



Kisharon Langdon Update

Kisharon Langdon

The Jewish
Learning Disability
& Autism Community

Stronger together

The creation of Kisharon Langdon offers a seamless transition through all the key stages of education and into further education, employment and supported living. This provides much-needed stability to the people we support, and their families. Any savings we make by merging will be re-invested in frontline services to improve the quality of our offering.

The last 12 months have seen a momentous change for Kisharon and Langdon, but throughout all the excitement and activity around the merger, our priority has been to continue to provide outstanding care and offer inspiring opportunities to the people we support.

Learning

Our award-winning Tuffkid Nursery rated “Outstanding” by Ofsted 3 times, is now taking additional infants with the most complex of special needs.

With “success building on success” the Nursery is attracting top international partners to train our specialists in Schema theory and Froebel pedagogy. Similarly, the success of the Wohl Campus Kisharon Noé School, a Loftus Learning Centre has led to a record pupil intake of 77. At short notice, our Nursery and school alike have taken on children with learning disabilities and autism evacuated from conflict zones in Israel.

We were honoured to welcome HRH the Duke of Edinburgh for a visit to the school this autumn. He congratulated us on “the vision to increase the service and fantastic work” we do, and one Local Authority Education CEO commented that he “has never seen a school where children are so happy.”

Our Further Education offering has grown onto a third site in Manchester which has enabled greater specialisms appropriate for the local community and included the development of the “Semach Bachur” yeshiva stream for observant religious learners.



“Congratulations [on] having the vision to be able to increase the service and the fantastic work that you are doing for so many young people and for their parents.”

HRH The Duke of
Edinburgh KG GCVO



Shaping

Supporting young people with special education needs who might have challenges with socialising and making friends is a key part of the Kisharon Langdon offer.

Weekly Kisharon Langdon Brady youth clubs and holiday schemes serving over 65 children, give young people an active role in shaping their club – choosing the activities and suggesting trips and excursions. Over the past year the club has expanded to new locations in Elstree and Hendon and now welcomes children as young as 6 and up to the age of 19.

“I’ve just dropped the kids off at Brady. All I’ll say is WOW! Such a lovely atmosphere and the leaders are outstanding. Really impressed me.”

A Kisharon Langdon Brady parent

Living

As a merged organisation we now provide supported living to nearly 150 people with many more on our waiting list. The Care Quality Team for Barnet Council have been incredibly positive about our services, with our Langdon properties awarded “Outstanding”

overall earlier in the year. We are also progressing well with our property refurbishment programme, completing a comprehensive renovation of one of our shared homes in London over the summer.

“[Our son] really is totally happy and settled and that is purely down to the effort of his carers who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Please make sure that they know how happy we are and indeed, feel free to feed our appreciation back up the line”

“RW”, A Kisharon Langdon parent

Thriving

The Good Days programme provides pathways to a range of opportunities enabling those we support to live their best lives.

It brings together vocational training and job support with a range of learning and leisure opportunities to create a 'Good Day' for each individual we support. Integral to the success of the programme is our collaborations with other organisations, including Maccabi GB's Streetwise programme which develops personal safety skills and street awareness and more recently an exciting inter-generational project with Nightingale Hammerson.

After a 'Good Day' comes a great evening, and Kisharon Langdon provides many opportunities for the people we support to socialise and make friends. Football club, choir, yoga are just a few of the activities on offer.

Our monthly Friday Night dinners launched just prior to merger now regularly attract over 70 people. In addition our weekly Kabbalos Shabbos programme remains well attended, and this year both Mock Seders, and real Seders ensured all who wished to could recite the Haggadah in their own homes.



Working

Having a job, contributing to society and earning money all contribute to a sense of fulfilment.

At Kisharon Langdon, we support members to raise the expectations they have of themselves to help them realise their full potential. The new Wohl Employability Hub offers specialised support, both pre-employment and in employment, as well as a pathway for skills education, training and opportunities into paid or voluntary roles.

Complimenting this service, is a now much broader range of vocational and training opportunities as the merger brings together the bike shop in Hendon, New Chapters book selling enterprise in Harrow and the library in Child's Hill. Well over 1000 training roles have led to over 200 salaried positions or vocational opportunities for people supported in the newly merged entity across our community.

"[Our daughter] has autism and learning difficulties but is fiercely independent and wants to make her own way in the world. This requires careful handling. She needs moral and practical support in identifying work experience opportunities, and with interviews and getting to know people, and Kisharon have gone far beyond our expectations ... I can honestly say that Kisharon have been the best organisation to have assisted [her]. Thank you."

Jonathan, a Kisharon Langdon parent

“Being at [Kisharon] Langdon has given me job opportunities. I now have a job working with data and numbers at a property development company and also work at New Chapters which I really enjoy because I make new friends and learn new skills.”

Jamie, a Kisharon Langdon beneficiary

Expanding

Where previously Kisharon only operated in London, the merger with Langdon now gives the organisation a greater reach, with a strong presence in Manchester. In addition to Kisharon Langdon College and Yeshiva in Manchester, our service provides supported living to 26 people and a further 6 out in the community. A highlight in Manchester this year has been the huge success of “The Hive”, a purpose-built activity centre, opened in January.

Our need over the year ahead

We are striving to create a world class service for children and adults who cannot afford to go without our critical support to overcome the severe challenges in their lives.

Like many UK charities we need to continue to sustain our services through the current crisis in Israel and beyond. Please join us on our journey into a new era of care, support and opportunity for the Jewish learning disability and autism community.

“We have a daughter who has been a member of Kisharon Langdon for quite some time and is living a full life, taking part in some employment opportunities and many organised social activities and holidays and is living as independent a life as possible. We feel very positive about the merger and are very optimistic about the future opportunities that this will create for the members of both organisations.”

Jonathan and Carole, Kisharon Langdon parents

