

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 1 February 2026

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Man charged following series of thefts in Northwich

Detectives investigating a series of thefts in Winnington have charged a man in relation to the incidents.

On Tuesday 11 November 2025, police received 14 reports of theft and attempted thefts in the Winnington urban village area. The victims reported how the offenders had forced entry into cars and one shed in the area, stealing various items, including golf clubs, power tools, and cash.

Following enquiries, officers have today, Friday 30 January 2026, charged a man in relation to the incidents. Samuel Brooks has been charged with 10 counts of theft from a motor vehicle, three counts of attempted theft from a motor vehicle, and one count of burglary other than a dwelling. The 23-year-old has also been charged with two counts of theft of a motor vehicle, in relation to the theft of two cars which were stolen in Widnes on 16 October 2025, and Frodsham, on 18 October 2025. Brooks, of Claughton Road, Birkenhead, has been remanded in custody and is set to appear at Chester Magistrates Court on Saturday 31 January.

Man jailed following hunt by Northwich officers

A man who was on the run from Northwich officers has been jailed.



Jack Day appeared at Liverpool Crown Court on Friday 30 January where he was sentenced to four years in prison. The 32-year-old of no fixed abode, had earlier pleaded guilty to being concerned in the supply of class A drugs, possession of a knife in a public place, possession of class B drugs and driving without insurance.

Day was circulated on the national police wanted list in November 2024 in relation to his involvement in the supply of illegal drugs. Despite several searches, and a public wanted appeal, he managed to evade officers until Wednesday 15 October 2025 when officers from Northwich located at a petrol station in Speke. Day was arrested at the scene and during a search he was found in possession of two mobile phones, £400 cash, cannabis, drugs paraphernalia and a lock knife. Analysis of the phones showed that Day was actively involved in the supply of cocaine.

Following the sentencing, Detective Constable Lara Hill, said: *"As this case shows, no matter where you hide, or how hard you try, we will find you and you will be brought to justice. Illegal drugs can have a devastating impact on not only drug users, but the community around them. The team here at Northwich are committed to doing all we can to stop drug activity on our streets to make Mid Cheshire a safer place to live and visit while also making it extremely difficult for drug dealers to operate. However, this is not an issue that we can tackle alone, and I want to take this opportunity to urge residents to keep spotting the signs of vulnerability. Keep an eye out if they feel something is not right."*

isn't right and to report it to us on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. We will always act on any information we receive, and I would urge anyone who believes this activity is happening near to them, to get in touch."

In addition to his prison sentence, Day has also been ordered to pay £260 in court costs, and banned from driving for six months.

Local Policing Newsletters Winter 2025-26

Below you can read all about your local area in our Local Policing newsletters from your beat officers.

Chester LPU

[Chester City Newsletter Winter 2025-26.pdf](#)

[Chester North Newsletter Winter 2025-26.pdf](#)

[Chester Rural Newsletter Winter 2025-26.pdf](#)

[Chester South Newsletter Winter 2025-26.pdf](#)

Congleton LPU

[Congleton Newsletter Winter 2025-26.pdf](#)

[Sandbach Newsletter Winter 2025-26.pdf](#)

Crewe LPU

[Crewe Central Newsletter Winter 2025-26.pdf](#)

[Crewe East Newsletter Winter 2025-26.pdf](#)

[Crewe South Newsletter Winter 2025-26.pdf](#)

[Nantwich Newsletter Winter 2025-26.pdf](#)

Ellesmere Port LPU

[Ellesmere Port East Newsletter Winter 2025-26.pdf](#)

[Ellesmere Port Rural Newsletter Winter 2025-26.pdf](#)

[Ellesmere Port West Newsletter Winter 2025-26.pdf](#)

Macclesfield LPU

[Knutsford Newsletter Winter 2025-26.pdf](#)

[Macclesfield North and Poynton Newsletter Winter 2025-26.pdf](#)

[Macclesfield South Newsletter Winter 2025-26.pdf](#)

[Wilmslow Newsletter Winter 2025-26.pdf](#)

Northwich LPU

[Northwich North Newsletter Winter 2025-26.pdf](#)

[Northwich South Newsletter Winter 2025-26.pdf](#)

[Winsford Newsletter Winter 2025-26.pdf](#)

