

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 2nd May 2021

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Three men arrested after stop check in Handforth

Three men have been arrested after a proactive stop check by officers in Handforth. At around 8.40pm on Thursday 29 April officers stopped a silver Volkswagen Golf on Wilmslow Road. The occupants of the car fled the scene but were detained by officers a short time later. Following a search of the vehicle, a number of weapons and a quantity of drugs were seized. Three men, two aged 19 and one aged 18, were arrested on suspicion of possession of an offensive weapon and possession of a Class B drug. They have all since been released under investigation.

Investigation launched following ATM attack in Congleton

Detectives have launched an investigation following a cash machine robbery in Congleton. Shortly after 10.30pm on Thursday 29 April police were called to reports that three men had targeted the ATM machine at the Huub building on Manchester Road. They trio arrived at store in a white van and placed a rope around the cash machine and used the van to remove the front of the machine. The group then stole a large quantity of cash and drove off, leaving the badly damaged ATM machine behind. All three suspects were wearing dark clothing and balaclavas, two of them were also wearing high visibility jackets. Officers have since recovered a vehicle which they believe may have been used during the robbery. A 31-year-old man from Congleton has also been arrested on suspicion of theft of a cash machine. Enquiries in relation to the incident remain ongoing and anyone with information is asked to get in touch. DS George Vlastos said: *“The investigation is currently in the early stages and we are following several lines of enquiry. One man has been arrested and he is currently being questioned by officers in custody. We continue to appeal for information from the public and I would ask anyone who witnessed the incident, or anyone with any information which may aid our investigation, to get in touch.”* Anyone with information is asked to call Cheshire Police on 101 quoting IML 976301 or report it via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report/> Alternatively, information can be passed on to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/forms/give-information-anonymously>.

Man jailed for four years after supplying heroin and crack cocaine in Warrington

A man from Bolton has been jailed for four years after travelling to Warrington to sell heroin and crack cocaine. Ade Junior Adekoya, 35 of Ernest Street, Bolton was sentenced to four years imprisonment for possession with intent to supply class A drugs at Liverpool Crown Court on Wednesday 28 April. The court heard how officers from Warrington’s Beat Initiative Team were patrolling Longshaw Street on Thursday 18 June in an unmarked police vehicle when they sighted a Golf GTI parked up on Crosby Avenue. One of the officers recognised Adekoya who was acting suspiciously inside the vehicle. Patrols followed the car before it began driving away at high speed. The vehicle was later found abandoned and locked in a nearby car park. As officers were examining the vehicle they heard a loud bang nearby. When they went to investigate what was happening, they found that Adekoya had jumped out of a first floor window of a nearby block of flats and landed on a canopy that covered the communal door entrance to the flats. As he did so, he placed two phones in a hollow part of the canopy. As officers detained Adekoya, he was seen to discard small plastic wraps of brown and white powder into a grid. He was then



arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply a class A drug. Following a custody search Adekoya was found to be in possession of £375 in cash. Further forensics found Adekoya's phone to contain evidence of drug activity and that the plastic wraps recovered contained heroin and crack cocaine. Adekoya was subsequently charged with two counts of possession with intent to supply heroin and crack cocaine along with possession of criminal property. He was remanded into custody and was set to face trial before pleading guilty on Tuesday 27 April. PC Adam Gorman of Warrington Beat Initiative Team said: *"I welcome the lengthy sentencing handed down by the courts to Adekoya. I hope that this acts as a deterrent to those who believe that they can come into Warrington and deal drugs. Drugs bring misery to communities and I know that we will continue to do all we can to remove illegal substances from our streets."* DS Thomas Hall said: *"This is a great result and I would like to praise the officers that worked so tirelessly in this case to bring Adekoya to justice. Adekoya attempted to discard key evidence of his involvement in drug dealing before being detained by officers on the scene. The Warrington Beat Initiative Team will not stop in our efforts to make the town a hostile environment for criminals who think that they can get away with bringing drugs into the county."* Anyone with information about illegal drug activity in their community can report it to Cheshire Police via [the website](#). Alternatively, information can be passed on to Crimestoppers anonymously by calling 0800 555 111 or online via [the Crimestoppers website](#).

