



# Celebrity-backed rehab center joins UK's expanding addiction treatment network

DEAL FLASH | HEALTHCARE | AUGUST 2025

## DEAL SNAPSHOT

**The Providence Projects, one of the UK's leading providers of affordable private alcohol and drug rehabilitation services, has been acquired by UKAT Group, a network of rehabilitation clinics across the UK.**

Established in 1996, Providence has built a strong reputation for delivering high-quality, accessible care to individuals and families affected by addiction. Based in Bournemouth, the group offers a comprehensive range of evidence-based treatments for substance misuse, including alcohol, cocaine, heroin and prescription drugs, and behavioral addictions such as gambling. Its team is made up of highly experienced addiction specialists, therapists and support staff.

Providence also offers a range of supported accommodation options and provides extensive family support services to ensure a well-rounded recovery journey. Over the years, Providence has helped thousands of clients transform their lives and is recognized for its commitment to affordability, professionalism and long-term outcomes.

UKAT Group is a nationwide network of Care Quality Commission (CQC)-regulated rehabilitation clinics, dedicated to providing high-quality, evidence-based addiction treatment. Its mission is to help individuals achieve long-term recovery through professional medical detox, rehabilitation therapy and ongoing support. UKAT offers treatment for a wide range of substance and behavioral addictions, including alcohol and drug addiction, gambling addiction, eating disorders and dual diagnosis involving co-occurring mental health conditions.

“Choosing to join UKAT Group was about ensuring the long-term future of Providence. We’ve always prioritized client care and clinical integrity, and in UKAT, we saw an organization that shares those values. This move allows us to grow, invest and continue changing lives together.”

**PAUL SPANJAR**  
CEO  
THE PROVIDENCE  
PROJECTS  
UK

## OAKLINS WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN FACILITATING THIS DEAL

Oaklins S&W, one of Oaklins' member firms in the UK, acted as the lead advisor to the shareholders of Providence on the sale of the business to UKAT. Its strong sector credentials enabled it to win a competitive pitch process. The team subsequently advised on all aspects of the transaction, from initial buyer research and sale preparation to drafting marketing materials, leading negotiations and buyer meetings, managing due diligence and overseeing general project management throughout the deal.



## MARKET TRENDS & DEAL DRIVERS

The UK addiction rehab sector remains highly fragmented, with many independent clinics lacking scale. However, private capital is beginning to enter the market, as evidenced by Sullivan Street's platform investment in UKAT and Waterland's backing of The Priory. Rising awareness of mental health and increasing rates of addiction — particularly to alcohol and prescription drugs, and behavioral — are driving demand for high-quality treatment. This, coupled with NHS capacity constraints, is attracting investor interest in scalable, outcomes-focused operators with digital capabilities and strong clinical governance.

## M&A VALUATION ASPECTS

This transaction attracted strong interest from both private equity and strategic buyers, and several factors played a key role in determining valuation. The Providence Projects has a long-standing reputation for clinical excellence, with high-quality outcomes and strong occupancy rates supporting a robust financial profile. Its ability to consistently deliver results in addiction treatment made it an attractive business with strong cashflows and solid margins.

A key value driver — and a compelling rationale for the buyer — was the clear strategic synergy with UKAT. This acquisition opens the door to a stepped-care model, enabling more seamless patient journeys, and driving both revenue synergies and improved clinical outcomes. The prospect of integrating Providence into UKAT's broader national footprint, along with centralized functions and shared operational best practices, also contributed positively to valuation.

While the transaction value remains confidential, the deal was concluded at a strong market multiple for an addiction treatment clinic. The multiple reflected not just Providence's underlying financial strength, but also the strategic value it brings to UKAT's platform. This transaction highlights the continued appetite for high-quality, specialist healthcare assets — particularly those that can unlock further value through integration into existing care networks.

## TALK TO OUR ADVISORS



✉ **BEN LAING**

Partner  
UK  
T: +44 20 7131 8476



✉ **STUART GOODMAN**

Partner  
UK  
T: +44 20 3479 8564

"It was a real privilege to advise Paul and the team at The Providence Projects. They've built an exceptional business delivering life-changing support, and we were proud to help guide them through a successful sale to UKAT."

**BEN LAING**  
PARTNER, OAKLINS S&W, UK

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IN HEALTHCARE**

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