

# Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025

## Cheshire News & Appeals



### Latest Cheshire News

#### DIY shoplifter jailed following three-month crime spree

A man from Rugby, who stole over £3000 worth of tools, piping and electrical and plumbing equipment, has been jailed for over two years.



Edward Warde appeared at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 23 December where he was jailed for two years and six months. Warde, of Woodside Park, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, had pleaded guilty to seven counts of theft from a shop and to one count of failing to provide a sample in custody.

During his hearing, the court was told that between Thursday 23 August and Sunday 9 November, Warde targeted seven DIY and hardware shops across the Warrington, Widnes, Winsford and Macclesfield areas of Cheshire. Warde would enter these shops and take items such as silicone piping, electrical elements, plumbing equipment and tools and leave without making any attempt to pay for them. It was estimated that Warde had stolen around £3090 worth of goods during the seven incidents, with the 39-year-old typically concealing the items in his own coat pockets or bags that he had brought with him.

He was challenged by staff in a shop in Winsford on 9 November, but despite their best efforts to stop him, he was able to flee the scene with around £900 of electrical items and plastic fixings. The staff subsequently called Cheshire Police, with officers conducting a number of enquiries that quickly identified Warde as the suspect in this incident. Both Warde and a vehicle linked to him were also identified as having been present at the six other incidents across the county.

Officers subsequently put out a notification nationally that the vehicle was linked to the shoplifting series, with colleagues from Thames Valley Police locating Warde on the 23 November and arresting him for unrelated offences. Warde was then brought back to Cheshire and taken into custody in relation to the shoplifting series, where he would be shown CCTV footage of him stealing the items from the shops in Warrington, Widnes, Macclesfield and Winsford. Despite him clearly being shown in the video footage, he would answer no comment to all questions put to him by police during his interview. Despite his refusal to answer any questions in relation to the shoplifting series, he would be charged and remanded in custody to appear in court on 25 November where he would eventually plead guilty.

PC James A'Hearne, who lead the investigation into Warde's offending, said: *"Shoplifting is not a victimless crime and we do all we can to protect our local businesses and prevent offenders like Edward Warde from taking from them. That being said, Warde's shoplifting was nothing short of brazen. From the CCTV footage we reviewed as part of our investigation his offending, we saw that*

*he boldly entered several hardware retailers and made no effort to be subtle when it came to stealing the products inside."*

PC Sigourney Murphy, who assisted in the investigation added: *"Even when challenged by staff, he continued to cherry-pick items from the store shelves, put them into his pockets and bags and fled the scene as if he had done nothing wrong. Despite refusing to answer any questions in relation to the whether he was involved in these incidents, due to the overwhelming amount of evidence against, he was left with no choice but to plead guilty. I hope he spends the next two and a half years behind bars contemplating his actions."*

### **Officers out in force tackling Christmas retail crime**

Crewe Beat Team have been targeting retail crime across the town in the run up to Christmas.

Officers were out in force to actively target those wanted for theft and opportunist thieves as well speaking with shop staff about crime prevention. During the week of 8 December to 14 December plain clothed officers patrolled stores and shops leading to the arrest of a wanted prolific offender and seven people on suspicion of shoplifting. They have since been charged and are going through the court process, and the wanted offender is now back behind bars.

PC Gaz Ryder said: *"The run up to Christmas is the busiest time for retailers and of course thieves who target them at the busiest time of year. To support our local business community, we arrested those targeting their shops and also took the time to give staff valuable crime prevention advice to protect them from thieves. We will continue to carry out these operations to deter criminals and make life difficult for thieves who mistakenly think they can come to Crewe to commit crime."*

### **Warrington sex offender arrested for breaching his Sexual Harm Prevention Order**

A registered sex offender has been arrested following reports that he volunteered at a Christmas Fair in Warrington.

