

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 15th September 2019

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Force taking part in national week of action to combat knife crime

Cheshire Constabulary is taking part in a national campaign to take knives off the streets and educate people about the dangers of carrying weapons.

Held from Monday 16 September to Sunday 22 September, Operation Sceptre aims to reduce the impact of knife crime in communities. Cheshire has one of the lowest rates of knife crime in England and statistics show

that the number of serious knife offences committed in the county decreased by nearly 15 per cent from the year ending July 2018 to the year ending July 2019.



The force is determined to further reduce the number of weapons carried on Cheshire's streets and its considerable ongoing efforts in this regard will be showcased as part of enforcement and engagement initiatives held during the national week of action. As well as conducting stop and search operations, deploying knife arches (mobile metal detectors which provides airport-style security) and distributing knife screening wands to pubs and clubs, Cheshire officers will be working with partner agencies such as community groups, housing associations and Trading Standards to educate young people and other residents about the laws surrounding buying and carrying knives. The officers will also talk to them about the potentially fatal consequences of carrying weapons.

Sarah Heath, Cheshire Constabulary's superintendent for tackling weapons and reducing serious harm, said: "Nationally knife crime is a growing problem and the week-long Operation Sceptre campaign is a national initiative that the force is always more than happy to take part in and embrace. We are proud of the fact that Cheshire has a lower rate of knife crime than most other counties in England but our aim is for weapon-free streets throughout the county. The national week of action is an opportunity to showcase some of the initiatives we use to tackle the use of knives and other weapons. This is a priority for us and I would like to reassure people that this work continues throughout the year. We work closely with partners, the third sector, youth representatives and community members to create a structured approach to collectively address the complex issues associated with knife crime and habitual knife carrying. We have also implemented longer term strategies to empower communities and support young people through education and intervention. "We will continue to work together to make Cheshire a county where no-one wants to, or feels that they need to, carry a knife or any other weapon."

Family and friends also have an important role to play. If you know someone who carries a knife then reporting it to the police could be enough to save a life. Retailers are also urged to have robust controls on the sale of blades, such as kitchen knives. It is illegal to sell a knife to anyone under the age of 18 and anyone found carrying a knife in public, without a reasonable excuse, faces a prison sentence.

David Keane, police and crime commissioner for Cheshire, added: "Carrying a knife is a very serious crime, it doesn't make you safer and knife crime can have a devastating impact on victims and their families. The killing of 18-year-old Eddie O'Rourke in Runcorn last September, and the subsequent murder and manslaughter convictions of the two teenagers responsible, is the ultimate example of why people shouldn't carry knives. Not only did a young man needlessly die but three families have been ruined as a result of a knife being carried and used outside a Runcorn club that night. I am pleased that police in Cheshire are doing all they can to reduce the number of dangerous weapons on our streets and I urge anyone with information about people who carry such weapons to come forward in confidence and report it."

Supt Heath said: "We are fully aware of the fact that some of the weapons on our streets are bought online, rather than from a traditional retailer. As such, we are now working with distribution centres to intercept prohibited weapons that are purchased online and prevent them from becoming a threat to our communities."

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

One dead in horror crash...

Cheshire Police and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service are appealing for the public to witness a collision that could save their life.

On Thursday 12 September, shortly before 7:30pm, a woman had a momentary lapse in concentration and drove into the path of an oncoming vehicle. Firefighters, paramedics and police officers attended but, the woman was pronounced dead at the scene. The investigation concluded that this was a senseless and tragic loss of life affecting so many people due to an act of careless driving. The mother of one left behind her husband and young daughter, while the driver of the other vehicle was left seriously injured with several broken bones and a collapsed left lung.

This may not be a real incident...

... but this is the reality for more than one person a week in Cheshire.

That's why Cheshire's emergency services have today, Friday 13 September, released a powerful account of how a fatal collision affects not only the driver and their family, but everyone else subsequently involved.

