

Richard House Children's Hospice

Update of position and on transitional arrangements as of January 2026

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NHS North East London: Update

Richard House Children's Hospice

The Trustees of Richard House Children's Hospice took the decision on 7 December to close and to enter into administration. This decision was conveyed to the ICB on 9 December and the ICB was notified on 18 December that Richard House had entered into administration.

Transition arrangements

The ICB has been working with Haven House Children's Hospice and asked them to step in urgently to support all the children and families on the Richard House case load once administration was announced. We have agreed a detailed transition plan with Haven House which provides for the following services to be provided immediately to Richard House families:

- Continued 24/7 end of life nursing care from the date of closure to all families currently receiving end of life care from Richard House.
- On-site respite and crisis on-site respite to the Richard House families already on their caseload experiencing acute stress or breakdown, both overnight and day care
- Counselling, including for bereaved families
- Step-down admissions for children discharged from hospital but not yet ready to return home
- Emotional and practical support to help families navigate the transition
- Dedicated sibling support
- Family events

In addition, Hospice at Home will be provided to all the Richard House families currently on their caseload from 1 April 2026. Transition care will be provided via the ICB and Haven House between January and March where appropriate.

NHS North East London: Update

Richard House Children's Hospice

We recognise that a group of parents is keen to reinstate Richard House's services immediately. However, the administration process is now underway, including the letting go of staff and the winding down of the organisation, and we understand from the administrator that it is almost impossible to reverse this. We have met with representatives of this group and will continue to engage over the coming weeks and months.

Our priority is working with Richard House administrators and Haven House to ensure the safe transfer of families and to ensure a sustainable model for the future of children's hospice provision in north east London. We will work with families, wider stakeholders and Haven House to agree our future model of care and to set up new commissioning arrangements to run from 1 April 2027 allowing time for the current transition issues to settle and for us to understand the need in inner north east London, which may have been understated until now.

There is considerable optimism that this will provide a coherent, equitable and consistent offer across north east London, acting to support children and their families in very difficult times.