At 7.10pm on Tuesday 23 December police were contacted by a member of the public who believed that they had seen a registered sex offender at a primary school Christmas fair in Warrington. The caller stated that the man had been helping with the Christmas grotto and was seen handing out presents to children. Following the reports, a 28-year-old registered sex offender from Warrington was arrested at around 3am today, Wednesday 24 December, on suspicion of breaching a Sexual Harm Prevention Order (SHPO)

Following the arrest, DCI Robert Pritchard, of the Sex Offender Management Unit, said: *"While there have been no reports of any children being harmed, the fact is that the suspect should not have been at the event. As a registered sex offender, he is aware of his conditions, yet on this occasion he appears to have ignored them. Thankfully, as a result of the information provided by the public, he has quickly been arrested and will now be held accountable for his actions."*

Anyone with any concerns in relation to the incident is asked to contact Cheshire police on 101, or visit [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us), quoting IML 2239400.

## Man jailed for drug dealing in Northwich

A man from Northwich has been sentenced after he admitted supplying Class A drugs in the town.

In April 2025 officers from Northwich Proactive CID became aware of a mobile phone number which was being used in the sale of illegal drugs. The number was used to send out a number of 'flare' messages advertising the supply of Crack Cocaine and Heroin in the local area. In some of the messages the dealer even advertised special offers, offering addicts a 'buy three get one free' deal.

Following enquiries, officers quickly identified Lee Dunne as the owner of the phone, after records showed that he had used the same number to contact emergency services earlier in the year. The 34-year-old was subsequently arrested by officers from Northwich Proactive CID on Thursday 24 April. During analysis of the device recovered from Dunne, officers recovered further messages which proved he was actively involved in the sale of illegal drugs.

Dunne, of no fixed abode, Northwich, was charged on the same date with two counts of being concerned in the supply of Class A drugs (Crack Cocaine and Heroin) and remanded into custody. He was also charged one count of shoplifting in relation to the theft of a bottle of whiskey worth £44 which was stolen from Waitrose on 14 April. Dunne later pleaded guilty to all the charges and was sentenced to 15 months in prison at Chester Crown Court on Monday 22 December.

Following the sentencing PC Ed Whalley, of Northwich Proactive CID, said: *"While most people have spent a good amount of time recently hunting out deals for Christmas shopping, Dunne was trying to offer his own deals. Unfortunately for him, we quickly became aware of his activities and put a stop to them. I welcome the sentence that has been handed to him by the court, and I hope that it acts as a warning to others. Drug dealing has a hugely detrimental impact on our communities, and we're committed to doing all we can to ensure that those responsible are held accountable. While Dunne has been sentenced, our fight against drug dealing is ongoing, and I would urge anyone with any information to get in touch via 101 or on the police website."*

## Sisters jailed for violent assault in Chester city centre

A pair of sisters who violently attacked a friend and left her unconscious in the street have been jailed.



Katrina was jailed for eight months



Charlotte was jailed for two years

Charlotte and Katrina Whitham appeared at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 17 December, where they were jailed for two years and eight months respectively. Their sentencing comes after both Charlotte, of Wade Court, Chester, and Katrina, of Greenfield Lane, Chester, pleaded guilty to assault on a person causing actual bodily harm.

During their hearing, the court was told that on the night of Sunday 3 August, the sisters had been on a night out in the city centre with a friend, a 38-year-old woman, when they became involved in a verbal altercation on Watergate Street. This altercation quickly became physical, with Katrina pulling the victim's hair and Charlotte punching her in the head several times and then kneeing her to the face.

Following the initial assault, the sisters then left the scene. However, as they walked away, the victim said something to them and Katrina turned back on herself, running back over and grappling the woman to the floor. Whilst Katrina pinned the victim to the ground using her bodyweight, Charlotte delivered 23 three blows to the victim's head. She then attempted to break her right arm by stamping on it twice. The victim was then left unconscious in the middle of the street after Katrina stamped on her head, with several members of the public coming over to help.

