

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 1 December 2024

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Cheshire Constabulary joins forces with North Wales Police for joint operation

Cheshire Constabulary and North Wales Police have joined forces for an operation targeting criminality across the two areas.

On Thursday 28 November officers in Chester, Cheshire, and Flintshire, North Wales, took part in Operation Liberator which was launched with the aim of targeting serious and organised crime across the border between the two counties. The operation allowed partners from several organisations to work together to tackle and disrupt criminality, including those travelling between Flintshire and Chester, while providing a reassuring presence for the public and business owners. The activities taking place in Chester included:

- Passive drugs dogs were deployed in the city centre, including at Chester Railway Station.
- Trading Standards visits were carried out at stores in Chester, utilising a specialist search dog courtesy of Trading Standards who searched for illicit cigarettes.
- The Safer Streets van was in the city centre to provide crime prevention and safety advice.
- The Cyber Crime Team was also in the city centre engaging with the public.
- The Cheshire Police Rural Crime Team deployed with the North Wales Police Rural Crime Team.
- The Roads and Crime Team was deployed to the Cheshire/North Wales border to target cross border criminals.
- Licensing visits took place in partnership with Cheshire Fire and Rescue service to check premises were compliant with licensing conditions and fire regulations.
- Taxi licensing was carried out in partnership with Cheshire West and Chester Council, involving stop checks of taxis to ensure they were complying with regulations.
- The North West Underwater Search Unit was deployed to Garden Lane canal bridge for a proactive search of the canal for any illegal items that may have been discarded. They also carried out a patrol of the canal to provide a reassuring presence and deter any criminality.

Over the course of the day, between the two police forces, there was a total of 12 arrests, 22 stop searches, more than 60 vehicles stopped, and a significant seizure of illegal cigarettes and vapes. There was also a total of five immigration arrests, five vehicle seizures, and six Traffic Offence Reports.

Insp James Wilson, of Chester Local Policing Unit, Cheshire Police, said: *"The operation was a great success with multiple arrests, stop searches, and seizures. Throughout the day we used a whole host of tactics to disrupt criminal activity in Chester, but it is important to note that we use these regularly as part of our everyday policing tactics."*

Insp Wes Williams, of North Wales Police said: *"Operation Liberator is an operation launched to tackle serious and organised crime across North Wales and Cheshire, where we're working with partners, such as Immigration, Trading Standards, and Licensing. The day was about reassuring the public that we are out there, we're available, and we'll continue to run these operations on a regular basis to ensure we're supporting our communities."*



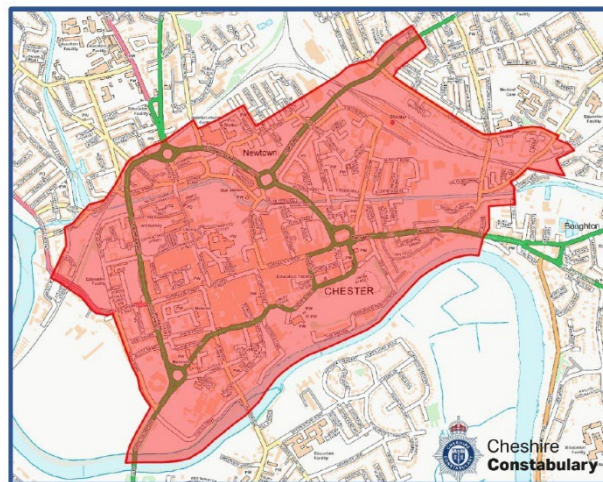
Insp Wilson added: *“Going forwards, these regular operations will be an excellent opportunity to highlight that we work closely with our cross-border colleagues in North Wales, as well as our partners here in Cheshire. As demonstrated, we are committed to doing all we can to tackle criminal behaviour head-on and ensure the Cheshire/North Wales border remains a hostile place for criminals.”*

<https://youtu.be/QxTkslRVxu0>

Dispersal order in place in Chester to keep residents and festive visitors safe

A dispersal order will be put in place across Chester city centre this weekend as we enter December and the run-up to Christmas.

There is expected to be increased footfall in Chester city centre this weekend as people enjoy Christmas festivities at the start of December. Therefore, a dispersal order will be in place from 4pm today (Friday 29 November), until 4pm on Sunday 1 December. The dispersal order will allow officers to ban anyone from the area for up to 48 hours to prevent disorder. It has been imposed under Section 34 of the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, making it an offence for anyone to return to a specific area for up to 48 hours. The area covered by the order is highlighted in the map attached. The map is also provided to anyone issued with a direction to leave.



Insp James Wilson said: *“As a result of the increased footfall we are expecting in Chester as we enter December, there will be an increased police presence in the city centre and a dispersal order in place to keep*

everyone safe. This allows us to have another tactical option to combat any anti-social behaviour which may take place and take robust action against individuals who are causing trouble. I would also continue to urge residents and businesses to report any issues to us."

