

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 6th September 2020

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Week of action puts wanted suspects under the spotlight

Cheshire Constabulary is carrying out a week of action to highlight the work that goes on behind the scenes every day to locate those evading justice.

From Monday 7 September, officers and staff from local policing units, the Special Constabulary and specialist departments from across the force will be concentrating their efforts and combining expertise to track down people suspected of committing crimes in the county. Every department, from the Economic Crime Unit to Roads Policing and the Serious Organised Crime Unit have drawn up a specific list of individuals they want to speak to and have information to deal with them swiftly, whether that's a charge, summons or other outcome.

CI Sarah Heath, who led on the operation, said: *"Individuals who try to evade the courts are denying victims their chance to see justice done and this can often leave many of those affected by crime unable to move on with their lives. This week of action is to highlight to the public our commitment in tracking down those who try their best to evade justice. Locating wanted suspects is our day-to-day business, and when we identify those who are a priority for us to find, we have the use of specialist departments to help us in our search. No stone is left unturned, so if you know you are wanted, or you have information about someone who is wanted, it's time to do the right thing and hand yourself in. You might just be on our list and it's only a matter of time before we track you down."*

PCC David Keane said: *"As well as being able to access support services, it's also important that victims get to see justice, so it is good to see this type of ongoing operation to illustrate what the Constabulary is doing behind the scenes to catch criminals and put them before the courts. Initiatives such as this really help to build trust between police and the communities they serve."*

If you have any information regarding someone you know is wanted by police please call Cheshire Constabulary on 101. Information can also be left anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555111.

Detectives continue to warn residents after spate of courier fraud scams

Detectives are continuing to warn the public after a spate of courier fraud scams have left Cheshire victims without thousands of pounds.

In July a warning was issued regarding courier fraud however, since then, detectives have continued to see residents falling foul to fraudsters. Courier frauds are mainly committed by organised crime groups (OCGs) and a member of the OCG, known as the 'victim communicator', makes a phone call to vulnerable potential victims, persuading them that they are a police officer or work at the bank. They then manage to get the victim to cooperate with an 'operation' designed to gather evidence or identify offenders responsible for a fictional offence. The victims are asked to withdraw money from their bank, purchase an expensive item

and/or provide their bank details or card to assist with the operation. Money, items or documents are then handed over to the 'courier', who attends the victim's address or meets them nearby, on the promise that the money or item will be returned or compensation will be provided. Sadly, no compensation is provided and the money will not be returned. Leaving victims, in some cases, out of pocket of thousands of pounds.

DS Chris Jacques from Cheshire Constabulary's Economic Crime Unit said: *"It is particularly concerning that we are continuing to see spikes in the number of courier fraud scams targeting the most vulnerable in our communities. These scammers will stop at nothing to make a criminal gain and can be extremely convincing and very persistent. By using these methods they can often blindside their victims into believing them, before taking hard-earned money. It is important for the public to remember that police officers, banks and other services will never ask you to withdraw money or provide card details over the phone. Telephone numbers can be easily spoofed and you should never trust a number displayed on your telephone. Another concerning trend is that scammers have been asking victims to call back on 999, 101 or 162 to verify that they are genuine. This is part of the scam and they keep the line open so that the victim continues speak with the scammers believing that they are genuine officials. Anyone who is receiving calls asking for money to be withdrawn and handed over to a courier should call 101 or report it to Action Fraud."*

PCC David Keane said: *"I am greatly concerned about the re-emerging trend of courier fraud cases across Cheshire. The fact that these fraudsters will stop at nothing for their own criminal gain and continue to blight the vulnerable in our communities is deplorable. I know that the Economic Crime Unit is working hard to make residents aware of these scams while narrowing down on the fraudsters who believe they can get away with these crimes."*

Anyone who believes they have been contacted fraudulently or have been a victim of fraud should call Cheshire Police on 101 and Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040. Information can also be reported online via [the Cheshire Police website](#).

New chief inspector takes the reins at Northwich Local Policing Unit

A new Chief Inspector is set to take the reins at Northwich Local Policing Unit this week.

Gary Smith succeeds Sarah Edgar, who is moving to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary. Gary originally joined Cheshire Constabulary in 2001. During his career he has worked in a variety of operational roles across the county. Most recently he has served as the Chief Inspector for Ellesmere Port Local Policing Unit.