<https://youtu.be/3OxyfJXADIM>

The emotive video highlights the devastation collisions cause with emergency services staff speaking out about how responding to these incidents affect them personally. Shockingly, 46 people lost their lives on

Cheshire's roads in 2018. That's 46 families worlds brought crashing down and 46 times emergency services staff witnessed the subsequent tragedy unfold. This year has seen more than one person a week die on our roads, and Cheshire's emergency services are stressing that collisions can be avoided if road users think about how they drive, consider the conditions of the road and assess their surroundings. In particular, this time last year is when we saw a sharp rise in the number of people dying on the roads – 32 people did not go home between September and February. We don't want the same to happen again this year.

Superintendent Jo Marshall-Bell, Head of Cheshire Constabulary's Roads and Crime Unit, said: "One death as a result of something preventable is one too many. The moment we get that call we have had another fatal collision in the county - our hearts sink. A family liaison officer has to go and break the devastating news to the family, and help them to rebuild their lives - without their loved one. It's heartbreaking. Not just for the family who have lost their mother/father/child, but for all the responding emergency service staff who have to help pick up the pieces. With the nights getting darker and the roads getting wetter, it's more important than ever that people heed our advice and drive more carefully."

Station Manager Andy Gray, Road Safety Manager for Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service, said: "As a Service we spend a considerable amount of time educating road users on how to drive safely. We explain and show the consequences of how one reckless decision behind the wheel can have - yet we are seeing the number of people killed on our roads increase. Firefighters do a great job at rescuing people from collisions however sometimes, it is just too late. They have seen far too many preventable fatalities and life-changing injuries on the county's roads. Think before you overtake and make sure it is safe to do so, concentrate when pulling out of a junction, look out for cyclists and motorcyclists, leave enough space between you and the vehicle in front and drive appropriately for the road and weather conditions. I promise you, it's not worth dying for..."

Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire, David Keane, said: "Making our roads safer is one of the most important priorities for the residents I represent in Cheshire and I am working closely with our Chief Constable and victims to improve road safety across the county. I recently met the family of a young man killed on one of Cheshire's roads to talk to them about how they were supported by Cheshire Police and to discuss how the criminal justice system can better support victims and their families. It was harrowing to see first-hand the devastating effect the loss of a loved one had had on the entire family. This video not only captures the aftermath of a road traffic collisions for the victims' family but also emergency services workers. I hope it makes people think twice about driving recklessly and putting their lives and the lives of other road users and pedestrians at risk."

Man jailed following burglary and car theft crime spree in Wilmslow and Mobberly

A burglar and car thief from Greater Manchester has been jailed for a series of offences committed in Wilmslow and Mobberley.

Jarrod Lawman, of no fixed address, pleaded guilty to two counts of burglary, three counts of theft of a motor vehicle, two counts of theft from a motor vehicle and possession of a class B drug (cannabis). The 22-year-old was sentenced for the offences at Chester Crown Court on Monday 9 September. He was jailed for three years.

Lawman's crime spree began on the night of Friday 24 May, when he stole a BMW in Wilmslow. Officers found the car on Gorsey Road in



Wythenshawe, Greater Manchester, hours later and discovered items worth a total of around £1,000 had been stolen from within the vehicle.

On Sunday 26 May Lawman was part of burglary in Mobberley that saw property stolen from a domestic garage. The property stolen was left at the scene of a second burglary Lawman committed in Mobberley on the same morning. A Land Rover was stolen during this burglary, as were the keys to a Mercedes car. Lawman returned to the address with the keys the following day and stole the Mercedes. Police found the car in the Wythenshawe area later that day. They recovered the stolen Land Rover on Friday 14 June, again within the Greater Manchester area.