Runcorn LPU

[Runcorn East Newsletter Winter 2025-26.pdf](#)

[Runcorn West Newsletter Winter 2025-26.pdf](#)

Warrington LPU

[Warrington Central Newsletter Winter 2025-26.pdf](#)

[Warrington East Newsletter Winter 2025-26.pdf](#)

[Warrington North Newsletter Winter 2025-26.pdf](#)

[Warrington South Cluster Newsletter Winter 2025-26.pdf](#)

[Warrington Town Centre Newsletter Winter 2025-26.pdf](#)

[Warrington West Newsletter Winter 2025-26.pdf](#)

Widnes LPU

[Widnes Inner Newsletter Winter 2025-26.pdf](#)

[Widnes Outer Newsletter Winter 2025-26.pdf](#)

Man jailed for 13 years following sexual assault in Winsford

A Lithuanian man who sexually assaulted a woman in Winsford has been jailed.

Arturas Galinauskas appeared at Liverpool Crown Court on Friday 30 January 2026 where he was jailed for 13 years. The 29-year-old had earlier been found guilty of one count of sexual assault following a four-day trial at Liverpool Crown Court which concluded on Friday 12 December 2025.



During the trial, the court heard that at around 12.30am on Saturday 28 June 2025, the victim, a 19-year-old woman, visited the Hive in Winsford with two friends. While at the premises the group were approached by a man who introduced himself as 'Tommy', who was an acquaintance of one of the victim's friends. At around 2.30am the group, including Tommy, decided to go back to the victim's friend's house nearby. After returning to the address the group continued to drink, before the victim fell asleep in bed. She awoke a short time later to find Tommy sexually assaulting her, he only stopped when victim's friend returned to the room.

Following the incident the victim fled the address with her friend and reported the matter to police. An investigation was launched by officers from Northwich CID who quickly identified Tommy as Arturas Galinauskas. He was subsequently arrested in the Delamere Street area of Winsford. During questioning he claimed that all the sexual activity was consensual. Despite his claims, he was later charged in relation to the allegations.

Following the sentencing, Detective Constable Bethany Green, who led the investigation said:

"Firstly, I would once again like to thank the bravery shown by the victim throughout this case. The incident had a profound impact on her, but thanks her for the courage a dangerous man is now behind bars. While she will never be able to forget what happened that night, I hope that the substantial prison sentenced that has been handed to Galinauskas will provide her with some closure and allow her to move forward with her life."

In addition to his prison sentence Galinauskas has also been ordered to sign the sex offenders register for life.

Detective Sergeant James Elliot, of Northwich CID, added: *"Nobody should have to experience what the victim has been through and if anything can come from this case, I hope that it encourages other victims of sexual offences to come forward and report them to us. We treat all reports of sexual offences extremely seriously, and any allegation will be thoroughly investigated, with the wishes*

and needs of the victim as our main priority. Victims should never feel ashamed to talk about what they have been subjected to. They will receive the help and support they need from our specialist officers, as well as from other support agencies we work alongside, and all victims of sexual offences have the right to anonymity."

Teenagers sentenced following serious assault with machete in Widnes

Two teenagers have been sentenced for their involvement in a machete attack in Widnes.

Jayjay Standen, 19, of Lacey Street, Widnes, plus a 16-year-old boy from Widnes, appeared at Liverpool Crown Court on Thursday 29 January 2026. The 16-year-old was sentenced to 40 months after pleading guilty to section 18 assault and possession of a bladed article in a public place. Meanwhile Standen was sentenced to 17 months after pleading guilty to affray. This includes the activation of a two-month suspended sentence.



At around 5.40pm on Sunday 15 June 2025, police received reports of an assault in Elizabeth Court, Widnes. The 22-year-old victim had been approached by a group of teenagers who were threatening towards him. One of them swung at him with a machete before fleeing the scene. The victim suffered a large laceration to his cheek and a fractured jaw as a result of the attack. Following enquiries at the scene, several youths were identified as suspects, including Standen and the 16-year-old. It was established that the 16-year-old had carried out the blow with the machete. Both were subsequently arrested and later charged.