Anyone with information about anti-social behaviour in their area is urged to contact Cheshire Police via the Cheshire Police website or call 101.

Two men charged following Warrington burglaries investigation

Two men have been charged with conspiracy to commit a burglary with intent to steal following an investigation into a number of burglaries in Warrington.

James Farrel, 27, from Lynsted Road, Liverpool and Michael Miller, 33, from Ambrose Road, Widnes were charged in relation to five car and key burglaries - three in Warrington and one in Runcorn and Formby over a 12-day period in June 2024. Both men appeared at Chester Magistrates Court on 29 November and were remanded in custody to appear at Liverpool Crown Court on 23 December.

Warrington residents advised caution following scam text and call incident

Cheshire Police's Economic Crime Unit have issued advice to residents and urged caution following reports that vulnerable people have been targeted by scammers.

On Wednesday 27 November, officers from Cheshire Police received a call from a 69-year-old woman in Latchford, Warrington. The caller reported that she had received a text from an unknown number that had claimed to be her son, stating that he was in trouble and that he needed her to send him money. The woman went on to say that she was later called by a different number, with the speaker telling her that they had her son with him and that they would harm him if she did not transfer money to them. She was provided with bank account details and then transferred £1000 to the account. It was later confirmed that the woman's son was not in any danger and that she had fallen victim to a scammer.

PC Matthew Jennings, Warrington West Beat Manager, said: *"This is a shocking incident in which an elderly resident was, in essence, held to ransom by these cold and calculating scammers who created a sense of panic, leaving her to feel that she had no option but to transfer a considerable amount of money to ensure the safety of her son. As it transpires, she had been scammed. Those who commit courier fraud can be very convincing, but there are several ways to prevent fraud, and I would advise you to become familiar with these tips. Please share them with any elderly or vulnerable family members or friends to ensure they don't become victims themselves."*

Here are some safety tips to help prevent fraud:

- Never provide personal or financial information to someone you don't know, especially over the phone.
- If you receive a suspicious call, hang up immediately.
- If the caller pressures you to hurry up with the transfer of money, this is a likely indication that the person you are speaking to is not genuine.
- Never withdraw large sums of money based on instructions from someone claiming to be from the police or a bank.

Scammers use software to have any number they wish to appear on your phone's caller ID screen. This method, known as 'spoofing', means they can appear to be calling from a legitimate number linked to a person or company, when in fact they are not - be cautious.

If you believe that you have fallen victim to a scam, contact your bank directly using a known and trusted phone number to verify any requests for money or sensitive information. You can also call police on 101.

Remember that if you're a victim of a scam or an attempted scam, however minor, there may be hundreds or thousands of others in a similar position. Your information may form part of one big jigsaw and be vital to completing the picture. If you think you've uncovered a scam, been targeted by a scam or fallen victim to fraudsters, contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or at [Action Fraud](#). Alternatively, call police on 101 if you know the suspect or they're still in the area.

Warrington man handed restraining order after spitting on a shop worker

A man from Warrington has been handed a two-year restraining order after verbally abusing a shop worker and spitting on her.

Atar Dafa, of Padgate Lane, Warrington, was found guilty of section 39 assault against a staff member at a convenience store on Winwick Road, Warrington. During his hearing at Warrington Magistrates' Court, it was heard that on 26 May, Dafa entered the Winwick Road store, where he was approached by a staff member.

Dafa had been banned from the store following a previous incident and the staff member informed him of this, refusing further entry. It was at this point Dafa became irate and verbally abusive to the shop worker, calling her derogatory names, at which point she decided to call police. While on the phone to police, the shop worker distanced herself from Dafa, who continued to aggressively walk towards her, before proceeding to spit at her, which hit her in the chest. He then left the store, before returning shortly after, again hurling abuse at her and spitting again in her direction. These incidents were caught on CCTV and investigating officers were able to quickly locate Dafa, who was arrested at his home on suspicion of section 39 assault.

Despite denying spitting at the shop worker, Dafa was subsequently charged and appeared at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Friday 22 November where he was issued with a two-year restraining area preventing him from contacting the victim and entering the store on Winwick Road. The 52-year-old was also prohibited from entering the Longford Street area of Warrington.

PC Aidan Lever, of Warrington LPU, said: *"No one should go to their place of work and be subjected to abuse of any kind. I do hope that with the issuing of this restraining order against Dafa, the victim in this case can begin to move past this incident and continue working without fear of harassment. We will always take action and support anyone who has been the subject of assault, harassment or abuse at work or otherwise, regardless of how small it may seem, so please do not hesitate to contact us - we are here to help."*

Prolific offender jailed for fraud offences in Warrington

A prolific offender from Warrington has been jailed again after he admitted using stolen bank cards to purchase more than £300 worth of items.