Lawman's crime spree ended on Monday 8 July after police had received a report of a man trying to gain access to numerous cars in Wilmslow in the early hours of the morning. Officers attended and found a number of insecure vehicles in Dean Drive and Finney Drive. A police dog found Lawman hiding in the grounds of a property in Green Drive. He was found in possession of a quantity of cannabis, as well items that had been stolen from cars on Dean Drive. Lawman was subsequently arrested and interviewed by detectives. He refused to answer any questions but officers were able to gather a catalogue of evidence against him. Traces of his DNA were found in the BMW that was stolen and on property left behind at the scene of the second burglary he committed in Mobberley. CCTV footage showed Lawman driving the stolen Mercedes, and one of the car's wing mirrors was found at an address in Greater Manchester that Lawman was living in at the time. Keys belonging to the owner of the stolen Land Rover and a fuel card in the name of another victim were also found in the address.

Sergeant Cameron Mair, who led the investigation into the offences on behalf of Macclesfield Local Policing Unit, said: "I would like to praise the officers involved in this case for all their hard work in securing this conviction. I would also like to thank the members of the public who provided us with information that helped us to both catch Lawman and bring him to justice. Throughout his crime spree Lawman targeted victims at their own home, which is the place that they should be able to feel most safe. I am delighted that he is now behind bars facing the consequences of his actions and I hope that this case deters others from travelling to Cheshire to commit crimes. I also hope that the custodial sentence handed down by the courts will give some closure to the victims and enable them to move forward with their lives."

New Hidden Harm Team set up to tackle modern day slavery in Warrington

A new Hidden Harm Team has been set up at Warrington Police Station to aid the fight against modern day slavery and human trafficking in the town.

Consisting of Detective Sergeant Darren Wright and Detective Constables Steve Deehan and Danielle Fildes, the team is dedicated to identifying, safeguarding and supporting victims of forced labour, domestic servitude and sexual exploitation and taking robust action against offenders.

It is working closely with partners including Warrington Borough Council, recruitment agencies, employers and private landlords to identify, prevent, disrupt and stop modern day slavery and help the vulnerable victims.

Detective Inspector Julie Jackson, who is in charge of the new team at



Warrington CID, said: "It is a sad fact of life that modern slavery is happening today, in our communities, often hidden away behind closed doors.

"In fact, the number of victims is growing all the time, internationally, nationally and locally, and I am pleased that the growing problem has been highlighted on terrestrial TV recently via Panorama - The Hunt for Britain's Slave Gangs and Coronation Street's nail bar storyline.

"Modern slavery destroys lives. It stems from serious and organised crime and targets some of the most vulnerable people in our society, who are coerced into a range of exploitation, including trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude.

"Many are tricked into coming to the UK with a promise of a good job and a better life. Instead, they are made to live a life of abuse, working in terrible conditions with very little reward.

"These offences represent a grave abuse of human rights and basic dignity, and the new Warrington Hidden Harm Team has been formed to step up efforts to eradicate modern slavery in the town and bring to justice those who so cruelly exploit vulnerable people."

Victims of modern slavery are often hidden in plain sight, hence the name of the new team.

You may see victims working in your community without realising that they are being coerced to do so by organised criminals.

DS Wright said: "Slavery is a hidden crime that sees victims suffer in silence, often feeling alone and terrified and not knowing how to escape the situation. Many have come from broken families, leaving them less protected from attachments to those who wish them harm. Some have been unable to find work, leaving them more vulnerable to exploitation. Others are addicts, some struggle with unmanageable debt and many have never experienced decent education. One of the biggest challenges the police faces in fighting modern slavery is that many victims do not realise they are victims and many others fear revealing their status or experiences to state authorities and mistrust individuals in authority. On initial contact, victims may appear unwilling to co-operate, especially if they are in the presence of their traffickers or around other victims. In addition to feelings of fear and intimidation, they may feel dependent on their traffickers. Our role at the new Warrington Hidden Harm Team is to work with our partners to find these victims, ensure that they receive all the physical and psychological help and support they need and do everything we can in a bid to bring their traffickers to justice. But modern slavery and human trafficking are not matters we can address on our own. Protecting people from slavery and exploitation is everybody's responsibility. Cheshire Constabulary plays a key role in the Cheshire Anti-Slavery Network, a multi-agency group led by Warrington Borough Council that is committed to working together to prevent modern slavery and human trafficking. Agencies and other organisations from both the public and voluntary sector are actively involved in addressing these heinous crimes, but I cannot stress enough how much we also need the public to come forward with any suspicions or information they have regarding possible cases of modern slavery. Please help us to help victims of these devastating crimes."