All of this had been captured on CCTV, with camera operators notifying Cheshire Police of the violent assault. Within 13 minutes of police being notified, the pair had been tracked down and were en route to custody. Whilst being arrested, was witnessed saying to police "oh yeah, I have done that", referencing the assault. During their interviews with officers, Katrina denied having admitted she had assaulted the victim. She went on to say that, whilst she had been involved in a physical altercation with the victim, she did not seriously injure her. Charlotte answered no comment to all questions put to her and refused to watch the CCTV of her and her sister attacking the victim. Despite their refusal to admit being involved in the assault, the sisters were subsequently charged and eventually pleaded guilty to the offence on Friday 7 November.

DC Tim Butler, who led the investigation into the incident: "*This nasty and violent assault doled out by Katrina and Charlotte Whitham resulted in someone they considered to be their friend left alone and unconscious in the middle of Chester city centre with very serious injuries. With that in mind, following the conclusion of this investigation, I welcome the sentences handed to the Witham sisters and I hope they spend their time behind bars to seriously consider their actions and what it means to be someone's friend. This case goes to show how a snap decision to turn to violence can have serious repercussions. Their actions, obviously fuelled by the amount of alcohol they had consumed during the day of the incident, now means that they will be spending Christmas away from their respective families.*"

### **Ten more illegal bikes seized following Ellesmere Port Operation Lawmaker deployment**

Officers working under Operation Lawmaker have seized a further ten illegal bikes and made a number of arrests during a recent deployment in Ellesmere Port.

On Friday 19 December, officers in Ellesmere Port were deployed across the town as part of Operation Lawmaker, the force's bespoke initiative targeting illegal and dangerously ridden e-bikes and off-road vehicles in our towns. Rolling out from Ellesmere Port station, the local Beat Management team was supported by colleagues from the Roads and Crime Unit, the Constabulary's Motorcycle team, and the National Police Air Service over the course of the day of action, with their efforts garnering positive results.



A total of ten e-bikes and e-scooters were seized during the deployment, with officers also arresting two motorists for driving under the influence. As well as this, six vehicles were seized by police for having serious defects, with a further two being taken off the road for being uninsured and/or being driven with the correct licence. Also, during the operation two large quantities of cannabis were also seized and a 48-year-old man being issued with a Community Resolution for the possession of cannabis.

Sgt Andy Griffiths, of the Constabulary's Motorcycle Unit, said: *"We recognise how disruptive the use of illegal e-bikes, e-scooters, and dangerously ridden off-road vehicles are to residents in Ellesmere Port and across Cheshire. We have recently surpassed 400 seizures of these vehicles in less than a year, and, as we move into 2026, we will continue our high-visibility patrols in hotspot areas at key times across our town, targeting those who intend to cause a nuisance in their communities."*

*"With Christmas on the horizon, I would like to remind parents and guardians in particular, to reconsider any purchases of e-bikes and e-scooters for their young people. Whilst it might seem like a great present, e-bikes are illegal to use by anyone under the age of 14 for their own safety and cannot be properly insured for use on public roads unless under a wider scheme such as those in Liverpool and Manchester."*

#### **Advice for football fans in the run up to Macclesfield FC v Buxton FC match**

Policing plans are well underway ahead of the derby match in Macclesfield FC and Buxton FC on Boxing Day (Saturday 26 December).

More than 3,000 fans are expected to attend the National League North match at the Leasing.com stadium on London Road, which is due to kick off 3pm. While there is no intelligence to suggest any disorder is planned, a comprehensive policing operation is planned to ensure that all fans can have a safe and enjoyable time.



Ahead of the game, officers will be visiting supporters who have previously been involved in disorder to warn them about their behaviour and issue them with personal dispersal orders. In addition, a wider dispersal order will also be in place from 9am on Boxing Day until 9am on Saturday 27 December and there will be increased policing patrols in the area. The order gives officers the power to direct individuals away from the area for up to 48 hours if engaging or likely to engage in anti-social behaviour, crime or disorder. The dispersal order will be imposed under Section 35 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, and those who fail to comply with the direction will face further police action.