Dale Simpson appeared at Warrington Magistrates Court on Thursday 28 November where he was sentenced to 62 weeks in prison. The 35-year-old, of Museum Street, Warrington, had earlier pleaded guilty to six counts of fraud, handling stolen goods and breaching a criminal behaviour order. The court heard how between Monday 11 November and Wednesday 13 November, Simpson used stolen bank cards to make fraudulent purchases totalling £322.11 at 16 locations across Warrington. These included £79 at Cash Convertors, £70 at Foot Asylum and more than £30 at Ice and Slice. The cards had earlier been stolen from a car parked outside an address on Lavender Gardens, Warrington, on Monday 11 November.

Following the reports an investigation was launched involving Warrington LPU and the Integrated Offender Management Team. Simpson was quickly identified as the offender by CCTV footage. He was subsequently



arrested at his home on Wednesday 27 November and charged in relation to the incidents. In addition to the fraud offences, Simpson was also charged with breaching a Criminal Behaviour Order, which prevents him being in possession of any bank card, credit card or store card that is not in his name.

Following his sentencing, PC Lewis Hand of Warrington Local Policing Unit, said: *"Simpson is a prolific offender who has a long history of committing serious acquisitive crime, which causes considerable harm to our communities. Despite our attempts to engage with him to reduce his offending, he continues to commit crime. Thankfully, our officers we're quickly able to identify him as the offender in this case, and as a result of his actions he is now back in prison."*

Warrington man charged in connection with sex offences

A man has been charged in connection with sex offences in Warrington.

Adam Gill was arrested at an address in Glazebury, Warrington, at around 3pm of Sunday 24 November. Following questioning, the 47-year-old was charged with attempting to incite a child to engage in sexual activity and attempting to engage in sexual communication with a child. He has been remanded in police custody and is set to appear at Liverpool Crown Court on Monday 23 December.

Officers have charged six men in connection with drugs offences following a series of warrants in Warrington

Six men arrested following a series of warrants in Warrington have been charged in connection with drug offences.

The following men have been charged:

- Nathan Simpson, 32, of Birtles Road, Warrington, charged with conspiracy to supply class A drugs, two counts of conspiracy to supply class B drugs, conspiracy to possess a firearm and ammunition, conspiracy to commit GBH, Conspiracy to possess a firearm and associated ammunition with intent to endanger life/enable another to do so, possession of cannabis and possession of criminal property.
- John Lally, 33, of Fairclough Street, Burtonwood, charged with conspiracy to supply class A drugs, conspiracy to supply class B drugs, conspiracy to cause Grievous Bodily Harm with Intent, possession with intent to supply Cocaine, possession of cannabis, possession of criminal property and handling stolen goods
- Dominic Bourdet, 40, of Thelwall Lane, Warrington, charged with two counts of conspiracy to supply class B drugs, possession of cannabis and possession of criminal property.
- Nathan Davies, 33, of Hume Street, Warrington, charged with two counts of conspiracy to supply class B drugs, conspiracy to possess a firearm and ammunition, possession of a firearm and associated ammunition without a certificate, conspiracy to commit grievous bodily harm, possession of cannabis and possession of criminal property.
- Steven Dodd, 33, of Watkin Street, Warrington, charged with conspiracy to supply class A drugs, conspiracy to supply class B drugs and possession of cannabis.
- Daniel Roberts, 33, of Sandfield Crescent, Glazebury, charged with conspiracy to supply class A drugs, conspiracy to supply class B drugs and Conspiracy to cause Grievous Bodily Harm with Intent.

The six men have been remanded in custody and are set to appear at Chester Magistrates' Court on 28 November.

Man charged following M6 stop check

Officers from Cheshire Police have charged a man with drugs offences following a stop check on the M6.

Peter Wiggins was arrested shortly before 6pm on Tuesday 26 November after officers stopped a silver Vauxhall Astra on the M6 northbound near Stafford Services. During a search of the car officers recovered a large quantity of cocaine and a knuckle duster. Wiggins, of Wandsworth Crescent, Blacon, Chester, has since been charged with possession with intent to supply Class A drugs (cocaine) and possession of an offensive weapon. The 55-year-old has been remanded in custody and is set to appear at Chester Magistrates' Court later today, Thursday 28 November.

Man sentenced following burglary at Knutsford takeaway

A man from Frodsham has been sentenced after admitting to burgling a fish and chip shop in Knutsford.

Benjamin Gibney appeared at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 27 November where he was handed a 26 week curfew and ordered to pay £500 fine. As part of the order, Gibney will be electronically monitored and will need to remain at his home in Frodsham between 8pm and 6am every day. The 37-year-old, of Weaver Road, Frodsham, had earlier pleaded guilty to one count of burglary other than a dwelling.

During the hearing the court was told how Gibney was spotted by a witness climbing through the Velux window of Hooked on the Heath Chip Shop on Northwich Road in Knutsford at 5.55am on Friday 13 September. He fled the scene with £150 cash, leaving behind more than £5,500 worth of damage. CCTV and ANPR enquiries led to the identification of Gibney who was arrested in relation to the incident. Subsequent forensic tests also placed him at the scene of the crime, and he was later charged in relation to the offence.