To look out for potential victims, it is important to recognise the signs and behaviours associated with this type of crime.

Here are some of the common signs that may indicate that someone could be a victim of modern day slavery:

- **Appearance:** Victims may show signs of physical or psychological abuse, look malnourished or unkempt or appear withdrawn.
- **Isolation:** Victims may rarely be allowed to travel on their own, seem under the control/influence of others, rarely interact or appear unfamiliar with their neighbourhood or where they work.
- **Poor living conditions:** Victims may be living in dirty, cramped or overcrowded accommodation, and may be working at the same address.
- **Few or no personal effects:** Victims may have no identification documents, have few personal possessions and wear the same clothes day in, day out. The clothes they do wear may not be suitable for their work.
- **Unusual travel times:** They may be dropped off/collected for work on a regular basis, either very early in the morning or late at night.
- **Reluctant to seek help:** Victims may avoid eye contact, appear frightened or hesitant to talk to strangers and fear law enforcers for many reasons, such as not knowing who to trust or where to get help and fear of deportation.

Information from the community, no matter how small, plays a vital part in tackling modern slavery.

If you see something suspicious call Cheshire Constabulary on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. Alternatively, you can contact the new Hidden Harm Team via email at warrington.hidden.harm.team.@cheshire.pnn.police.uk. For more information about modern day slavery visit <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/advice-and-support/modern-slavery-and-human-trafficking>.

Sergeant Promotion Process – One week to go

Cheshire Constabulary will be accepting applications for promotion to the rank of Sergeant from **Monday 16th September**.

The assessment of the process will be based against the [Competency and Values Framework](#).

Overview of the recruitment process:

- Competency based application form
- Work sample exercise
- Psychometric testing
- Presentation*
- Values based interview

*** Please note that the presentation topic will be provided on the day and applicants will be provided with preparation time.**

Man charged in-connection with three Widnes burglaries

Detectives have charged a 28-year-old man in-connection with three burglaries in Widnes.

Daniel Chadburn, of no fixed address, was charged with three burglary offences, theft from a house and

obstructing a police officer. He was remanded into custody and will appear at Warrington Magistrates Court on Monday 9 September. The charges relate to offences which took place at an address on Milton Road in Widnes between 2 September and 8 September.

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Chester man wanted on recall to prison

Police are asking the public to help them trace a 52-year-old man from Chester who is wanted on recall to prison.

As well as Chester, Mohammed Iqbal Hussain has links to the London area. Originally from Bangladesh, he is also known as Masum Ahmed and Mohammed Ahmed. He is 5' 7" tall with a proportionate build and has receding black hair and brown eyes.

Anyone who sees Hussain is advised not to approach him but to instead contact Cheshire Constabulary immediately on 101, quoting IML 485879. Alternatively information regarding Hussain's whereabouts can be reported anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Police appeal for witnesses after Chester collision

Police are appealing for witnesses following a single vehicle collision in Chester.

At approximately 9.34pm on Friday 6 September a white Nissan Juke travelled from The Bars roundabout in Chester towards the Bingo roundabout on St Oswalds Way when it collided with the roundabout's concrete bollards. The car then overturned and collided with the bus station. The driver was taken to the Countess of Chester to be assessed.

DC Denis Morgan from Cheshire Constabulary Roads Crime Unit said: "We have been looking at CCTV covering the area which shows a number of people on foot around the Bingo Hall, many of whom reacted to the collision, which was substantial. I am particularly keen to speak to a woman who was seen walking on her own past the Bingo Hall entrance towards Brook Street. She got to the pedestrian crossing on St Oswalds Way and crossed to the centre island just as the vehicle came through behind her. I am also particularly interested in tracing a further two pedestrians who left the Bingo Hall, turned right and followed behind the woman. They reached the crossing just as the vehicle passed in front of them seconds before the collision occurred. If you witnessed the collision or the driving before the collision, I would urge you to contact police."