Supt Claire Jesson, said: *"Fans heading to the derby on Boxing Day can expect to see an increased policing presence in the local area. We don't want you to be alarmed or intimidated, and we know most supporters have good intentions when these two teams come together, but we also need to ensure the game runs smoothly throughout the day and prevent any disorder before or after the whistle is blown."*

*"As part of our planning, we're reminding parents to ensure they know where their children are during the match, as we don't want them to engage in any disorder. We're also reminding all Macclesfield and Buxton fans that will not stand for any anti-social behaviour or disorder, and our*

*officers will be on the lookout for anyone intent on causing harm and ensure that they are dealt with appropriately. If anyone does see any anti-social behaviour or disorder before and after the game, please report it to us on 101 or speak to your nearest police officer."*

## **Two men charged in relation to Winsford rape**

Detectives investigating the rape of a vulnerable woman in Winsford have charged two men.

At around 5am on Sunday 21 December police were called to reports that an 18-year-old woman had been sexually assaulted. Diyar Mohammed Abdulsalm and Dilgash Adil were later arrested in relation to the allegations. Following questioning Abdulsalm, 27, and Adil, 31, both of Ledward Street, Winsford, have since been charged with two counts of rape. The pair, who are both Syrian nationals, have been remanded in custody and are set to appear at Chester Magistrates Court on Tuesday 23 December.

## **Crime gang jailed after £1.5m worth of drugs seized**

A total of 12 individuals have been sentenced to a combined total of more than 70 years for the large-scale supply of drugs in Chester.

The organised crime gang (OCG) appeared at Chester Crown Court across Thursday 18 and Friday 19 December 2025. The following individuals pleaded guilty to conspiracy to supply cocaine:

- Alexander Bell, 43, of Dee Park, Holt, Wrexham, was sentenced to 57 months.
- Samuel Booth, 37, of Nash Street, Newcastle under Lyme, was sentenced to 14 years.
- Shane Bright, 30, of Palgrave Close, Chester, was sentenced to 50 months.
- Ryan Crank, 33, of Wordsworth Crescent, Chester, was sentenced to 56 months.
- Karl Eyre, 46, of Beeby Way, Broughton, was sentenced to four years.
- Lewis Higgins, 35, of no fixed abode, was sentenced to five years.
- Shane Stokes, 43, of Wemyss Road, Chester, was sentenced to 67 months.
- Scott Ward, 37, of Burton Road, Chester, was sentenced to 10 years.
- Peter Wiggins, 56, of Wordsworth Crescent, was sentenced to seven years.

The following individuals pleaded guilty to further or alternative offences:

- Amy Allman, 30, of Wordsworth Crescent, Chester, was sentenced to eight months suspended for 24 months after pleading guilty to conspiracy to supply nitrous oxide and participating in the criminal activities of an organised crime group.
- Lee Ward, 44, of Wordsworth Crescent, Chester, was sentenced to nine years and six months after pleading guilty to conspiracy to supply cocaine and nitrous oxide.
- Katie Whitley, 43, of Wordsworth Crescent, Chester, was sentenced to six months suspended for two years after pleading guilty to permitting the use of premises for the supply of cocaine.

				
<i>Shane Stokes</i>	<i>Alexander Bell</i>	<i>Lee Ward</i>	<i>Lewis Higgins</i>	<i>Peter Wiggins</i>
				
<i>Ryan Crank</i>	<i>Samuel Booth</i>	<i>Scott Ward</i>	<i>Shame Bright</i>	<i>Karl Eyre</i>

Operation Haunt was launched by Cheshire Constabulary following an investigation into a conspiracy to supply cocaine between October 2023 and March 2025. The OCG was primarily based in the Chester, North Wales, and Staffordshire areas.

Scott Ward was the head of the OCG, directing the large-scale supply of cocaine and arranging for it to be stored, packaged and delivered to drug suppliers further down the supply chain. Booth was the upstream supplier to the OCG, while Lee Ward and Allman were bulk suppliers, utilising street dealers. Eyre and Wiggins were couriers, with Eyre transporting cocaine primarily from Blacon to Whitchurch and Holt, while Wiggins transported it between Chester and Stoke. Higgins, Crank, Bell, Stokes, and Bright were street suppliers, and Whitley was utilised as a stash house.