Following sentencing PC Danny Martin, of Macclesfield Local Policing Unit said: *"We are committed to supporting our local businesses and treat crime against them seriously. We quickly identified our man, made an arrest, and put him before the courts. We will continue to do so with anyone who thinks our local businesses are an easy target."*

Appeal for information following large fire in Northwich

Officers are appealing for witnesses and video footage following a fire at a disused building in Northwich.

At around 6.30am on Wednesday 27 November police were called to reports of a fire at Leftwich Green Community Support Centre on Old Hall Road. On arrival officers found that the building was well alight. Firefighters quickly extinguished the fire, however, the incident has caused extensive damage to the building. Enquiries in relation to the cause of the fire are ongoing and an investigation has been launched.

Insp Dave Levins of Northwich said: *"This investigation is in the early stages and we're doing everything that we can to establish what took place. Therefore, we're urging anyone was in the area at the time and thinks they may have seen anything suspicious to get in touch. The same goes for anyone with any dashcam or CCTV footage which may aid our investigation."*

Anyone with any information should call 101 or visit www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-uk, quoting IML-1971752.

Six people arrested following Warrington drugs raids

Officers investigating the supply of illegal drugs in Warrington have arrested six people following a series of raids in the town.

Earlier today, Wednesday 27 November, officers from Cheshire Constabulary's Serious and Organised Crime Unit, supported by other officers from across the force, executed drugs warrants at 6 addresses across Warrington. Six men were arrested during the raids, and they are all currently being questioned in police custody on suspicion of conspiracy to supply class A and B drugs, and firearms offences. Searches are currently on going. The arrests follow an investigation by detectives from the Serious and Organised Crime Unit into an organised crime group (OCG) who are believed to have been supplying Cocaine, amphetamine, and cannabis across the town.

<https://youtu.be/tma0tbSlo8M>

Following the raids, DI Robert Balfour said: *"Today's arrests follow a lengthy investigation into those believed to be in drug supply offences. For the past 10 months our officers have been meticulously gathering evidence and intelligence concerning class A and B drugs being supplied in Warrington. Thanks to their work we've now arrested six people and the investigation continues. Today's operation will undoubtedly play a crucial role in disrupting serious and organised crime and send out a very clear message that the supply of drugs will not be tolerated. I also hope that it reassures communities that we are committed to doing all we can to tackle this type of criminality."*

DCI Nick Henderson said: *"Illegal drugs have a devastating impact on our communities, and although we do extensive work with our partners to break the cycle of serious and organised crime, we cannot achieve this alone. We need the public to be our eyes and ears and to come forward with information regarding drug dealing in their communities. Your support is crucial in the ongoing fight against drug dealing and all other forms of serious and organised crime. Together we can help to keep vulnerable people and our communities safe. If you have any information about illegal drug activity or any other criminal activity taking place in our city please get in touch, you will be listened to, and we will investigate the matter."*

To learn how to spot the signs of drug activity, including county lines exploitation, taking place in your area please visit our website <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/police-forces/cheshire-constabulary/areas/cheshire/campaigns/campaigns/2019/impact/> To report drug activity in your area please report it here [Home | Cheshire Constabulary](#) or anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Cheshire woman sentenced for child neglect

A woman has been jailed after she admitted neglecting a child at her home in Cheshire.

The woman, who cannot be named for legal reasons, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 26 November where she was sentenced to seven years and six months in prison. She had earlier pleaded guilty to four counts of causing assault/ill treatment/neglect/ abandonment of child to cause unnecessary suffering/injury. The charges relate to offences which occurred between 18 March 2020 and 18 February 2023.



The court was told how in February 2023 police and social services were informed that a child had been discovered hidden in a bedroom at an address in Cheshire. A joint visit to the address was undertaken and the child was taken immediately taken into care. Following enquiries, it was found that the child had been born in March 2020, but had been kept secret and never been registered. Instead, the child had spent much of its life hidden in a bedroom at the address, even sleeping in a drawer under the bed. As a result of the woman's actions, the child was severely underdeveloped, malnourished and also had a number of medical conditions which had never been treated.

Following the sentencing DC Rachel Di Nicola said: *"What this child has experienced in its short lifetime is simply unimaginable, and how anyone can allow a child to suffer in that way is beyond belief. The shocking*

neglect was on an indescribable scale and the suffering the child experienced will impact them for the rest of their life. All those involved in the case have been left deeply shocked by what we uncovered, and we have all been amazed by the way the child has recovered since they were discovered, and we hope that this recovery continues.”

Man arrested in connection with Chester bomb hoax

Police investigating a bomb hoax which caused widespread disruption to Chester City Centre have arrested a man.