If anyone who witnessed the collision should contact PC Denis Morgan on 101 or via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/contact/general-enquiries/> quoting IML 506567.

CCTV image released in-connection with assault in Macclesfield

Police investigating an assault in Macclesfield have released a CCTV image of a man they would like to speak too.

At 02.33 on Thursday 8 August a 52-year-old local man was at a nightclub on Dukes Court when he was punched and kicked by a man inside. After the assault the man then left the club alone and on foot, in an unknown direction. The victim required hospital treatment after suffering serious injuries to his head and face. The man is described as white, tall in height with brown hair and is believed to be aged in his late 40s. He is of a skinny build and has a pale and gaunt complexion.

PC Simone Davies, of Macclesfield Local Policing Unit, said: "This was a serious assault that left the victim suffering from facial injuries, which still require hospital treatment. I believe the man in the CCTV image may have vital information to help with our investigation and I would encourage him to please get in touch. I would urge anyone who thinks they may know the identity of the man in the image to contact us. I would also appeal to anyone who has any information in relation to the investigation to come forward."

Any information can be passed on by calling Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 479979, through the Crimestoppers online form <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/> or on the Cheshire Police website.

CCTV images released following burglary and car thefts in Rudheath

Detectives have released CCTV images of men they want to speak to in connection with a burglary and car thefts in Rudheath, near Northwich.

At around 11pm on Wednesday 2 September a house in Waterside View was broken into. A number of items were stolen, as were the keys to a grey Audi TT coupe and a black Mercedes-Benz E220 AMG Sport convertible. The offenders then drove off in the cars, which were parked outside the house. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and detectives believe that the men in the CCTV images may have vital information to aid their investigation. They are urging anyone who recognises them or thinks they may know who they are to get in touch. Detectives also want to speak to anyone who was in the area at the time and witnessed the incident or anything else that may help the investigation, as well as to anyone with information regarding the whereabouts of the stolen cars.

Detective Constable Paul Matchett, of Northwich Local Policing Unit, said: "We believe that the men in the CCTV images may have vital information to help with our ongoing investigation into a burglary in Rudheath which included the theft of two cars. If you think you recognise the men in the CCTV images or know who they are please call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 503676, give us the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/contact/general-enquiries> or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. The same goes for anyone with any other information that may help our investigation. This includes information regarding the whereabouts of the stolen Audi and Mercedes-Benz cars. I would also like to appeal directly to the men in the CCTV images to get in touch."

Appeal after man suffers serious burns in Warrington flat fire

Officers from Warrington CID investigating a first floor flat fire in the town are appealing for information and footage from members of the public.

A joint investigation has been launched by Cheshire Constabulary and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service into the cause of the fire that has left a 52-year-old man in hospital with serious burns. Firefighters were called to the blaze on Whitecross Road shortly before 11.30pm yesterday, Tuesday 10 September. They rescued the man and a dog, who were both unconscious, from the flat and administered oxygen to them both. Once paramedics arrived the man was taken to hospital via an ambulance. His condition is described as critical but stable. The dog, a Staffordshire bull terrier called Ty, regained consciousness after being given oxygen via a pet oxygen mask. He was taken to an out of hours vets by an RSPCA inspector. Ty has since been moved to a different vets. His condition is not believed to be life threatening. At this stage it is believed that the fire was started deliberately.

Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and detectives are urging anyone who was in the area and witnessed anything that may help their investigation to come forward. They also want to hear from anyone who believes they have CCTV footage that could be relevant to the investigation.

Sergeant Darren Reid, of Warrington CID, said: "A man is in hospital with serious injuries as a result of this incident. I would like to reassure the community that we are doing everything we can to establish how the fire started, working alongside colleagues from Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service. As part of our investigation we are appealing for anyone who believes they have information or footage that may be relevant to the fire to get in touch with the team here at Warrington CID."