Drugs, cash and weapons seized following police raids in Crewe

Officers have seized a large quantity of illegal drugs and cash following a series of dawn raids in Crewe. On Thursday 29 April officers from the Crewe Beat Management team executed warrants at four addresses in the town, two in Rolls Avenue and the others in White Avenue and Alton Street. Officers found quantities of class B drugs (cannabis, cannabis resin and codeine) within the properties, along with a large quantity of cash, luxury goods and a number of mobile phones. They also seized a number of knives, a knuckle duster and a BB gun and arrested a 20-year-old man from Crewe on suspicion of possession with intent to supply class B drugs and possession of criminal property. A second man from Crewe, aged 40, has been questioned under police caution on suspicion of the same offences after voluntarily attending Crewe Police Station. The pair have both been released under investigation pending further enquiries. DS Richard Johnson, of Crewe Local Policing Unit, said: *"These raids were carried out in response to information received from the local community. As a result of the intelligence supplied, we've been able to remove a large quantity of class B drugs from the streets of Crewe, along with a number of dangerous weapons. The team here at Crewe are committed to doing all we can to tackle drugs related crimes, and I hope that these raids provide reassurance to the community. Drugs have a hugely detrimental impact on communities, causing widespread misery. As such, cutting off supplies of illegal drugs and removing drug dealers from our communities is of paramount importance. There is only so much we can do ourselves in this regard. We need the public to be our eyes and ears and to come forward with information regarding drug dealing in the areas they live in. As these raids show, your support is crucial in the ongoing fight against illegal drug dealing and all other forms of serious and organised crime. Together we can help to keep vulnerable people and our communities safe."* Suspected drug dealing activity can be reported directly to the team here at Crewe Police Station by calling 101 or visiting <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>. Alternatively, if you do not feel comfortable speaking to a police officer, you can give information anonymously by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Northwich teenager jailed for drug dealing

A teenager from Northwich who was caught dealing drugs by a police officer who was out on his lunch break has been jailed. At around 2pm on Wednesday 10 June PC Robert Tandy was visiting a shop in Kingsmead to pick up his lunch. While in the store he was approached by a member of the public who reported possible suspicious activity involving a group of people nearby. PC Tandy then left the store and walked towards the group to see what was happening, as he did so Harry Hewitson attempted to run away. Following a short pursuit Hewitson was located nearby, where he found to be in possession of a quantity of cannabis and two mobile phones. Officers also recovered a quantity of cocaine which he had thrown into a nearby garden when he was attempting to flee PC Tandy. Hewitson was arrested at the scene on suspicion of possession with intent to supply class A drugs. Following his arrest a search was executed at his home on Lime Avenue, where officers recovered further drugs paraphernalia.

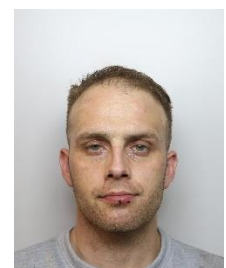
Hewitson was subsequently charged with possession with intent to supply class A drugs and possession of a Class B drug. The 18-year-old pleaded guilty to both offences and on appearing at Chester Crown Court on Friday 23 April he was sentenced to 22 months in prison and ordered to pay £261 in fines and costs. Following his sentencing Sergeant David Christmas said: *"This case is a true example of how information from the public is vital in the fight against crime. Thanks to the information provided by the witness in this case an 18-year-old man is now behind bars and a quantity of class A drugs has been removed from the streets of Northwich."* CI Gary Smith, head of Northwich Local Policing Unit, added: *"Illegal drugs have a hugely detrimental impact and the team here at Northwich are committed to doing all we can to remove those involved in the supply of such drugs from our communities. As this case shows, information from the public can make a real difference in this fight and I urge anyone with any information about suspected drug related activity in their community to get in touch. You will be listened to and we will investigate the matter."* You can report suspected drug dealing to Cheshire Constabulary directly by calling 101 or giving the details online via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>.

