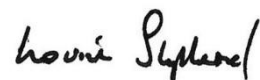


GRANT OF APPLICATION

FOR THE ACQUISITION OF
BRIDGEWATER COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE NHS FOUNDATION TRUST
BY
WARRINGTON AND HALTON TEACHING HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION
TRUST

Signed



Louise Shepherd

Regional Director
North West Region

NHS England

25 March 2026

1. Interpretation

1.1. The following definitions apply:

“2006 Act” means the National Health Service Act 2006;

“Acquirer” means Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust;

“Acquired Trust” means Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust;

“Effective Date” means 1 April 2026;

“Secretary of State” means the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care;

“Transaction Agreement” means the transaction agreement for the acquisition of the Acquired Trust by the Acquirer between the Acquirer and the Acquired Trust dated 12 March 2026.

“Transfer Regulations” means the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 and any other statute or statutory provision which may from time to time implement the Acquired Rights Directive (2001/23/EC).

1.2. Words and expressions used in this document shall be construed as if they were in an Act of Parliament and the Interpretation Act 1978 applied to them.

2. Grant of Application for Acquisition

2.1. NHS England grants the application for the acquisition of the Acquired Trust by the Acquirer in exercise of the power conferred on it by section 56A(4) of the 2006 Act and all other relevant powers exercisable by NHS England, having received approval from the Secretary of State for the grant of the application under section 56A(4)(b) of the 2006 Act.

2.2. This grant of application for acquisition comes into force on the Effective Date and is conclusive evidence of the acquisition of the Acquired Trust by the Acquirer.

3. Effect of the Acquisition

3.1. On the Effective Date:

3.1.1. the Acquired Trust is dissolved in accordance with section 56AA(1)(c) of the 2006 Act;

3.1.2. the Acquired Trust’s property (including trust property) and liabilities (including criminal liabilities) transfer to the Acquirer in accordance with section 56AA(1)(b) and 56AA(4) of the 2006 Act;

- 3.1.3. the employment of all relevant employees of the Acquired Trust transfer to the Acquirer by operation of the Transfer Regulations and in accordance with arrangements agreed between the Acquirer and the Acquired Trust and set out in the Transaction Agreement;
- 3.1.4. the constitution of the Acquirer is amended to reflect the acquisition of the Acquired Trust takes effect in accordance with section 56A(5) of the 2006 Act; and
- 3.1.5. section 56AA(2) and section 56AA(3) of the 2006 Act take effect.

4. Stamp Duty

- 4.1. By virtue of section 67A of the Finance Act 2003 both the Acquired Trust and the Acquirer are exempt from any charge of stamp duty land tax in respect of any transfer of property or liabilities effected by section 56AA(1)(b) of the 2006 Act.