



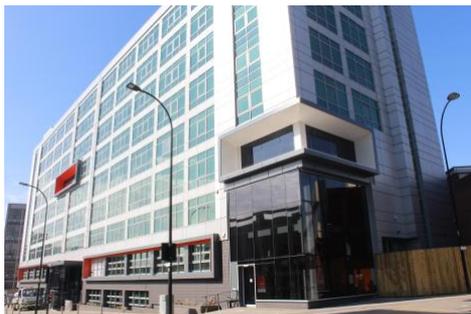
Harder working health cover

Westfield Health announces acquisition of Bolton & District Hospital Saturday Council

Leading health and wellbeing provider, Westfield Health, has acquired health cash plan provider Bolton & District Hospital Saturday Council (BDHSC).

Bolton-based BDHSC (trading as UK Healthcare) is a not-for-profit health provider with a nationwide corporate and consumer customer base, and an annual turnover of £4 million. UK Healthcare has held a strong presence in the North West in particular since the organisation was set up in 1877.

The acquisition sees Westfield Health grow its existing health cash plan business, helping the company, which is based in Sheffield, accelerate its expansion plans throughout the UK.



The acquisition follows Westfield Health's relocation and expansion into new headquarters in Sheffield city centre in 2016. The switch to the new home for more than 200 employees signified the start of a new era with the renowned health insurer expanding into a broader range of health and wellbeing markets.

UK Healthcare CEO, Stephen Pugh, said: "We've had a very successful few years of significant growth, so much so that we have been accelerating towards being subject to Solvency II regulation. The opportunity to join forces with Westfield Health enables us to not only leverage their systems and processes to ensure compliance, but also enhances our ability to better support the health of our customers through a much broader proposition.

"Their strategic partnerships throughout the health and wellbeing sector will enable us to enhance our products and services, by leveraging intellectual knowledge around physical and mental wellbeing from world class research centres; meaning we will be in an even stronger position to help more people improve their quality of life."



Westfield Health Chief Executive, Jill Davies, said: "Westfield Health is entering a very exciting era in our health and wellbeing journey and we are delighted to acquire a successful and longstanding company in UK Healthcare.



“Like us, UK Healthcare was born out of the need to support local hospitals and has a long history of helping people with their everyday healthcare needs. Both companies share similar values, supporting the NHS and medically related charities with much needed funding wherever we can.

“We look forward to working closely with UK Healthcare in order to help them continue their upward trajectory of recent success. The acquisition will mean we can leverage our infrastructure to support in areas such as regulatory implications. This will also minimise the impact of the ongoing threat of rising Insurance Premium Tax which is putting significant strain on the industry.”