Macclesfield house closed down following persistent ASB and drug related activity

A house in Macclesfield has been closed for three months in response to persistent drug use and anti-social behaviour (ASB). On Wednesday 28 April officers from Macclesfield Local Policing Unit (LPU) secured a closure order for the property on Mill Road. Officers applied for the order, which was granted by Chester Magistrates' Court under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, after gathering a catalogue of evidence in relation to numerous anti-social behaviour and drug related issues connected to the property. Following the hearing the 33-year-old tenant has been removed from the property and the address has been boarded up. CI David Moores, head of Macclesfield Local Policing Unit, said: *"Over recent months there have been numerous reports of drug related activity and anti-social behaviour connected to this property. The behaviour of the tenant was totally unacceptable and had a significant detrimental impact on the quality of life of local residents. People should be able to live in their homes without having to endure this sort of behaviour and this closure order is another example of our commitment to targeting those who undermine our communities and bring misery to residents."* Over the next three months regular checks of the flat will be conducted to ensure the closure order is not breached. If anyone is found to have breached the order they are liable to arrest and up to six months' prison, or a £5,000 fine, or both. CI Moores added: *"This week has seen the culmination of our efforts to tackle ASB on Mill Road which has centred on one specific property. Despite the enforcement action we had previously taken the problems continued and so we were left with no option but to apply for the closure order. This will leave the house boarded up and stop the nuisance coming from it. I want to reassure residents that the team here at Macclesfield will continue to focus their attention on people who are complacent with allowing their properties to be used for antisocial or criminal activity, and anyone who does so risks losing their home. I want to thank the local residents for their support. Officers will continue to monitor the property over the coming months to ensure that there are no breaches of the closure order."* Anyone who is concerned about anti-social behaviour in their community is urged to call Cheshire Police on 101 or provide the details via www.cheshire.police.uk/tua. Alternatively residents can report information anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Man jailed for 22 months following police pursuit from Liverpool into Cheshire

A man from Tarporley has been jailed for 22 months following a police pursuit from Liverpool into Cheshire. William Perks, 31, of Churchill Drive, was sentenced at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 27 April after pleading guilty to dangerous driving. The court heard how, on Sunday 28 March, officers from the Roads and Crime Unit became aware of white Mazda which was being driven by Perks, who had previously been disqualified from driving in October 2020, travelling from Liverpool into Cheshire West. Patrols saw the vehicle travelling at recklessly high speeds through Runcorn towards Frodsham before it began driving on the wrong side of the carriageway on Clifton Road.



The driver then drove on the wrong side of a traffic island and the wrong way through a dedicated lane at the traffic lights. Due to the dangerous manner of driving, and reaching speeds of 90mph on Sutton Causeway, the vehicle was successfully stung by officers. However, the vehicle continued, making no attempt to stop, while overtaking a member of the public at high speed before losing control on Bridge Lane and collided with a wall and coming to a stop. Perks then fled from the car but was found a short time after hiding up a tree. He was arrested and subsequently charged with dangerous driving, driving without insurance and driving while disqualified. Perks was remanded into custody and was sentenced to 22 months imprisonment. He will be disqualified from driving for three years once released. Inspector Anton Sullivan, from the Roads and Crime Unit said: *"It is fortunate that no-one was killed by Perks' reckless actions on 28 March. The manner and the speeds that Perks drove at were irresponsible and put many innocent members of the public lives at risk. I hope that this sentence acts as a deterrent to anyone who feels that they can get away with driving at max speeds and dangerously on our roads. I know that officers from our Roads and Crime Unit will continue their hard work in making Cheshire's roads safe and I'd like to take the time to thank the officers and the CPS who worked to bring Perks to justice."*

OUR DOOR IS OPEN to tackle domestic abuse

Cheshire police officers are working with Crimestoppers to help you help us to tackle domestic abuse. As a bystander, family member, colleague or friend you may feel helpless when you know someone is a victim of domestic abuse. We are holding a series of Our Door Is Open roadshows along with partners from criminal justice and health, victim support and advocacy service. The roadshows will give people the opportunity to talk to us and ask for advice about how to 'ask the question', how to support someone they care about, how to report anonymously and what happens next. The roadshows are being held at:

- **Golden Square Shopping Centre, Warrington** on Thursday April 29 - 10am-4pm
- **Shopping City, Runcorn** on Saturday May 8 - 10am-4pm
- **Grosvenor Shopping Centre, Chester** on Friday June 4 - 10am-4pm
- **The Market Shopping Centre, Crewe** on Saturday June 12 - 10am-4pm