Following enquiries establishing the members of the OCG and their roles within it, officers executed a warrant at an address in Whitchurch on 28 June 2024, in which Higgins was present, along with a quantity of cocaine. Further intervention took place on 12 July 2024, when Eyres' vehicle was stopped on the A41 heading towards Whitchurch. Cash and cocaine were seized from both Eyres and his vehicle. On 25 October 2024, Bell was stopped by police as he arrived home and a warrant was executed at his address. He tried to run from police but was detained and found in possession of an ounce of cocaine.

On 22 November 2024, a warrant was executed at an address in Chester where Bright was arrested and cocaine and cash were seized. A warrant was also executed at Stokes' address and Stokes was located in the back garden trying to dispose of his phone in the neighbours' garden. On 25 November 2024, police stopped Wiggins between junction 14 and 15 of the M6 and a search of the vehicle revealed 15 large blocks of cocaine in the boot. The total weight was 15kg, with a potential street value of up to £1.5m. A further search of his home address was carried out and further drugs were recovered.

On 13 December 2024 Stokes was subject of a targeted traffic stop and was arrested for drug driving. A warrant was subsequently executed at his home address and a total of 2.5 ounces of cocaine was recovered. On 3 April 2025, almost all of the defendants were arrested in a co-ordinated strike day with more than half a kilogram of cocaine seized from the stash house which was being used by the group. Meanwhile, Wiggins was produced from prison, and Higgins was later arrested on 20 April 2025. The total value of the drugs seized throughout the investigation was up to £1,583,150 street value.



Scott Ward, Lee Ward and Allman in particular were evidenced as living far beyond their means. They owned expensive vehicles without finance, owned other assets such as boats and spend thousands each year on frequent holidays abroad. Lee Ward did not even have a bank account and had no declared income or benefits. Scott Ward's bank account showed massive turnover, while his declared income and his bank did not account for his lifestyle.



All defendants were ultimately charged with the offences and pleaded guilty at court. Booth - the upstream supplier - accepted he was responsible for the supply of at least 75 kilos of cocaine to various areas of the country during the conspiracy period, which would have an estimated street value of up to £7.5 million.

DS Roy Wellings said: *"The conclusion of this case marks the end of a lengthy investigation, and we would like to thank the officers who worked tirelessly to gather intelligence in relation to the OCG and ultimately see them brought before the courts. It is thanks to their hard work and the evidence stacked up against them that the 12 individuals pleaded guilty to these offences."*

*"This case should serve as an example that crime does not pay – the group's expensive items were seized during the strike day and instead of fancy holidays to unwind, a majority are now facing plenty of free-time behind bars. It is well known that the supply of drugs wreak havoc in the local community and Class A drugs with a total street value of over £1.5m has been taken off the streets. Our fight against illegal drugs is never over, and we will continue to tackle these offences. You can help us by reporting any drug-related activity to us via 101 or through our website."*

### **£10,000 handed to young people's suicide prevention charity on final day of Constabulary Christmas initiative**

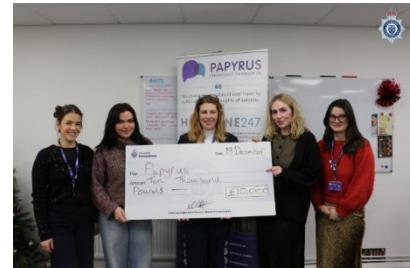
To round off a week of festive merriment that saw Chief Constable Mark Roberts donating a share of £50,000 to five worthy community-focused organisations on behalf of the Constabulary, Papyrus Prevention of Young Suicide have been awarded £10,000.