Prior to serving as a Chief Inspector, Gary worked as a Critical Incident manager, Criminal Justice manager, a Detective Inspector at Macclesfield Local Policing Unit and a Detective Inspector in the force's Professional Standards Department. He has also worked on the national Violence and Public Protection Portfolio and the National Child Sexual Abuse Review Panel.



Gary is joining a well-established team of officers at Northwich, including Inspector Robert Astbury, Inspector Iain Paterson and Detective Inspector Liam Furlong.

Gary said: *"I've been with Cheshire Constabulary for more than 18 years and I am proud to be taking up the role of Chief Inspector at Northwich Local Policing Unit. As a local resident I know that the team here already do a fantastic job protecting the local community and I look forward to working with them to help make Northwich, Winsford and all the surrounding villages even safer places to live, work and visit. As Chief Inspector my focus will be to ensure that my team continue to deliver an effective service both now and in the future. We will continue to work closely alongside local people and our key partners within the community to help reduce crime in the area and I encourage residents to get in touch if they have any issues or concerns that they want to raise with us."*

Outside of work Gary has two adult sons and lives with his wife Nichola, who is also a serving officer. In his spare time, Gary enjoys walking, keeping fit, gardening, and spending time with his family and friends.

PCC David Keane said: *"I'm sure Ian will be a great addition to the team at Northwich LPU and that residents will welcome his appointment as their chief inspector, just as they did with CI Sarah Edgar. Local policing is a priority for me and I am pleased to see the local LPU continues to have highly experienced and professional officers at its helm, who care about their officers and staff, as well as the residents and businesses they serve."*

Appeal to trace wanted man from Wirral

Police are appealing for help in tracing a 44-year-old man from Wirral.

Officers would like to speak to Dean Anderson in relation to drug offences. Anderson is 5' 9" tall, of medium build, with brown hair and brown eyes. Anyone with information regarding Anderson's whereabouts is asked to contact Cheshire Constabulary on 101 quoting 20000510990 or report it via [the Cheshire Police website](#). Alternatively, information regarding Anderson's whereabouts can be given to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via [the Crimestoppers website](#).



Cheshire Constabulary committed to enhancing officer safety following national review

Cheshire Constabulary has pledged its commitment to enhancing the safety of police officers and staff as part of a national review.

Police safety training is to be overhauled and an assessment of equipment available to the frontline will be carried out following the findings of a survey commissioned by the National Police Chiefs' Council and the College of Policing. More than 40,000 officers and staff across the country completed the survey, which has allowed a full-scale review in response to concerns about a rising number of assaults and increased violence against officers. All 28 recommendations were unanimously agreed by Chief Constables' Council earlier this year but publication of the report was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Today (Wednesday 2 September) it has now been published and confirms that work has been ongoing nationally over the past few months to begin implementing the recommendations. In Cheshire, the force has taken on board the findings from the national review and has introduced a local action plan to meet the needs of officers and staff.

CC Darren Martland said: *"Any attack on a police officer is shocking but recent incidents across the country serve as a stark reminder of the dangers that they face on a daily basis. As Chief Constable of Cheshire the*

safety of my officers is of paramount importance and I am committed to doing all I can to ensure that they are properly trained and equipped with the tools that they need to do their job effectively. That is why the force is supporting this national review, commissioned by the National Police Chiefs' Council. It will complement the work that we already carry out to assess and mitigate the threats and risk our officers face. As well as the national survey, an internal review has also been carried out. From both our findings and those from the national review, an action plan has been put together in relation to the key points. Those areas have been allocated a senior officer to take the lead and start to make a real difference in ensuring our officers' safety."

Cheshire's action plan includes a focus on training and wellbeing support, equipment and operational response, criminal justice outcomes and roads policing and officer safety. Over the past 12 months the force has recorded a total of 637 assaults on police officers – with or without injury – this equates to more than 50 assaults a month.