DS David Thomason heads Cheshire Constabulary's Harm Reduction Unit. He explains: *"Tackling domestic abuse is one of the Constabulary's main priorities. This type of crime has a terrible impact on victims, and creates a ripple effect throughout families and friends. The aim of our roadshows is to advise people on the signs to look out for and how they can then support a potential victim. It isn't just women who can be victims, men can also experience domestic abuse. And it might not be physical, but could be psychological, sexual, financial or emotional. We are hoping that the information we can give at our roadshows will help signpost family and friends to enable them to get help for anyone they know who may be suffering this kind of behaviour. As they are being held in public places where anonymity could be compromised, the roadshows are not an ideal opportunity to actually make formal reports – I would recommend these are made by calling on 101 (always dial 999 in an emergency situation), online via our website or at one of our helpdesks. You can also make a report to Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111 or through the Crimestoppers website. Information will then be passed from them to the police who, with partners, may be able to intervene without the suspected abuser's knowledge to check the potential victim is OK".*

[More information from Crimestoppers](#)

Police charge 18-year-old man in connection with pensioner assault in Warrington

Police have charged two teenagers in connection with an assault on a pensioner in Warrington. An 18-year-old has been charged with assault by beating. He has been bailed and will appear at Warrington Magistrates Court on 19 May. The teenager was arrested on Wednesday 28 April after he attended a police station. A 15-year-old boy who attended a police station on Thursday 29 April has been charged with common assault. He has been bailed and is due to appear at Warrington Magistrates Court on 19 May. The charge relates to an

assault that occurred between 2.30pm and 3pm on Sunday 25 April on the bank of the River Mersey involving a 74-year-old man. A 15-year-old boy who was arrested on Wednesday 28 April has been released with no further action for the assault. He has been released under investigation for the offence of possession with intent to supply cannabis.

Two Warrington men charged with drug dealing offence

Two men from Warrington have been charged with a drug dealing offence. Joseph Anders, 32, and Steven Shaw, 34, were arrested in Forster Street in the Orford area of Warrington at around 2.30pm on Tuesday 27 April. They have subsequently been charged with possession of cannabis with intent to supply the class B drug. The charge relates to a man being stopped and searched by officers in Forster Street that day. They subsequently searched an address in the street. A large quantity of cannabis and cash was seized by the officers. Anders, of Forster Street; and Shaw, of Poole Avenue in Orford, Warrington; appeared at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Thursday 29 April. They were remanded in custody and are set to appear at Liverpool Crown Court on Thursday 27 May. Two other men from Warrington, aged 37 and 47, were arrested on suspicion of possession of cannabis with intent to supply the drug by the officers who conducted the searches. After being interviewed in custody, they have both been released under investigation pending further enquiries.

Force takes part in week of action to tackle catalytic converter thefts

Cheshire Constabulary increased its ongoing efforts to tackle catalytic converter thefts last week. This type of crime has been on the rise across the country in recent times. The force is committed to tackling the issue, working alongside its partner agencies. DI Nick Henderson said: *"From last Monday to Sunday (19 April to 25 April) we joined forces across the country taking part in a national week of action to combat catalytic converter thefts. We organised engagement activities at hotspot areas across Cheshire, giving vehicle owners advice on how to reduce their chances of becoming victims. We also forensically marked 135 catalytic converters, on vehicles that are typically targeted by thieves, to ensure that we know who the 'cats' belong to should they ever be stolen and recovered. Scrap metal dealers were also visited and urged to contact us should they ever be offered what they suspect to be stolen catalytic converters or exhaust systems."* It takes specialist tools to remove a catalytic converter. If you witness suspicious activity and suspect that a converter is being targeted, you should call Cheshire Constabulary on 101 or 999 as soon as it is safe to do so. Officers also want to hear from you on 101 or via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report> if you have any information regarding catalytic converter theft incidents or the identities of offenders.