This past week the force has been spreading Christmas cheer as welcome the return of the Cheshire Constabulary in the Community Christmas initiative for 2025, in which £50,000 was set to be donated to charity and community groups across our county. From domestic abuse charities who man round-the-clock helplines and provide emergency accommodation for vulnerable people and

their families, to youth centres and sports clubs who provide our young people with a safe space to pick up new hobbies or make friends, to organisations that help our former servicemen and women re-entering civilian life, these groups provide vital support to those who need it most and put the needs of our residents and communities first. So far, Chief Constable Mark Roberts and representatives from the Constabulary acting on his behalf have visited four organisations across the county and donated a share of £40,000.

To round off the week, Chief Constable Mark Roberts has donated the final £10,000-worth of funds taken under the Police Property Act to the Warrington-based charity, Papyrus. Founded in 1997 by a group of bereaved parents who had lost their children to suicide, Papyrus aims to reduce the number of young people who take their own lives by breaking down the stigma around suicide and equipping people with the skills to recognise and respond to suicidal behaviour. Since then, Papyrus has grown into a UK-wide charity with staff in Warrington, South West England, West Midlands, London, Northern Ireland, North Wales, South Wales, and Scotland.



The charity's confidential helpline service, HOPELINE247, also provides practical advice and support to young people with thoughts of suicide and anyone concerned about a young person who may have thoughts of suicide. HOPELINE247 is staffed by trained professionals, offering a telephone, text and email service.

Chief Constable Mark Roberts said: *“Whilst Christmas is a time where we come together with our families and friends to reflect on the year that has passed, not everyone has that support network they can reach out to in what can be a very busy and emotionally overwhelming time of year for some. The team at Papyrus provide a vital service for the young people of Cheshire, not just at Christmas, but all year round through breaking down the stigmas surrounding mental health and providing practical support, empathy and a non-judgmental ear to those who need it the most.*

*“Their team at HOPELINE247 in particular do, quite literally, take lifesaving calls every single day of the year and, knowing what our own colleagues in the Force Control Centre deal with on a daily basis when speaking to the general public, I know that those calls and conversations can be emotionally taxing and require a great deal of strength and compassion to maintain. Which is why I am thrilled to provide the team at Papyrus in Warrington with a donation of £10,000 on behalf of the Constabulary. This donation is our way of saying thank you for all the crucial work they do with the young people of Cheshire and will support them in that work into 2026.”*

Ged Flynn, Chief Executive of Papyrus, added: *“We are very grateful to the Chief Constable for presenting a cheque on behalf of Cheshire Constabulary and for his appreciation of the vital support we provide for children and young people who are struggling with life. Donations help to pay for potentially lifesaving calls, texts and emails to our confidential HOPELINE247 service, which offers support and advice to young people and anyone who is worried about someone may be having thoughts of suicide.*

*“Funding also helps us to engage with local communities and volunteers in suicide prevention projects and supports the training we deliver to individuals and groups, equipping people with the skills to recognise and respond to suicidal behaviour. We believe that many young suicides are preventable and together we can all help to keep our communities suicide-safe.”*

For practical, confidential suicide prevention help and advice please contact HOPELINEUK247 on 0800 068 4141, text 88247 or email [pat@papyrus-uk.org](mailto:pat@papyrus-uk.org)

## Latest Cheshire Appeals

### **Appeal for information following fatal collision near Wheelock**

Officers are appealing for any witnesses to come forward following a fatal collision near Wheelock.

Shortly after 3am on Sunday 21 December, police were called to reports of a collision on the A534 Wheelock Bypass between Wheelock and Crewe. The collision involved a HGV and a pedestrian. The pedestrian, a 45-year-old man, was sadly pronounced dead at the scene. His next of kin have been informed and are being supported by specialist officers at this time.

Sgt Russell Sime said: *"We appreciate this incident happened during the early hours of the morning, but we are asking any witnesses who have not already spoken to police to get in touch with us as we establish the full circumstances. The same goes for anyone who may have been driving in the area around the time of the collision and captured any relevant dashcam footage."*

*"Our thoughts remain with the family and friends of the man who died during this incident."*

You can contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via [cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://cheshire.police.uk/tell-us), quoting IML-2237688.