A spokesperson said: *"These two teenagers were involved in a terrifying attack which was carried out in daylight hours in the middle of the street. Not only was this incredibly frightening for the victim, putting him through a horrendous ordeal and having to recover from his injuries, but it also had an impact upon members of the public who witnessed what happened. The 16-year-old was in possession of a dangerous weapon, easily capable of killing someone, and it is a miracle that the victim was not fatally wounded. I hope the swift arrests of those involved and bringing them before the courts reassures people how seriously we take offences of this nature."*

Cheshire-wide amnesty to be launched to curb circulation of illegal convertible firearms

Across February, the Constabulary will be joining forces from across England, Wales and the National Crime Agency in a national campaign supporting the amnesty of illegal firearms.

The four-week amnesty campaign to remove BRUNI-manufactured Side/Top-Venting Blank-Firing (TVBF) firearms from our streets will take place from Monday 2 February until Friday 27 February to prevent these illegal firearms from being used in criminal circles. Whilst in Cheshire gun-related crime remains low, there are growing concerns on the national stage regarding these firearms.



In their original state, TVBFs have a fully blocked barrel and are designed to discharge only blank cartridges. However, recent testing conducted by the National Crime Agency has found that many criminals have been painting the typically bright-coloured weapons black to look similar to lethal

firearms. As well as this, it has been discovered that these weapons can be easily converted using household tools to dispense lethal cartridges. The weapons are illegal to own under the Firearms Act 1968 as they can be readily converted using common household tools and without specialist skill on the part of the person carrying out the conversion. Recent testing completed by the NCA has demonstrated this.

Anyone found in possession of the following BRUNI models after the deadline of 28 February could be the subject of prosecution and could face 10 years imprisonment:

- 8mm PAK Bruni BBM Model 92 blank-firing self-loading pistol
- 8mm PAK Bruni BBM New Police blank-firing self-loading pistol
- 8mm PAK Bruni BBM Model 96 blank-firing self-loading pistol
- 8mm PAK Bruni BBM Model 'GAP' blank-firing self-loading pistol
- .380R (9mmK) PAK Bruni BBM ME Ranger single-action blank-firing revolver

Many TVBFs may be held in innocence and ignorance of their illegality or may be overlooked or forgotten by residents in their homes. This amnesty gives people the chance to dispose of the TVBFs safely by taking them to a local Cheshire Police helpdesk and handing them in.

- Blacon Police Station - Blacon Avenue, Chester CH1 5BD
- Crewe Police Station - Civic Centre, Crewe CW1 2DQ
- Macclesfield Police Station - Brunswick Street, Macclesfield SK10 1HQ
- Warrington Police Station - Arpley Street, Warrington WA1 1LQ
- Widnes Police Station - John Briggs House, Gerrard Street, Widnes WA8 6BE

All helpdesks are open between 8am and 5pm.

Detective Sergeant Jordan Trentini said: "Gun crime in Cheshire is, thankfully, very rare. With that in mind, we are not complacent about gun crime, which is why we are conducting the BRUNI Top-Venting Firearms Amnesty after tests have shown they can be readily converted into firearms, therefore making them illegal to possess. Last February in Cheshire we saw six TBVF handed in to police under the Operation Pivot amnesty, which has gone a considerable way in keeping our streets safer by preventing them from falling into the wrong hands.

"This year, we want as many side/top-venting blank firers as possible to be handed in as possible and I encourage anyone in possession of one to visit their local police station to hand them in. I would also like to reiterate that anyone who does choose to hand in a TVBF during the amnesty period will not face prosecution. You can also choose to do this anonymously, so there is no excuse for not disposing of these kinds of firearms. On a local level, your neighbourhood officers will be continually working with our partner agencies and organisations across the county in providing education surrounding the dangers, rules and regulations of firearms to ensure that gun crime remains low and does not become a prevalent problem for the people of Cheshire in the future."

Man jailed for controlling and coercive behaviour

A man who isolated a former partner from her family and friends and attempted to control her life has been jailed.

Brandon Pogonowski, of Moreton Road, Crewe, was jailed for 21 months on Monday 19 January at Chester Crown Court after pleading guilty to controlling and coercive behaviour. The 29-year-old must also comply with a restraining order to protect the victim. In June 2025, Cheshire Police received an abandoned 999 call in which a man and a woman could be heard shouting. The call was traced to an address in Crewe and officers attended. The female victim disclosed that she had been subjected to abuse by Pogonowski. This included isolating her from her friends and family, controlling how much she went out and socialised, monitoring her whereabouts, and even making false allegations to two of her employers in order to cause her to lose her job.



