

Rachel Hawkins
Director of Corporate Affairs
Unit 7-8 Meadow Park
Meadow Lane
St Ives
Cambridgeshire
PE27 4LG

Our reference: 042278.00107

Direct dial: +44 (0)3300452159
Gerard.Hanratty@brownejacobson.com

By email only: rachel.hawkins@nhs.net

24 March 2025

Dear Rachel

Legal Assurance

This letter is to confirm the basis on which we have provided legal advice to (1) Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust and (2) Norfolk Community Health and Care NHS Trust (together the Trusts) on the establishment of a group model.

The Trusts wish to develop group model arrangements including shared leadership and a joint committee, pursuant to powers under sections 65Z5 and 65Z6 of the National Health Service Act 2006. Under these arrangements the Trusts will enter into a partnership agreement to formally establish the joint committee, to be known as the Group Trust Board, which will have delegated to it all functions of the Trust Boards that may lawfully be delegated.

The Group Trust Board's membership will be comprised of all of the directors of both Trusts. The Trusts have undertaken a process to identify and appoint the joint directors across both Trusts, however we have had limited involvement in this process.

We have provided legal advice to the Trusts to develop the group arrangements. We have prepared and / or reviewed the following documents, which set out the governance arrangements for the group model:

	Document	Documents Produced By	Comment
1.	Partnership Agreement between Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust and Norfolk Community Health and Care NHS Trust	Browne Jacobson LLP	Legally compliant partnership agreement between the Trusts setting out the arrangements agreed for the group model

2.	Terms of Reference for the Group Trust Board	Browne Jacobson LLP	Legally compliant terms of reference for the joint committee established under section 65Z6
3.	Group Governance Manual containing standing orders, scheme of reservation and delegation and terms of reference for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group Trust Board • Audit and Risk Committee • Charitable Funds Committee • Finance and Infrastructure Committee • People Participation and Equalities Committee • Quality Committee • Remuneration Committee • Service Assurance Committees 	Trusts	We confirm we have reviewed this document and that it is legally compliant.

In addition, we have provided the Trusts with the following legal advice reports:

- Legal advice report #1: Structuring a group model and transaction 7 January 2025 [Updated 10 February 2025]
- Legal advice report #2: Joint Chair and Non-executive Director appointments for an NHS group 20 March 2025

We therefore confirm to the Boards of the Trusts that we are satisfied that the arrangements that the Trusts are putting in place comply with the legal and regulatory requirements for NHS trusts working in collaboration.

Should you have any queries on this or require any further assurance please do let me know.

Yours sincerely



Gerard Hanratty
Partner
Browne Jacobson LLP