The force's tips for deterring catalytic converter thieves include:

- Protect your car by asking your dealer if they can give you any advice on locks or guards that are approved by the vehicle manufacturer and tested to Sold Secure Gold
- If you can, park your car in a locked garage when it is unattended – otherwise, park as close to your property as possible or in a well-lit area clearly covered by CCTV
- Try to park so that the convertor can't be easily reached, close to a wall, a fence or tightly between other cars for example
- If you are using a car park, use a 'Park Mark' one to ensure that it has been assessed and approved for security
- Consider installing a Thatcham approved alarm to your car – ones that activate if your vehicle is lifted or tilted are particularly effective
- Mark your catalytic converter with a forensic marker and register your converter to make it harder for thieves to dispose of it
- If your converter is bolted on, the bolts can be welded shut – this would not stop a determined thief but would slow them down.

New Chief Constable delighted and proud to be leading the force

Cheshire Constabulary's new Chief Constable says he is delighted and proud to be leading the force. Mark Roberts has replaced Darren Martland, who retired on Friday 23 April following a career in policing which spanned more than 30 years. Mark was previously the Deputy Chief Constable at South Yorkshire Police and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his new role in Cheshire. He served at Greater Manchester Police for 21 years and has worked at Cheshire Constabulary before, as Assistant Chief Constable between 2014 and 2017. Mark is looking forward to being reunited with former colleagues, in addition to meeting all his new ones and leading the force out of the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond. He said: *"I am delighted and proud to be the new Chief Constable of Cheshire Constabulary and look forward to working with our officers and staff, the Police and Crime Commissioner and local partners to deliver an outstanding service to all our communities in Cheshire. Having served in Cheshire for three years as an Assistant Chief Constable, I know that we have a great team who genuinely care about, and are committed to, public service. The force is already performing well. My role is to build on the work of previous Chief Constable Darren Martland and the team and to provide our people with the support and leadership that will take us to the forefront of UK policing. I am determined to bring my previous experience from Cheshire, Greater Manchester Police and South Yorkshire Police and my national roles to bear for the benefit of the constabulary so that we can continue to keep Cheshire a safe place for the public and a bad place to be a criminal."*



Mark was announced as Police and Crime Commissioner David Keane's preferred candidate for the role on Monday 8 March following a rigorous interview process, which was supported by key leaders across Cheshire and the College of Policing. A Police and Crime Panel subsequently gave their backing for the appointment in a virtual confirmation hearing on Friday 12 March. Mr Keane said: *"I'd like to offer a warm welcome to Mark to Cheshire Constabulary. He brings with him strong leadership skills and the dedication and passion to continuously strive for the best in order to protect our communities. Mark has a wealth of experience in local policing and will continue to deliver a community-based police service which puts residents at the heart of everything it does and protects vulnerable people. He believes in the approach of adopting problem-solving methods to work with local people to tackle issues that are specific to each local community. I believe his work over the forthcoming months and years will ensure that Cheshire remains one of the safest counties in the country."*

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Mark's long standing career working in both uniform and investigative roles started with Greater Manchester Police in 1993. He went on to play an active role in many high profile incidents and investigations at GMP, one of the country's biggest police forces. He was also Head of Investigations for the North West Counter Terrorism Unit and was awarded three commendations from the Director of the FBI. Mark completed the prestigious international Leadership in Counter Terrorism programme, was part of the review team for the case of serial killer Harold Shipman and received a Chief Constable's Commendation for his role as a test purchaser tackling drug dealing in Moss Side. He is a Public Order and Firearms Strategic Commander and was in charge of the tactical response to the 2011 riots in Manchester and Salford. Mark is also regularly deployed as the Head of Delegation when the England football team play abroad. In his last post at GMP, as the Trafford Basic Command Unit Commander between 2009 and 2014, Mark was responsible for policing the Old Trafford football stadium. This included numerous high profile matches, in addition to the Olympic football games that were held there. During that time, Trafford had the lowest levels of crime in Greater Manchester. Mark moved to Cheshire Constabulary in 2014 to lead local policing across the county, creating the eight local police units in place in Cheshire today. His spell as Assistant Chief Constable coincided with reduced crime rates and an 'outstanding' inspection from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

The last few years spent at South Yorkshire Police have seen Mark lead on force performance, discipline and complaints, legal services and corporate communications. During this time, it has been the most improved constabulary in the country for three consecutive years and is today amongst the very top tier of high performing forces. Mark retains his position as the national lead for football policing and covert legislation and guidance. He was responsible for the UK's policing support for Euro 2016 and the 2018 World Cup in Russia and recently completed an independent review into football policing on behalf of Police Scotland.