Pogonowski also verbally abused her on an almost daily basis, calling her names and telling her to 'kill herself'. He controlled the victim's intake of alcohol, maintained oppressive contact with her when she wasn't in his company, and posted explicit photographs of her on social media to embarrass her. The victim had reported Pogonowski to police previously, but she told officers he had encouraged her to withdraw her statements. Pogonowski was arrested and interviewed. He was released on bail with conditions and a Domestic Violence Protection Order Notice to protect the victim. When the victim attended the police station to give her interview, Pogonowski called 18 times from a withheld number. He was later charged with the offences.

Sergeant Chris Barnes said: "I would like to commend the victim in this case for bravely speaking to police about what happened to her and hopefully this sentence will provide her with some closure. Officers worked tirelessly to ensure the offence was thoroughly investigated, the case was robustly presented, and the victim was supported throughout the criminal justice process. This investigation demonstrated a strong partnership approach between response officers and investigators.

"The subsequent custodial sentence reflects the seriousness with which the courts view offences of controlling and coercive behaviour and highlights the commitment of officers and staff in tackling domestic abuse, holding offenders to account, and protecting victims. If you have experienced offences of this nature, please contact us either by calling 101 or simply reporting via our website. We take all reports incredibly seriously and will investigate thoroughly with the needs and wishes of the victims as our main priority. In an emergency, always dial 999."

Man charged with assault and weapons offences following incident in Halton

Officers investigating reports of a serious assault in Halton have charged a man in connection to the incident.

Darren Jones was arrested on Sunday 18 January and the 39-year-old has since been charged with section 18 assault and possession of an offensive weapon in a public place. Jones, of Princes Street, Widnes, appeared at Chester Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 20 January where he was remanded in custody to appear at Liverpool Crown Court on Tuesday 17 February. The charges relate to an incident that occurred at an address in the Victoria Square area of Widnes at around 4.10pm on Sunday 18 January.

Anyone with any information in relation to the incident is asked to contact Cheshire Police via the website or on 101, quoting IML-2253616.

Two men jailed for their roles in County Lines drug dealing in Chester

Two men have been jailed for their leading roles in County Lines drug dealing in Chester.

Nathan Ashcroft, 24, from Belfast Road, Liverpool and James Delacruz, 26, from Long Lane, Garston, Liverpool appeared at Chester Crown Court on 27 January to be sentenced. Ashcroft was found guilty at an earlier hearing of conspiring to supply a Class A controlled drug (heroin) and conspiring to supply a class A controlled drug (crack cocaine). He was sentenced to nine years in prison. Delacruz admitted participating in the criminal activities of an organised crime group and was sentenced to 30 months in prison.



In 2022, detectives from Western Proactive CID were investigating drug dealing in Chester when they identified a mobile phone connected to the criminal activity. The phone was then linked to Ashcroft and Delacruz. From the detectives enquires they established that Ashcroft was playing a leading role and Delacruz had a significant role in a County Lines group. They discovered that Delacruz and Ashcroft were both frequenting the Chester area when drug dealing was occurring and that they were controlling others who were selling drugs for them through the mobile phone between 31 December 2021 and 7 June 2022.

DS Roy Wellings said: *“These men played a significant role in County Lines drug dealing in Chester and our evidence clearly showed their connection to those who were dealing Class A drugs. This was a complicated and painstaking investigation which resulted in taking key players out of the game. This really is a great achievement for our team and I’d like to thank them for their hard work and determination. I hope this reassures residents that we are doing everything we can to deter criminal activity and disrupt the supply of illegal drugs.”*

Community Protection Warning issued in Higher Walton following repeated anti social behaviour

Cheshire Police has issued a Community Protection Warning (CPW) on land in Higher Walton after repeated reports of anti-social behaviour involving off-road motorcyclists.

In September 2025, local officers began receiving multiple reports of land in Daresbury and Moore being used by motorcyclists riding in an anti-social manner, causing alarm, distress and disruption to residents and nearby businesses. The activity continued for a number of months and the number of motorbikes rose significantly. Residents regularly reported criminal behaviour at the site, as well as dangerous riding on surrounding roads by people travelling to and from the area.