The 28-year-old from Ellesmere Port was arrested in Chester today (Tuesday 26 November). He remains in custody helping police with their enquiries. The arrest follows enquiries into the report of suspicious activity on two busses in Chester City Centre on Friday 22 November. One near the train station and one near the bus interchange.

Annual operation launched to support delivery drivers and couriers across festive period

With just a few weeks to go until Christmas, Cheshire Constabulary is launching its annual operation to support delivery drivers and couriers across the festive period.

Officers will be visiting key locations across Cheshire and engaging with delivery drivers to provide reassurance and offer crime prevention advice, to help ensure everyone gets their deliveries in time for the festive celebrations. This year’s operation will launch on Sunday 1 December and run until Tuesday 31 December.

DSupt Clare Coleman, who is leading the operation, said: *“While Santa will be busy on Christmas Eve making his own deliveries, we know many people give him a helping hand in the run-up to Christmas Day. This includes delivery drivers and couriers here in Cheshire, making sure your online gift orders get to you safely. This means there are even more delivery drivers out on the roads and sadly, this makes them a potential target for thieves. We are committed to doing all we can to prevent this from happening, and as part of our operation launching on 1 December, we’ll be visiting key locations across the county and engaging directly with delivery drivers. There will also be both marked and unmarked police vehicles patrolling key routes and roads near to distribution centres in Cheshire. As part of our operation, we’re also encouraging couriers to take all the necessary steps they can to reduce their chances of becoming a victim.”*

There are a number of simple steps which delivery drivers can follow to help play their part. The steps include:

- Ensure your vehicle is in proper operating condition.
- If you spot a suspicious vehicle following you, do not exit the vehicle, keep doors locked, keep moving, and call police.
- Agree a daily delivery plan with employers or, if independent, with a family member, and check with them on a regular basis. If possible, when out delivering consider using alternative routes rather than always going the same way.
- Ensure your mobile phone is fully charged.
- If something does not look or feel right, do not make the delivery. Call your employer and explain the circumstances.
- Be aware of your surroundings and avoid areas that are not well lit. Park under a streetlight if possible.
- Carry a torch to illuminate dark areas and walkways.
- If you feel threatened, activate the panic alarm on your vehicle to draw attention to the situation.

- Always lock your vehicle - even if you are only leaving it for a short period of time. It would take a matter of seconds for a thief to get into your vehicle and make off with something valuable.
- If your vehicle has rear windows, consider darkening them to prevent passers-by from seeing what's inside.
- Make sure that no valuables are left on display when leaving your courier van (for any amount of time), and fully close all the windows.
- Install a 'police follow this van' sticker on your vehicle to make officers aware of who you are.
- If you have a keyless van, consider using a key blocking pouch to prevent other people from accessing your vehicle while you are handing over parcels.
- Consider installing a tracker – if the worst were to occur and your vehicle were to be stolen, a tracker would enable officers to quickly locate it.
- Install additional security features – doors are one of the most vulnerable areas on delivery vans and they can sometimes be forced open, so consider installing a stoplock or a slam lock to help make it harder for criminals to get inside your vehicle.
- If an emergency occurs, remain at the scene only if it is safe. Dial 999 and wait for police to arrive at the scene.

DSupt Coleman added: *"Please remember that local residents can also help us by reporting any suspicious activity. You should also ensure that somebody is at home when any parcels are delivered. By working together, we can all help to reduce the chances of falling victim to thieves and ensure everyone gets their deliveries this Christmas."*

You can report anything suspicious to Cheshire Police on 101 or online at <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us>. In an emergency always dial 999.

Congleton shoplifter sentenced after pleading guilty

A 27-year-old man has been jailed after pleading guilty to shoplifting in Congleton.

Jordan Forster from Maskery Place, Congleton appeared at Crewe Magistrates on 25 November to be sentenced after admitting five theft offences. He was sentenced to 37 weeks in prison and was fined the total cost of the items he stole from the shops. Forster stole items worth up to £890 from Tescos, Home Bargains and The Original factory shop between 30 August and 4 October. His offending came to an end when officers recognised him from CCTV relating to the thefts.



PC James Rowley said: *"I'd like to thank the local shops for submitting their CCTV through Nice investigates. We were able to link Forster to each theft and positively identify him because the shops provided us with good CCTV images to help us with our investigation. This shows the importance of CCTV and working with local businesses to detect and deter crime. Not only do we have our officers' local knowledge to rely on to identify suspects, we also have facial recognition and experts in our visual ID unit on hand to help identify those committing crime in our community. The more we work together to tackle the issue, the more difficult we make it for thieves to target Congleton."*

Six people arrested following Northwich drugs raid

Officers from Northwich Beat Team have arrested six people following a drugs raid in Winnington.

At around 8.30am on Tuesday 26 November officers executed a warrant at an address on Bowling Green Court. Six people were arrested at the address on suspicion of drugs offences. The four women, (aged 30, 37,

46 and 48) and two men (aged 47 and 48) all remain in custody at this time. During the raid officers recovered a number of items, including several phones, drugs paraphernalia and a black pistol.