### **Appeal for information following serious assault in Cuddington**

Detectives are appealing for witnesses and video footage after a teenager was seriously assaulted in Cuddington.

The incident is believed to have begun at around 3.10pm on Tuesday 23 December when the victim, a 19-year-old man from Winsford, was involved in an altercation with a man outside an address on Fir Lane, Cuddington. Following the initial incident the victim fled the scene on a black and red Lexmoto motorcycle, followed by the suspect who was travelling in a black Audi A3. The pair are then believed to have been involved in a second altercation which occurred at around 3.40pm on Dalefords Lane in Marton.

The victim was subsequently taken to hospital by family members where he remains at this time. His injuries are described as serious. Enquiries are ongoing and a 21-year-old man from Winsford has been arrested on suspicion of section 18 assault in relation to the incident.

DS Neil Mooney, of Northwich CID, said: *"I'd like to reassure residents that this is believed to be a targeted incident and there is no risk to the public. A 21-year-old man has already been arrested, and he is currently being questioned by officers. As part of our ongoing enquiries we would like to hear from anyone who was in the Fir Lane or Dalefords Lane area and believes they may have witnessed the incidents. We're also keen to hear from anyone who was driving on Weaverham Road or Dalefords Lane between 3.30pm and 4pm yesterday (Tuesday 23 December) and may have any*

*dashcam footage of the incident, or the vehicles involved. The same goes for anyone in Cuddington or Marton with any CCTV or doorbell footage which may aid our investigation.”*

Anyone with any information is asked to call Cheshire Police on 101 or visit [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us), quoting IML 2239206.

#### **CCTV image released following sexual assault in Macclesfield**

Officers investigating a sexual assault in Macclesfield have released a CCTV image of a man they would like to speak to in relation to the incident.

Police received reports of a sexual assault in the town which occurred during the early hours of Saturday 29 November, near to the indoor market entrance in Churchill Way. The incident is believed to have taken place at some time between 2.10am and 2.45am in which a 17-year-old girl was sexually assaulted by a man. He is described as a white man in his 50s, with shaved grey hair and was wearing a grey/black tracksuit.



DC Maxie Ash said: “*We understand the concern this incident is likely to cause, and we have been doing all we can since it was reported to locate the person responsible. Numerous enquiries have been undertaken, and we are now releasing a CCTV image of a man we would like to speak to as we believed he may hold vital information. Anyone who believes they recognise the man pictured is urged to contact us. The same goes for anyone with any information in relation to the incident, or who witnessed what happened. We would also appeal directly to the man pictured to contact us.*



“*You can report information to us by calling 101 or reporting it via our website at [www.cheshire.police.uk-tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk-tell-us), quoting 25000976095.”*

#### **Appeal for information following Winsford burglary**

Officers are appealing for information following reports of a burglary in Winsford.

On Friday 19 December, police were called to reports of a burglary at an address in Beeston Drive, Winsford. The incident is believed to have occurred at some time between 7pm and 10pm that evening in which unknown offenders gained access to the property by smashing the rear patio door. Items of jewellery were then stolen.

DC Lara Hill said: “*We understand the concern this is likely to cause in the local community, and we would like to reassure members of the public that we are doing all we can to trace those responsible. We would urge anyone who witnessed what happened or who saw anything suspicious in the area to get in touch with us. The same goes for anyone with any CCTV, video doorbell or dashcam footage. You can report information to us via [www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us) or call 101, quoting 25001035861.”*

## Police appeal to trace wanted man from Widnes

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

Gareth Naughton, of no fixed address, but of Widnes, is wanted on recall to prison. The 42-year-old is described as being around 6 ft tall, of slim build, and has grey, shaved hair.

Anyone with any information in relation to Naughton's whereabouts should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or [visit the website](#) quoting IML-2232133.



## Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)

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

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



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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)