The CPW was issued and signed by the landowner on Thursday 22 January. Under the terms of the CPW, the landowner must now comply with several strict conditions, including:

- Keeping records of all people using the land or vehicles on the land, including names, dates of birth, contact numbers and vehicle registration details, and providing these to police on request.
- Ensuring users do not access or cross any public highways to travel between fields or open land.
- Ensuring all mechanically propelled vehicles being brought to the site are transported using suitable means over public highways.
- Keeping noise from the site to a reasonable level.

Failure to meet any of these conditions may result in prosecution and a fine of up to £2,500.

PCSO Georgina Griffiths, of Runcorn Local Policing Unit, said: “*This has been an extremely stressful period for local residents and visitors, causing unnecessary anxiety and disturbance. Many people reported feeling unsafe in their own community due to the activity taking place at the site. I hope this order offers them some reassurance. We will continue to monitor the location closely. If these behaviours persist, we will not hesitate to pursue further action, which could include a Community Protection Notice, Closure Order or a Criminal Behaviour Order.*”

Man jailed for more than six years following successful police stop check in Chester

A man has been jailed for more than six years for drugs offences after officers from Cheshire Police carried out a successful stop check in Chester.

Gary Novelli, aged 49, of Llys Padarn, Ewloe, was sentenced to 78 months in prison at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 28 January. The court heard that at around 2.30pm on Monday 13 October 2025, officers from the Cheshire Police Roads and Crime Unit were on patrol in Chester when they spotted a blue Audi travelling along Sealand Road. The vehicle was stopped, and Novelli identified himself as the driver.



During a search of the car, officers found a box in the front passenger footwell. Inside was a vacuum-packed block of solid white powder — later confirmed to be cocaine — with an estimated potential wholesale value of up to £26,000. Novelli was arrested at the scene and taken into custody. A subsequent search of his home address in Ewloe uncovered more than £30,000 in cash and a small quantity of cannabis. Despite refusing to answer questions during interview, Novelli was later charged and pleaded guilty to possession with intent to supply Class A drugs and possession of criminal property.

Following the sentencing, Detective Sergeant Roy Wellings, of Chester Proactive CID, said: “*This case shows the importance of the police’s power to stop and search people they suspect of breaking the law. Thanks to the vigilance of our roads policing officers and the effective use of stop and search powers, a dangerous drug dealer is now behind bars, and a significant amount of illegal drugs has been removed from our streets. I welcome the sentence handed to Novelli today, and I hope it demonstrates clearly that drug dealing in Chester or anywhere else in Cheshire will not be tolerated. While this investigation has concluded, our work to tackle illegal drugs and those who supply them is ongoing. Intelligence from the public is vital, and I would urge anyone with information about suspected drug-related activity in their community to report it. You will be listened to, and we will investigate.*”

Information about suspected drug dealing can be reported directly to Cheshire Constabulary via 101, or online at: <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>. Alternatively, information can be provided anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Police advise Congleton residents to secure their homes following burglaries

Police are advising Congleton residents to secure their homes following three burglaries in the area.

Between 11 January and 25 January homes on Bailey Crescent, Brierley Road and Pirie Road were broken into. Residents are urged to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity.

PCSO Karen Linton said: *"We have been in the area giving advice and reassurance while the burglaries are investigated. I'd urge residents to review their security and make sure your homes are secure. Always make sure your doors are locked, even if you are at home, and if possible, think about getting video doorbells or CCTV to protect your home and deter thieves."*

You can find out more about securing your home and deterring thieves [here](#).

Prolific shoplifter banned from Ellesmere Port shops under Criminal Behaviour Order

A shoplifter from Ellesmere Port has been banned from entering several retailers for three years after being handed a Criminal Behaviour Order.

Thomas Steadman appeared at Chester Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 27 January where he was handed the three-year Criminal Behaviour Order. Under the order, which will run until 2029, Steadman is banned from entering both the Aldi on Grange Road and the ASDA on Wellington Road in Ellesmere Port. Along with this, Steadman must also not activate any fire alarms or exit in any retail premise via a fire escape unless there is an actual emergency or fire.