Following the warrant Insp Dave Levins, of Northwich Local Policing Unit, said: *"Today's warrant was conducted as part of an ongoing investigation into a county lines drugs gang who are believed to be operating in the Northwich area. The impact of drugs is well known, and I hope that this arrest provides reassurance to the community that we are doing all we can to stop those believed to be involved in this behaviour. Information from the public is vital and I'd urge anyone with any information in relation to drug-related activity in their community to get in touch."*

Information can be reported via www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime or via 101. Alternatively, you can report information anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Group sentenced to total of more than 40 years for drugs offences

Seven people have been jailed for a combined total of more than 40 years for their roles in supplying illegal drugs in Chester.

Operation Showman was launched by detectives at Chester Proactive Policing Team in June 2023 in response to an organised crime gang (OCG) which was supplying class A drugs in Chester and North Wales. The following defendants were sentenced at Chester Crown Court between Thursday 21 November and Friday 22 November 2024:

- Daniel Smith, aged 38, of Roughlyn Crescent, Marlston-cum-Lache, Chester, received 10 years and five months after he pleaded guilty to conspiracy to supply cocaine, ketamine, and MDMA.
- Ryan Paul Yates, aged 33, of Roughlyn Crescent, Marslton-cum-Lache, Chester, received 10 years after he pleaded guilty to three counts of conspiracy to supply class A and B drugs (cocaine, ketamine, MDMA) and importation of class B drugs (cannabis).
- Edward Chadwick, aged 29, of Oakfield Road, Blacon, received eight years after he pleaded guilty to conspiracy to supply class A drugs (cocaine).
- James Phelan, aged 20, of no fixed abode, received six years after he pleaded guilty to conspiracy to supply class A and B drugs (cocaine and ketamine).
- Jamie Lee Kelly, aged 37, of Englefield Avenue, Saltney, received four years and three months after he pleaded guilty to conspiracy to supply class A drugs (cocaine).
- Lucy Pagett, aged 33, of Englefield Avenue, Saltney, received 40 months after she pleaded guilty to conspiracy to supply class A drugs (cocaine).
- Sian Elisha Tomlin, aged 34, of Stamford Road, Chester, received two years and six months after she pleaded guilty to being concerned in the supply of class A drugs (cocaine).
- Kai Bradley, aged 21, of Saughall Road, Chester, received a 22-month sentence, suspended for two years, after he pleaded guilty to allowing a premises to be used for the supply of class A drugs (cocaine).
- Susan Stretton, aged 39, of Roughlyn Crescent, Marslton-cum-Lache, Chester, received a 16-month sentence suspended for two years after she pleaded guilty to allowing a premises to be used for the supply of class A and B drugs (cocaine, MDMA, and ketamine).
- Jordan Cook, aged 21, of Willow Road, Chester, received a nine-month sentence suspended for 18 months after he pleaded guilty to conspiracy to supply class B drugs (ketamine).



Edward Chadwick

Jamie Lee Kelly

Lucy Pagett

James Phelan



Daniel Smith

Sian Elisha Tomlin

Ryan Paul Yates

The gang were using a number of graft phones to conduct their operation, sending out bulk messages to drug users in the area offering to supply cocaine, ketamine and ecstasy. Following enquiries, officers identified a number of suspects who were believed to be part of the OCG. After gathering a catalogue of evidence against the gang, officers conducted a series of warrants on Tuesday 30 April 2024, leading to the arrest and charge of seven men and three women in relation to a variety of offences.

A number of mobile phones were also seized during the raids along with a large quantity of drugs. This included cocaine with a potential street value of up to £70,100, MDMA with a street value of up to £28,120, and ketamine worth up to £160,880. The investigation revealed that Smith stored the drugs at his address and was involved in weighing and packaging the substances. Stretton lived at the same address and allowed cocaine, ketamine and MDMA to be stored there. Yates also helped to control the storage of the drugs at this address, as well as controlling the graft phones, and assisting in weighing and packaging.

Chadwick was another controller of the drugs phones and directed others in the supply of cocaine. Bradley and Pagett both allowed their premises to be used by the OCG to supply drugs from. Pagett also stored drugs at her address and assisted with packaging, weighing and supplying drugs. Phelan and Kelly were street-level suppliers of cocaine on behalf of the OCG, while Cook was a supplier of ketamine that was purchased from the group. Tomlin made contact with this OCG to purchase bulk amounts of illegal drugs.