Anyone with information or CCTV footage that may help detectives with their investigation is asked to call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 509950, give the details via <https://cheshire.police.uk/contact/general-enquiries> or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Robbery at Widnes convenience store

Detectives investigating an attempted robbery at a convenience store in Widnes are appealing for the public to come forward.

At 10.35pm on Tuesday 3 September three men, wearing balaclavas and armed with weapons, entered the shop on Liverpool Road and demanded staff show them to the safe. At the same time, a staff member was able to activate the panic alarm, which caused the men to leave the shop empty handed. One of the men is described as white, of a slim build and around 5ft 7 in height. He was wearing a dark jacket and in possession of a weapon similar to a kosh. The second man is described as white, of a slim build and around 5ft 7 in height. He was wearing grey clothing and in possession of a hammer. The third man is described as white, wearing a black jacket and was in possession of a large knife.

If you saw anyone in the area at the time the robbery took place please contact Cheshire Police on either 101 quoting IML 504140, provide information by email <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/contact/general-enquiries> or contact the online form at Crimestoppers anonymously <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

CCTV images released following serious assault in Crewe

Detectives have released CCTV images of a man they want to speak to in connection with a serious assault in Crewe.

The incident occurred in Victoria Centre, near The Angel pub, between 1.50am and 2.10am on Sunday 8 September. The victim, a 40-year-old man from Crewe, was assaulted by a younger looking man and suffered serious injuries. He



was taken to hospital via an ambulance. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and detectives believe that the man in the CCTV images may have important information to help with their investigation. They are urging anyone who recognises him or thinks they may know who he is to get in touch. Detectives also want to speak to anyone who was in the area at the time and witnessed the incident or anything else that may help the investigation.

Detective Constable Rachel-Anne Hall, from Crewe CID, said: "We believe that the man in the CCTV images may have vital information to help with our ongoing investigation into a serious assault in the town. The victim suffered serious injuries that required hospital treatment as a result of the incident and we are determined to establish who was responsible and make them face the consequences of their actions. If you think you recognise the man in the CCTV images or know who he is please call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 507682, give us the details via <https://cheshire.police.uk/contact/general-enquiries> or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. The same goes for anyone who was in the area and saw what happened or anything else that may be relevant to our investigation. I would also like to appeal directly to the man in the CCTV images to get in touch."

Appeal after two motorbikes stolen in Chester burglary

Detectives investigating a burglary at a motorbike dealership in Chester are appealing for information and footage from members of the public.

Shortly before 1am yesterday, Sunday 8 September, six people sharing three motorbikes/mopeds rode up to Bill Smith Motors Ltd on Tarvin Road in Boughton. The offenders broke into the premises using a sledgehammer and stole two Yamaha Sport Touring motorbikes from inside. They towed away the stolen bikes – a 900cc MT-09 SP in black, silver and blue and a 1,000cc MT-10 in matt grey – travelling in the direction of Vicars Cross. The six offenders were all wearing dark clothing and motorbike helmets. They all appeared to be males. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and detectives are urging anyone with any information or CCTV or dashcam footage regarding the burglary, the offenders or the stolen motorbikes to come forward.

Detective Constable Nicky Edgell, of Chester CID, said: "We are determined to identify the offenders and make them face the consequences of their actions. We are also doing everything we can to recover the stolen motorbikes and have them returned to the dealership. Enquiries are ongoing and as part of our investigation we are urging anyone who was in the area and believes that they saw the offenders, either

before they carried out the burglary or as they were fleeing the scene, to contact the team here at Chester CID. The same goes for anyone who believes that they may know who the offenders are or have CCTV or dashcam footage of them. We also want to hear from anyone with information regarding the two stolen Yamaha motorbikes. They did not have a battery or fuel in them so they may have been left nearby.”

Anyone with any information or CCTV footage that may help the investigation should call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 507628, give the details via <https://cheshire.police.uk/contact/general-enquiries> or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. Dashcam footage can be submitted online at www.cheshire.police.uk/advice-and-support/roads-and-vehicle-safety/submit-dashcam-footage .

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: <http://cheshire.ourwatch.org.uk/>