Constable Lucy Hawkins and Constable Jenna Tapley, who led the investigation into Steadman's offending, said: *"Shoplifting is not a victimless crime, and we treat any offences that effect our local businesses with the utmost seriousness. Over a four-month period, Thomas Steadman targeted two stores across Ellesmere Port on multiple occasions and made no attempt to pay for the items he wanted, before fleeing from the through fire escapes and triggering their alarms. Steadman's choosing to do this not only caused alarm and distress to other customers in the store at the times he chose to strike but would have caused considerable disruption to the working of the retailers themselves. Should Steadman fail to comply with the requirements of the Criminal Behaviour imposed upon him, he will be committing a criminal offence and could face a substantial fine or even face a prison sentence."*

Anyone who encounters Thomas Steadman breaching the restrictions of his order is urged to contact Cheshire Police through our website or call 101 to report it.

National VAWG award for Cheshire's Harm Reduction Unit

Cheshire Constabulary's Harm Reduction Unit has won a national award for its work tackling violence against women and girls (VAWG).



The National Centre for Violence Against Women and Girls and Public Protection (NCVPP) held their annual recognition event on Tuesday 27 January. It was attended by more than 100 people to celebrate the winners and runners up in six categories, which included: improving police culture, making spaces safer and keeping vulnerable people and communities safe.

The Harm Reduction Unit (HRU) was named winner in the *collaborative working leading to victim-centred investigations* category. The HRU has transformed the policing response to stalking through a pioneering, victim-centred model that shifts the burden from victims to perpetrators. Its approach has delivered outstanding results with the highest charge rate for stalking and harassment nationally, a 98% conviction rate for cases reaching court, and a huge increase in Stalking Protection Orders - from one every 39 days to one per week. The HRU also secured the longest stalking sentence in UK history. Victims describe the service as “life-changing” and “life-saving,” reflecting a culture where safety and dignity are paramount.

Cheshire Police Assistant Chief Constable Carlos Brunes said: “*We are extremely proud of the Harm Reduction Unit and the work the team continue to do to keep vulnerable people safe across Cheshire. Protecting victims is at the forefront of the unit’s mind from the start of any investigation, and the results we are seeing and the winning of this award is a credit to the team’s success in doing this. Working with partners including the Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (CWP), Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust and the Probation Service is also crucial to this success.*”

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Helen Millichap KPM, Director at the NCVPP, said: “*It’s been an honour to award these brilliant police officers, staff, volunteers and partners. Hearing the inspirational citations about their work, which tackles violence against women and girls and protects the public, reminds us all of the importance of the task we are undertaking and the great work that is already happening across the country that we can build on.*

All winning entries had to demonstrate how they built innovation into their activity, how their approach was victim-centred and the impact it has had, and will continue to have, in tackling violence against women and girls and keeping the public safe.

Jess Phillips, Minister for Safeguarding and Violence against Women and Girls, was a guest speaker at the event and added: “*A woman is killed by a man on average every three days in the UK. That’s why the work of the police is so vital to tackle abusers and protect victims from harm. These awards celebrate officers who refuse to look away from that reality, so thank you to all those officers who dedicate their lives to protecting the public.*”

Man jailed following Knutsford drugs stop check

A man from Knutsford has been jailed for drug dealing following a successful stop check in the town.

Kevin Prendergast appeared at Chester Crown Court on Monday 26 January where he was sentenced to 26 months in prison. The 41-year-old of Hamman Drive, Knutsford, had previously pleaded guilty to possession with intent to supply class A drugs (cocaine) and possession of criminal property.



The court heard how at around 8.15pm on Friday 24 October 2025, officers conducted a stop check on Prendergast, who was driving a Kia Ceed in Knutsford town centre, after receiving intelligence that the vehicle was linked to drug dealing. Officers searched the vehicle and seized a large quantity of cash and drug paraphernalia. Text messages were also recovered from Prendergast’s mobile phone that were indicative of illegal drug supply. A warrant was later carried out at his home

address where a quantity of cocaine and snap bags were found. Prendergast was arrested and subsequently charged with the offences.

Following the sentencing, Police Constable Adam Baxter said: *"I welcome the sentence handed to Prendergast and hope it acts as a warning to others planning to deal drugs here in Knutsford that we will always take robust action. Illegal drugs can wreak havoc on people's lives – and not just on those who use drugs themselves. The impact of illegal drugs stretches far and wide and can devastate communities. This is why it is so important to report illegal drug activity in your area so we can stop people like Prendergast and bring them to justice. 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 get in touch."*

Anyone with any information about illegal drug activity in their community can [report it to Cheshire Police via our website](#) or 101 or report it to Crimestoppers anonymously [via the Crimestoppers website](#).

