

Remember:

- Your bank or the police will NEVER call you to ask you to verify your personal details or PIN by phone or offer to pick up your card by courier. Hang up, wait a few minutes and call your bank on a number you know to be genuine, such as the one on the back of your card, or by calling 159.
- The police or your bank will not contact you out of the blue to participate in an investigation or send a courier to your home to collect bank cards, cash, or other valuable items. Any requests to do so are a scam – no matter how convincing it might seem.
- Don't trust Caller ID display on your phone – it's not proof of ID.
- You can opt out of many cold calls by registering for free with the Telephone Preference Service on 0845 070 0707.

Staying cautious and sceptical can go a long way in protecting yourself from courier fraud. Take the time to verify information, seek advice from trusted sources, and never rush into making financial decisions under pressure. If you believe that you have been a victim of courier fraud, please contact Cheshire Police on 101, using a different phone to the one used to communicate with the fraudsters. You can also report information to us via [cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](https://cheshire.police.uk/tell-us). You can report to Action Fraud via [actionfraud.police.uk](https://actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040. Call 999 immediately in an emergency or if you suspect a fraud is currently in progress. Do not wait to report the fraud to police. The quicker police are told, the more likely officers can identify those responsible.

### **Man jailed of sexual offences against children**

A man who was found guilty of sexual offences against children in the Winsford area more than 20 years ago has now been jailed.

Graham Lightfoot, of Hartwell Grove, Winsford, appeared at Liverpool Crown Court on Friday 11 July where he was sentenced to two years and 9 months in prison. The 57-year-old had previously been found guilty of 11 counts of indecent assault and two counts of sexual assault on children at an earlier trial.



The investigation commenced in June 2023 when Cheshire Police received reports of abuse that two victims had suffered as children between the year 2000 and 2004. It was described how Lightfoot had indecently assaulted them when they were aged as young as 11. One of the victims was also sexually assaulted by him. Following a thorough investigation, Lightfoot was later charged with the offences. He denied the charges but was found guilty following a trial.

DC Kelly Mitchell said: *"Firstly, I would like to thank the victims in this case for their courage throughout this investigation. Their brave disclosures detailed how Lightfoot had assaulted them on numerous occasions across many years, and they spoke about how these events had significantly impacted upon their lives. It is thanks to them that this predator has now been convicted of some horrendous crimes and he is now facing the consequences of his actions. Lightfoot took advantage of two young girls and subjected them to prolonged abuse, demonstrating his absolute disregard for anyone other than himself and his own twisted sexual gratification. To report any sexual offence, no*

*matter how long ago it took place, please call 101 or report online via our website. In an emergency, always call 999."*

In addition to his prison sentence, Lightfoot has also been handed a restraining order which prevents him from contacting his victims.

### **Birmingham man sentenced for animal cruelty offences**

A man from Birmingham has been banned from owning an animal for six years after causing unnecessary suffering to his dog.

Usma Hassan appeared at Chester Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 2 July, where he was handed a six-year animal ban under Section 34 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and a 20-week custodial sentence that was suspended for 12 months. On top of this, Hassan, of Eastfield Road, Birmingham, was ordered to pay over £230 in surcharge fees.

The sentencing comes after the 22-year-old pleaded guilty to causing the unnecessary suffering of a protected animal, namely a dog. During his hearing, the court was told that, on Friday 21 February, officers from Cheshire's Rural Crime Team were on patrol in the Pool Lane area of Elton when they came across a car parked in a layby and the rear bumper appeared to be covered in blood. Approaching the vehicle, officers noticed the vehicle's windows had been heavily tinted and that they could not see inside. Fearing for the safety of any potential occupants within the vehicle, officers forced their way into the vehicle via the boot. They found a female German Shepherd sitting inside a metal cage. Officers were alarmed to see that some bars of the cage were stained with blood and the floor was covered in dog faeces. Whilst officers were comforting the distressed animal, Hassan, who had been asleep in the back of the vehicle, sat up and got the dog out of the vehicle so officers could inspect her closely.

Officers were concerned by what appeared to be a large wound and recommended that Hassan accompany them in taking her to a nearby vet as soon as possible. Hassan explained to officers at this point that he was a security dog handler and had experience working with animals. At the surgery, it was revealed that the dog had a large immovable mass, with the consultant believing it had been present for a considerable amount of time and had been left untreated. As a result, the animal was then sadly put to sleep.

Following this, Hassan was arrested and taken into custody for an interview, telling them he had no idea where the growth had come from, stating that he believed it had appeared suddenly and perhaps the vet had made a mistake in their diagnosis. He went on to say that the RSPCA had visited his address in Birmingham within the last two weeks and had said the dog was fine. This was, in fact, incorrect. The RSPCA had attended Hassan's address following concerns from a neighbour relating to three dogs at the property and served an improvement notice to an occupant present at the time, but the German Shepherd had not been present during their inspection, and thus no verdict on her personal welfare had been determined. Eventually Hassan admitted that he had had the dog in his care for around two months, but, in her ten years of life, she had never been to see a vet before that day. Officers also uncovered that Hassan had no experience in dog handling or security but was keen to look for work in that field. He was later charged with causing unnecessary suffering to an animal and pleaded guilty to the offence in June.



