

NHS England
Wellington House,
133-155 Waterloo Road,
London,
SE1 8UG

5 March 2026

Proposed acquisition of Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust by Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (“the Parties”)

In accordance with section 56A of the National Health Service Act 2006 (‘the Act’) and the enclosed transaction agreement, dated 12 March between the Parties, this letter is the joint application of the Parties to NHS England for their acquisition as described above.

The Parties request that NHS England:

- 1) Grants this joint application pursuant to section 56A of the Act to confirm that it is satisfied that the Parties have taken such steps as are necessary to prepare for the acquisition taking effect on 1 April 2026.
- 2) Makes the grant of application pursuant to section 56A of the Act.

In compliance with section 56A of the Act, the Parties enclose:

- 3) A copy of minutes of the meetings of the Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Council of Governors and of the Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust Council of Governors, evidencing the approval by more than half of the members of each Council of Governors to this application.
- 4) A copy of the proposed constitution of North Cheshire and Mersey NHS Foundation Trust

The Parties acknowledge that, in accordance with their guidance ‘*Assuring and supporting complex change: Statutory transactions, including mergers and acquisitions*’ NHS England has rated the transaction AMBER.

Yours faithfully

<p>Steve McGuirk, Chair Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p>Date:</p>	<p>Martyn Taylor, Chair Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p>Date:</p>
<p>Nikhil Khashu, Chief Executive Officer</p> <p>Date:</p>	