Man charged with series of offences following Crewe Beat Team investigation

A 36-year-old man has been charged with a series of offences following an investigation by Crewe Beat Team.

Dale Simpson from Bedford Street in Crewe has been charged with four counts of theft from a vehicle, 11 counts of vehicle interference and nine counts of breaching a criminal behaviour order. The charges relate to incidents in Crewe, Weston, Wistaston and Shavington. He appeared at Crewe Magistrates on 24 January to face the charges and was remanded into custody. He is next due to appear at Chester Crown Court on 24 February.

Man charged with assault offences following incident in Brereton

Police have charged a man from Runcorn with assault offences following an incident in Brereton.

Shaun Davies was arrested at around 8.10pm on Friday 23 January. Davies, of Hemlock Close, Runcorn, has since been charged with intentional strangulation and assault on a person. The 57-year-old appeared at Warrington Magistrates' Court where he was remanded in custody to appear at Chester Crown Court on Monday 23 February. The charges relate to an incident that occurred at an address on Newcastle Road South, Brereton.

Man charged following reports of indecent exposure in Middlewich

Detectives have charged a man following reports of indecent exposures in Middlewich.

Christopher Higgins was arrested on Thursday 22 January, following reports that an unknown man had exposed himself earlier that day on Holmes Chapel Road, Middlewich. The 50-year-old, of no fixed abode, has since been charged with outraging public decency, and two counts of exposure. Higgins has been remanded in custody and is set to appear at Chester Crown Court on Monday 23 February.

Operation Lawmaker: Arrests made and further illegal vehicles seized following latest road safety deployment in Runcorn

Several illegal vehicles have been seized and arrests have been made for driving and drug supply offences following the latest road safety deployment.

On Thursday 15 January, officers from the force's Motorcycle Operations and Roads Crime Unit, working under the bespoke road safety initiative targeting the illegal use of non-road legal and off-road vehicles named Operation Lawmaker, were deployed across Runcorn for an afternoon of action. Working alongside officers from the Runcorn Local Policing Unit and the Northern Problem Solving Team, with assistance from the National Police Air Service (NPAS), the deployment led to three people being arrested, four vehicle seizures and ten Traffic Offence Reports being issued.

A 16-year-old boy was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of drugs, failing to stop for police, driving without insurance, driving without a license and dangerous driving. He has since been released under investigation. Later during the deployment, a 29-year-old man was spotted by NPAS colleagues riding a non-road legal e-bike. The man was witnessed riding the bike to an address in the Halton Brook area and then handing a backpack over to another man. The rider was subsequently apprehended by officers in a co-ordinated approach by Runcorn LPU officers, assisted by NPAS colleagues. On the rider's person was a large quantity of cash, with a large bag of heroin, along with multiple phones, scales and snap bags being found at a nearby address. The 29-year-old was arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the supply of heroin. A 39-year-old man was also arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the supply of heroin and a racially aggravated public order offence. Both men have been released under investigation.

Police Constable Will Nowell, of the Northern Problem Solving Team, said: *"The Northern Problem Solving Team organised this operation alongside the Runcorn Neighbourhood Policing Team to target the illegal use of e-bikes and motorbikes that have been a recurring issue in the Runcorn area. This operation also utilised the efforts of NPAS, who proved vital during this operation to monitor movements of several illegal bike riders on the ground, where there were dedicated ground teams working to intercept them."*

"I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the officers on the roads and in the air for their efforts during this most recent deployment. Their efforts have helped make this area that little bit safer as several dangerous riders and illegal vehicles have been taken off the roads, and the community can rest easier now knowing that a substantial amount of class A and B drugs have been permanently removed from their streets."

Latest Cheshire Appeals

CCTV images released following Warrington shoplifting

Officers investigating an incident of shoplifting have released images of a woman they would like to talk to.

At around 4.40pm on Friday 9 January, officers in Warrington received a call from a staff member at the Next store on Europa Boulevard reporting that an unknown woman had entered the premise and had been witnessed on CCTV cameras putting two lamps into her bag. The woman then covered her bag with the coat and then left the store without making any attempt to pay. The incident is believed to have



occurred at around 3.30pm and it is estimated that the estimated worth of the goods stolen was around £300. As part of their investigation, officers have now released a number of images of a woman whom they believe has vital information in relation to the incident.