CC Martland added: *"The impact of an assault on an officer should not be underestimated – not only does this have an effect on their physical and mental wellbeing it also potentially takes an officer off the streets for a period of time putting added pressure on others to uphold the level of service we strive to provide to the communities of Cheshire I am committed to ensuring that as a force we are doing everything we can to reduce the risk to our officers. However, in cases where an officer is assaulted on duty we will make sure they receive all the necessary support from the Constabulary and, where appropriate, action is taken against offenders and they are brought to justice. It is important to remember that attacking an emergency services worker is a criminal offence and can result in a jail sentence."*

David Keane, PCC for Cheshire, added: *"I am supportive of these changes which will provide more protection for police officers and police staff. No officer or PCSO should go to work expecting to be attacked but, sadly, this is becoming an increasingly regular occurrence. Individuals working on the frontline put themselves at risk every day to protect Cheshire residents, therefore it's vital they are provided with the right training and appropriate equipment to allow them to carry out their roles safely. In my role to monitor the performance of Cheshire Constabulary on behalf of Cheshire residents, I will ensure these changes are providing the best protection for our officers and staff."*

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Appeal for information and dashcam footage following collision in Hatton Heath

Officers are appealing for information and dashcam footage following a collision involving three vehicles in Hatton Heath.

At around 5.20pm on Wednesday 2 September officers were called to the A41 Whitchurch Road following reports of collision involving a silver Vauxhall Astra, a white Ford Transit van and a blue Peugeot 5008. The driver of the Peugeot, a woman in her 30s, was taken to hospital with serious injuries. Both drivers of the other vehicles sustained minor injuries. Officers are now urging anyone with information or dashcam footage which could help them with their appeal to get in touch.

PC Lee Spencer said: *"We are in the early stages of the investigation and enquiries are very much ongoing. During the time of the collision, the A41 would have been particularly busy and I would like to hear from anyone who believes that they witnessed the incident. We are also keen to hear from anyone who may have caught dashcam footage of the collision, or the vehicles before the incident, as we believe it could help with our investigation."*

Anyone with information is asked to call Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 795603 or report it via [the Cheshire Police website](#). Information can also be reported to Crimestoppers anonymously via 0800 555 111 or report it via [the Crimestoppers website](#).

Appeal to trace wanted man from Macclesfield

Police are asking the public to help them trace a 30-year-old from Macclesfield who is wanted on recall to prison.

Aaron Bradley, is around 6' tall, of a medium build with brown hair and blue eyes.

Anyone with information regarding Bradley's whereabouts is advised to contact Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 789305 or report it via the [Cheshire Police website](#).

Alternatively, information regarding Bradley's whereabouts can be reported anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or via [their website](#).



Appeal for information following collision involving a pedestrian in Crewe

Officers are appealing for information following a collision involving a pedestrian in Crewe.

Just before 12.45am on Sunday 30 August, a 33-year-old man was walking near the junction of West Street and Vernon Way, when he was involved in a collision with a white Peugeot van. The vehicle then drove off towards the direction of West Street. As a result of the collision, the man sustained serious injuries and was taken to hospital. The van was subsequently found abandoned on Parkers Road later that day. Officers are now appealing for anyone with information about the incident to come forward.

Sgt David Harrison said: *"This is an extremely serious incident which could have had a devastating consequence. A number of enquiries are currently underway and we are doing all we can to find those responsible. I would ask anyone who knows who is responsible to come forward and also urge anyone who may have seen the van on the lead up to or after the collision in West Street and the surrounding areas to get in touch."*

Anyone with information is asked to call Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 792939 or report it via [the Cheshire Police website](#). Information can also be passed on to Crimestoppers anonymously by calling 0800 555 111 or report it via [the website](#).

Detectives investigating the robbery of a teenager's bike in Runcorn are appealing for witnesses to come forward.

Detectives investigating the robbery of a teenager's bike in Runcorn are appealing for witnesses to come forward.

Shortly after 7pm on Monday 31 August two males approached a 13-year-old boy and his friend on Stockham Lane. One of the men, believed to be armed with a knife, demanded the boy hand over his red bike. The males, described as being 14-years-old, then took the bike and made off from the scene. One of the males is described as white, 5ft 2 in height, of a skinny build with long brown or black hair. The second is also described as white, of a skinny build and around 5ft in height. He was wearing a light grey tracksuit with a blue top as a mask.

Officers have been conducting a number of CCTV and house-to-house enquiries and are appealing for the public to come forward with information.



PC Amy Lally, of Runcorn Local Policing Unit, said: *"The victim was left terrified of these two males who demanded he hand over his bike. While we have been following a number of lines of enquiry to find the suspects, I am appealing to anyone who may have seen them, or the bike that was stolen, to get in touch."*

If you have any information please contact Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 794256 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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/>