Mark is married and has two daughters. He has a master's degree in Police Leadership and Management and was awarded the Queen's Police Medal (QPM) last year for his distinguished service.

Man in Runcorn sentenced to 7 years for firearm and drug offences

A 27-year-old man has been jailed for firearm and drug offences. Jordan Ferns, previously of Sycamore Road in Runcorn, was found in possession of a firearm after police executed a warrant at a property on Dover Close in Murdishaw. He was sentenced to seven years at Chester Crown Court on Friday 23 April after pleading guilty to possessing a prohibited firearm and being concerned in the supply of heroin. Police searched the loft and found the shot gun, along with over 30 wraps of heroin, inside a blue rucksack after they raided the address on Wednesday 27 November 2019. Following forensic analysis Ferns DNA was found on the trigger of the firearm. He was brought into custody where he answered no comment to all questions put to him.



Acting Sergeant Phil Brown, of Runcorn Local Policing Unit, said: *"Ferns admitted to serious offences including the supply of a class A drug which has a detrimental impact on vulnerable people and those who live in the local community. After seizing the shot gun it was forensically examined and found to be directly linked to Ferns after his DNA was on the trigger of the firearm. By acting on information we have taken a dangerous viable firearm out of circulation and protected those within our community by preventing it from being used or being put into the wrong hands."*

Man charged following serious assault in Runcorn

A 23-year-old man from Runcorn has been charged following a serious assault in the town. William McDonald, of no fixed address, was arrested in the Manor Farm Mews area of Runcorn at around 10am on Monday 26 April. He has subsequently been charged with causing grievous bodily harm with intent and possession of a knife in a public place. The charges relate to an incident that occurred in Hemlock Close, Runcorn, in the early hours of Saturday 24 April. A man in his 20s, who is from Runcorn, sustained two puncture wounds as a result of the incident. He was taken to hospital in an ambulance, where he remains receiving treatment. His condition in hospital is described as stable. McDonald appeared at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 27 April. He was remanded in custody and is set to appear at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 25 May.

Police thank local banks for working together to help tackle fraud

Police officers in Cheshire have thanked local banks and building societies for working with police to help tackle courier fraud and other scams. Banks have been successfully identifying vulnerable customers attempting to withdraw large amounts of money from their accounts and initiating 'banking protocol'. In some cases it's courier fraud, in other cases HMRC scams, shopping and romance fraud. Even rogue traders are not safe from being rumbled by bank staff. Banking Protocol, is a joint partnership between the banking industry and police forces. Customer-facing bank staff are being trained to identify signs that a customer may be about to fall victim to fraud and will contact the police if they suspect a scam is in progress. Police officers will then go to the bank, accompany the potential victim back to their home and arrest the courier in the act of collecting the cash. Since last year Cheshire officers have been working with local banks and building societies to help combat the increase in this type of offence. A number of banks readily engaged with police to ensure potentially vulnerable customers are fully aware of the nature and implications of courier fraud. Many of the banks are displaying Cheshire Constabulary posters in their public areas to remind customers that police officers will never ask people to withdraw money and have staff trained to know when they need to kick start 'banking protocol'. The aim of the campaign is to raise awareness among customers and staff to make life difficult for fraudsters. In total there have been 33 successful banking protocol calls to police which have safeguarded all 33 victims across Cheshire this year up to March. PC Jim Day, Financial Abuse Safeguarding and Prevention Officer, said: *"I would personally like to thank the bank and building society managers in Cheshire who are being extremely proactive in helping us tackle courier fraud. Those who*

perpetrate this type of crime are preying on, primarily, the older members of society by purporting to be from the police or a financial institution. They coerce the victim to withdraw large amounts of cash to 'assist them in an ongoing investigation' and then disappear with the money. The impact of these scams can be both financially and emotionally devastating but, with the work that our frontline officers are doing with the support of our banks and building societies, we are able to prevent more of this type of crime being committed. It's encouraging to see bank staff recognising the signs and initiating 'banking protocol' to protect the customer. Often the customer is adamant they are legitimately withdrawing the money because the fraudsters have been so believable, but staff are getting the delicate balance right to ensure the customer is safe from harm. I hope this encourages staff to keep on helping us tackle what is a callous crime that picks on the vulnerable in our communities."