PC Williams, of the Constabulary's Rural Crime Team, said: *"Animals trust us as their owners, being a pet owner comes with a suitable degree of responsibility to ensure they are appropriately looked after, fed, watered and cared for and provided with treatment when unwell. Despite claiming to have a considerable interest and passion in dogs, Hassan chose to do nothing about what was a very serious, and noticeable, medical issue that his pet was clearly suffering from a great deal of pain. Whilst we have not been able to turn back the clock to prevent the suffering this animal went through, Hassan's ban prevents him from owning a pet for six years under the Animal Welfare Act and will hopefully prevent any further animals being treated in such an appalling manner."*

## Latest Cheshire Appeals

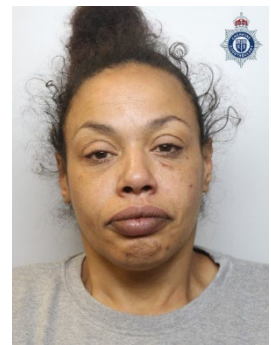
### **Appeal for sender of letter to contact DC Brett Oliver**

Recently we received a letter containing information that DC Brett Oliver would like to discuss with the sender in more detail - unfortunately, a return address or other contact information wasn't included. If you sent this letter, could you please get in touch with us [via the website](#) or call 101 quoting 25000453298.

### **Appeal to trace wanted woman from Macclesfield**

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

Denise Atkinson is wanted in connection to harassment and assault offences. Atkinson, 37, is described as black, around 5'5" tall, with black hair and brown eyes. She is from the Poynton-area of Macclesfield and is known to frequent the area. Anyone with any information regarding the whereabouts of Denise Atkinson is asked to contact Cheshire Police via the website or by calling 101, quoting reference number IML2114320.



### **Detectives appeal for information following death of woman in Macclesfield**

Officers are appealing for information from the public following an unexplained death in Macclesfield.

At around 6.48pm on Friday 18 July, police were called to concerns for the welfare of a woman at an address in Pearson Street, Macclesfield. Officers and paramedics attended, and a 72-year-old woman was pronounced dead at the scene. The death is currently being treated as unexplained while officers conduct enquiries in relation to the incident.

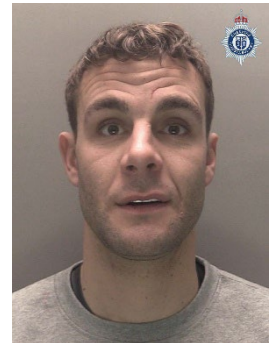
DCI David Hutcheon said: *"We are in the early stages of our investigation to establish the exact circumstances of what has happened and at the current time it appears this is an isolated incident. You may see a police presence in and around the Pearson Street area as part of this investigation. We would like to appeal to anyone who may have any information in relation to the incident to come forward, or anyone who saw anything suspicious or unusual in the area recently. You can*

report any information or video doorbell, CCTV, or dashcam footage to us through the following link: <https://mipp.police.uk/operation/07CH25D70-PO1> Alternatively, contact us on 101 quoting incident number IML-2136075. You can also report information anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555111."

### **Northwich officers appeal to trace wanted man**

Officers from Northwich are appealing to the public for help trace a wanted man.

Jack Day is wanted in relation to drugs offences in the Northwich and Winsford area. The 32-year-old, from Halewood, is described as white, around 5' 9" tall, of slim build, with short brown hair and brown eyes. He resides in Halewood, Merseyside, but is also known to frequent the Widnes, Winsford and Shropshire areas. Anyone with any information about Day's whereabouts should contact Cheshire Police via [Provide more information about an appeal | Cheshire Constabulary](#) or by calling 101, quoting 23000976125



### **Appeal for information following indecent exposure in Hartford**

Police are appealing for witnesses and video footage following reports on an indecent exposure in Hartford.

At around 6.30am on Friday 11 July, the victim was walking along the towpath at the side of the River Weaver, near to the Blue Bridge, when she witnessed a man exposing himself. The man was described as a white, in his late 30's and around 5' 8" tall. He was described as wearing all dark clothing. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and officers are urging anyone with any information to come forward.

DS Kate Palin, from Northwich CID, said: *"While the offender didn't make any attempt to approach the victim, they were understandably shocked by what they witnessed. Enquiries into the incident are ongoing and I would urge anyone with any information about the incident to come forward. The same goes for anyone with any video footage that may aid our investigation. Similarly, if you have seen similar incidents in the area, but haven't reported it to police, please get in touch. Everyone has a right to feel safe when they go for a walk on the riverside. We will not tolerate this behaviour, and again would urge anyone with any information to come forward."*

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us) quoting IML 2130453 Alternatively, information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

### **Appeal for witnesses following robbery in Ellesmere Port**

Officers investigating a robbery in Ellesmere Port are appealing for witnesses and anyone with footage to come forward.

On Thursday 10 July, police received reports of a robbery in which an e-bike was stolen from a man in Whitby Park, Ellesmere Port, which is believed to have taken place at some time between 3pm and 3.20pm. The two suspects believed to be involved in the incident are described to be approximately 18 years old, wearing black clothing and face coverings. They were riding a black e-bike with a red battery. As part of enquiries into what happened, officers are now appealing for anyone with any information to get in touch with them.

DC Sarah Lister said: *"We understand the concern incidents of this nature will cause to the local community and we are conducting enquiries to establish exactly what took place and trace anyone responsible. I'd urge anyone who witnessed the incident to contact us. The same goes for anyone with CCTV or dashcam footage that may have picked up the incident."*

You can report information to Cheshire Police via [cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](https://cheshire.police.uk/tell-us) or call 101, quoting 25000567708.

## Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)

c/o Corporate Communications | Cheshire Constabulary | Clemonds Hey | Oakmere Road | Winsford | Cheshire | CW7 2UA  
Email: [cheshirenw@outlook.com](mailto:cheshirenw@outlook.com)  
Website: <https://www.cheshirenw.org>  
Facebook page: [facebook.com/cheshirenwa](https://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](https://www.cheshirenw.org)