Following the sentencings, DI Rupert Morrey said: *"This is an exceptional result, with a combined sentence of more than 44 years in prison. During the investigation, our officers spent over seven months meticulously gathering intelligence in relation to the supply of illegal drugs in Chester. Each defendant then pleaded guilty to their involvement in this OCG, which demonstrates the strength of the evidence against them. As well as the substantial sentences received, our investigation saw a total of more than a quarter of a million pounds*

worth of drugs seized and taken off the streets. Illegal drugs have a hugely detrimental impact on communities, so cutting off supplies and removing those responsible for drug dealing from our communities is of huge importance to us. I hope these recent sentences reassure residents that we are doing all we can to tackle offending of this nature, while also serving as a warning to those who choose to be involved in drugs offences that you will be caught and brought to justice."

Woman sentenced for death by dangerous driving

A 60-year-old woman from Loggerheads has been sentenced for causing death by dangerous driving.

Alison Cooper from Badger Brow Road, in Loggerheads appeared at Chester Crown Court on 12 September and pleaded guilty to the offence. She appeared at Chester Crown Court on 25 November to be sentenced to 40 months in prison and subjected to a five year ban.

The collision occurred at around 4.45pm on Thursday 16 June 2022 on the A500 in Barthomley. Mrs Cooper was driving her red Ford Fiesta home from work when she braked harshly causing 29-year-old Chris Parsons to take evasive action. This resulted in his black Renault Clio veering into oncoming traffic and colliding with a blue Seat Ateca travelling in the opposite direction. Sadly, Chris, who was from Mostyn in North Wales died at the scene.



His family said at the time: *"Our beloved Chris sadly passed away on Thursday 16 June 2022 aged 29 years old. Words can't describe the heartache we as a family are going through. He was a wonderful Son, brother, uncle, and loving Father to his three amazing children who he will be sorely missed by. He was an amazing, kind, caring wonderful person who would go above and beyond for absolutely anyone. Rest In Peace Shifty, fly high, gone but never forgotten."*

Following the sentence the family said: *"We as a family would like to thank Cheshire police for all their hard work throughout this case that helped to get some justice for Chris. Nothing will ever bring our Chris back home to us, but we are overwhelmed by the sentence that was given today. Chris' death has impacted the family immensely, and every day is spent missing him. Knowing that we have a little bit of justice for our family, justice for his children and for his friends, is something that will make our healing that tiny bit easier. Rest easy shifty, we love you always."*

DC Lisa Evans-Hill from the Serious Collision Investigation Unit said: *"This was a dangerous action on a busy road with fatal consequences. This decision to brake, caused not only Chris's family's lives to change forever that day, but Mrs Cooper's as well. I hope it makes people think carefully about their actions behind the wheel. Everyone should be aware that when they get in a vehicle, they have the potential to cause real damage and even take a life. You have not only your life in your hands but other road users and this needs to be remembered every time you make that journey. Please drive carefully and safely for everyone's sake."*

Over 250 knives recovered as part of county-wide crackdown

Officers from across Cheshire Police intensified their efforts in tackling knife crime, engaging with residents, retailers and young people across the county about knife safety and recovering 254 bladed articles.

Operation Sceptre ran from Monday 11 November to Sunday 17 November and saw police officers and staff from across the Constabulary working together with partner organisations and Cheshire residents to reduce the impact of knife crime. As part of November's national operation, police also spotlighted the everyday work done to tackle street robbery in Cheshire, in a parallel operation - Operation Calibre.



Cheshire continues to have one of the lowest rates of knife crime in the country (32 out of 43 forces), however, over the last 12 months, there has been a 5.4% increase in the number of recorded offences (624 between April 2023 to March 2024, compared to 592 between April 2022 to March 2023). This figure is partially the result of our continued proactive stop and search approach – meaning there has been an increase in the number of people arrested for possessing bladed weapons, which in turn has helped to remove illegal weapons from Cheshire's streets.

Cheshire Constabulary remains determined to reduce the number of knives and bladed weapons carried across the region, with efforts in tackling knife crime being intensified through enforcement and engagement initiatives that were held across the county's seven main regions during the week of action. Activities during the week-long operation included community knife sweeps, the execution of warrants concerning knife crime, engagement in the community and the stepping up of patrols in hotspot areas.

All Local Policing Units across the county also held knife amnesty events, which allowed residents to safely dispose of any unwanted blades or weapons in secure knife surrender bins. In particular, officers in Runcorn, Knutsford and Winsford, securely disposed of a variety of different bladed weapons that ranged in sizes, with samurai swords, machetes and zombie-style knives being handed in by local residents.



In Warrington, Neighbourhood officers and Chief Inspector Neil Drum supported the RAPAD charity which was rolling out specialist military-grade bandage kits to local Warrington taxi drivers at Bank Quay Station. In total, 50 of these kits were handed out to the drivers. The kits in question are designed to stem serious blood loss following a knife attack or serious accident and include an easy-to-follow non-perishable instruction card for the drivers or members of the public to use.

In Crewe, officers worked with the British Transport Police as part of a county lines operation executed at the station, with officers conducting a number of stop searches, disrupting the transportation of drugs and weapons in and out of the town.