Helen Kattou, of the Northern Crime Hub, said: *“Anyone who recognises the woman in the CCTV should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via the website quoting IML-2252550. I would also like to directly appeal to the woman pictured to please contact us. Information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.”*

Operation Ambler - Detectives appeal to reunite stolen property with rightful owners

Detectives are seeking to reunite stolen property with its rightful owners, after hundreds of items were recovered as part of an investigation into a series of burglaries across the UK.

[Operation Ambler resulted in the conviction of five Albanian men and a British woman](#) in relation to at least 44 burglaries across the UK. These included incidents in Cheshire, Cleveland, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and West Mercia. While the gang have all admitted their guilt and are currently awaiting sentence, officers have been left with hundreds of suspected stolen items which they are keen to reunite with its rightful owners. This includes designer handbags, jewellery, watches and clothing, as well as other items.

Detective Constable Clare Slattery, of Macclesfield Proactive CID, said: *“While we’re pleased that the gang have now been brought to justice, we’re also keen that the items we’ve located are reunited with their rightful owners. It is possible that the items we’ve recovered could have been stolen from anywhere in the UK, so I would encourage anyone who has been a victim of an unsolved burglary to take a look at our website to see if any of these items belong to them. Many of the items are unique and are also likely to have sentimental value, so we’re keen to return them as soon as possible.”*

If you think that any of the items in the drop down lists below belong to you, [please complete our appeal form](#) - this will go to the investigation team for review. There are a significant amount of images on this page, please allow your browser enough time to load them. (Images can be found on the Cheshire Police website via the following link [Operation Ambler - Detectives appeal to reunite stolen property with rightful owners | Cheshire Constabulary](#)

Set 1 - images of watches

Set 2 - images of handbags

Set 3 - images of jewellery

Set 4 - images of miscellaneous items

Set 6 - images of clothing, suitcases and miscellaneous items

Set 7 - images of jewellery, handbags, perfumes and miscellaneous items

Set 8 - image of jewellery and watches

Set 9 - images of bags, belts and watches

Set 10 - images of bags, watches and miscellaneous items

Police release CCTV image following Congleton assault

Police have released a CCTV image of a man they'd like to speak to following an assault in Congleton.

At 1.54pm on 17 January a man entered a vape shop on Bridge Street and approached the shop assistant asking for a bag. When he was refused the suspect became angry and threatened to steal some speakers. The suspect was prevented from leaving with the speakers by the shop assistant who was then assaulted. The suspect then threw the speakers on the floor and left the shop empty-handed.



PC Helen Weeks said: "*I'd urge anyone who recognises the man in the CCTV to contact us so that we can progress with our enquiries.*"

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via the [website](#) quoting IML 2253202. Alternatively, information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Appeal for witnesses following Chester robbery

Officers are appealing for witnesses following reports of a robbery in Chester.

At some time between 6.30pm and 7pm on Wednesday 28 January, two teenage boys were assaulted by a group of youths on Canal Side under the flyover of St Oswald's Way, Chester. During the incident, an automatic pilot watch with a silver link strap and a black watch face was stolen from one of the victims, who suffered minor injuries. The suspects were dressed in black, wearing balaclavas.

Detective Sergeant Tom Leathers said: "*Firstly, we would like to reassure members of the public that we are working to trace those responsible, and to aid our ongoing investigation, we would like to appeal to anyone who witnessed what happened to come forward. Behaviour of this nature will not be tolerated, and we will take robust action. We will deploy additional officers to the area to deter such anti-social crime and provide reassurance to the community. Anyone who has any information, CCTV, or dashcam footage, is urged to get in touch with us by calling 101 or visit www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us, quoting IML-2260469.*"

Police release CCTV image following Widnes theft

Police have released a CCTV image of a man they'd like to speak to following a theft at a Widnes pub.

Sometime between 11.55pm on 26 December and 12.05am on 27 December 2025 an expensive coat was stolen from the Arch and Anchor on Fir Park. Anyone who recognises the man in the CCTV should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via the website quoting 26000031440. Alternatively, information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 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/cheshirenw](https://www.facebook.com/cheshirenw)



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