A recent banking protocol at Natwest, Eastgate Street in Chester prevented an elderly man withdrawing £9,000 to give to unscrupulous thieves. Jason Costain, Head of Fraud Prevention at NatWest said: *"We are committed to doing everything we can to help our customers especially when they have been the victim of a scam. All of our branch colleagues are trained in the banking protocol and we have successfully prevented hundreds of Natwest Group customers from being scammed since the Banking Protocol was launched in 2016. We are extremely proud of our Chester Eastgate Branch staff and it is fantastic to get this recognition from Cheshire Police. Since 2016 the Banking Protocol has helped countless victims across the UK, prevented over £100m falling into the hands of criminals and has led to 664 arrests being made."*

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Appeal following spate of burglary incidents in Warrington

Detectives have released CCTV images of two men they want to speak to in connection with a spate of burglary incidents in Warrington. Offenders attempted to gain entry to a shop and four houses in the Grappenhall and Stockton Heath areas of the town between 10pm on Saturday 17 April and 6am on Sunday 18 April. Car keys were stolen from one of the houses. The incidents are believed to be linked. Enquiries in relation to the incidents are ongoing and detectives want to



hear from anyone who believes they may know who the men in the CCTV images are as they believe the pair will be able to help their investigation. DC Ian Morris, of Warrington Local Policing Unit (LPU), said: *"Thankfully, the only thing that was stolen were the car keys. However, being targeted by burglars is a very distressing experience, whether the incident occurs in your home or at your business premises. We are determined to establish who committed the offences in the Church Lane, Chester Road and Thelwall New Road areas of Grappenhall and the Victoria Road and Ellesmere Road areas of Stockton Heath and make them face the consequences of their actions. Enquiries are ongoing and I urge anyone who believes they may know the identities of the men in the CCTV images to contact us, as we believe that they will be able to help our investigation. I would also like to appeal directly to the men in the images, who were heard speaking with Liverpool accents, to get in touch."* Anyone with information that may assist the ongoing investigation is asked to call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 966664, or give the details via [Report](#). Alternatively, information can be reported to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via [Crimestoppers](#).

Appeal following altercation in Ellesmere Port

Detectives investigating an altercation involving a group of people in Ellesmere Port are appealing for information and footage from members of the public. The incident began in Parklea, Little Sutton, at around 5.10pm on Friday 23 April. It continued in the nearby Seymour Drive area shortly afterwards. After being informed of the incident by members of the public, officers swiftly attended the area. On arrival they discovered that everyone involved in the incident had fled. There were some blood stains in the area and it

is believed that a number of people were injured as a result of the altercation. It is also believed that weapons were involved in the incident. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and detectives are urging anyone with any information or CCTV or dashcam footage which may aid their investigation to get in touch. DC Alex Clephan, of Ellesmere Port CID, said: *"I would like to reassure members of the community that we are doing all we can to establish exactly what has taken place and who was involved. We are in the early stages of our investigation. From the enquiries we have made so far, we believe that there was an altercation involving approximately 10 people that began in the Parklea area of Little Sutton and continued onto the nearby Seymour Drive. Weapons are believed to have been involved and a number of people are believed to have sustained injuries as a result of the incident. We have stepped up patrols in the area to provide reassurance to residents, and we are appealing for anyone who was in the area that day and witnessed anything that may help our ongoing investigation to contact us at Ellesmere Port Police Station. Perhaps you were driving through the area and saw, or have dashcam footage of, something that may be relevant, or maybe you think you know the identities of people involved in the incident. Alternatively, perhaps you were injured as a victim of the altercation, or maybe a loved one came home injured that day. If you think that you can help our investigation in any way, please get in touch."* Anyone with information or footage that may assist the investigation should call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 971127, give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report> or contact 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/>