All this work and much more that was conducted during Operation Sceptre week resulted in:

- 28 weapons sweeps being executed
- 34 surrender bins being deployed
- 54 stop searches were conducted, leading to six arrests.
- 20 community meetings held
- 53 school/education inputs given
- 46 retailers visited for test-purchase operations

These intensified efforts resulted in a total of 254 knives being taken off of Cheshire's streets.

Supt Andrew Blizard, Cheshire Constabulary's Knife Crime Lead, said: *"We are particularly proud that, when compared to our fellow home forces, knife crime in Cheshire remains low; but we are seeing a considerable number of people across the county in possession of knives and bladed weapons. This is something that we as a force will not tolerate. We know it can be worrying to hear about people being injured or killed by knives, but I would like to reiterate that choosing to carry one yourself does not make you any safer and can put you*

more at risk. A knife usually makes a situation much worse. Tackling knife-related incidents is part of our day-to-day business of keeping everyone in Cheshire safe, and I would like to thank our officers, staff, and partner organisations for helping Cheshire Constabulary intensify their efforts to reduce its impact. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the many Cheshire residents, youth representatives and community groups our officers engaged with over the course of the week who have helped us keep Cheshire a hostile environment for anyone who chooses to pick up a blade."

To report any type of crime involving weapons, call Cheshire Constabulary on 101 or 999 in an emergency. Anyone who knows someone that carries a knife can report it to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously> Information can also be passed to the force online via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>.

Appeals

Appeal for witnesses and footage following burglary in Nether Alderley

Officers investigating reports of a burglary in Nether Alderley are appealing for any witnesses or those with footage to come forward.

At around 6.35pm on Wednesday 20 November, police were called to reports of a high-value burglary at an address in Bollington Lane, Nether Alderley. The caller reported they had returned to the address and found unknown offenders had gained access to the property and stolen a number of items. The offenders are believed to have fled the scene in the direction of Alderley Road, Chelford.

DS Laura Fox, of Macclesfield CID, said: *"We would like to reassure members of the community that we are committed to doing everything we can to trace those responsible. We're now appealing to anyone who witnessed this incident or has any relevant information or dashcam footage which may aid our investigation to come forward. In particular, we would like to hear from anyone with dashcam footage on the B5359 Alderley Road, Chelford, between 5.30pm and 6pm on Wednesday 20 November. You can report information to us via cheshire.police.uk/tell-us, or call 101, quoting IML-1967126."*

Appeal renewed following reports of suspicious activity in Chester.

Officers investigating reports of suspicious activity in Chester city centre have renewed their appeal for information from the public.

At 5.09pm on Friday 22 November, police received a report of suspicious activity on two buses in the city centre. One near the train station and one near the bus interchange. As a precaution a cordon was put in place and several roads were closed while officers investigated the report. EOD also attended with other emergency services to assist. Enquiries in relation to the matter are ongoing and as part of the investigation officers are now renewing their appeal for information from the public.

DI Ross Hamilton, of Chester CID, said: *"Thankfully, there was no substance behind the claim made by a passenger that there was a package on either of the buses. However, the incident caused major disruption across Chester on a busy Friday night, and we're committed to doing all we can to establish exactly what took place. As part of our ongoing enquiries we are keen to hear from anyone who was at Chester Bus Interchange at around 4pm on Friday 22 November and got onto the X1 bus to Liverpool. I would urge anyone who was on the bus, or anyone who believes they may have heard or witnessed anything suspicious while at the bus interchange, to contact the team here at Chester CID."*

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or [via the website](#) quoting IML 1968640. Alternatively, information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

A 28-year-old man was arrested in relation to the incident on Tuesday 27 November. The man has since been released on police bail pending further enquiries.

Police appeal for help in tracing wanted Liverpool man

Police are looking to locate Karl Dwyer, 20, from Liverpool.

Karl Dwyer is wanted on warrant for failing to appear at Court for drugs supply offences and has links to Widnes, and the Walton and Tuebrook areas of Merseyside. He is described as a white, with dark brown hair, and is 5ft 5 ins tall and of slim build.

Anyone with information on his whereabouts can call 101 or 999 if sighted and quote reference 24000345569.

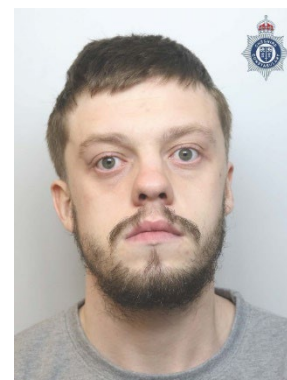


Police appeal for help in locating wanted Runcorn man

Police are looking to locate wanted man Robert Lingham, aged 23, from Runcorn.

Robert Lingham is wanted in relation to an allegation of assault and has links to Runcorn, Widnes, Merseyside and Lancashire. He is described as a white male, with mousy brown hair, is six foot tall and of slim build.

Anyone with information on his whereabouts can call 101, or 999 if sighted, and quote reference 24000881895.



Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)

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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