

April 2026 / Nisan 5786



My name is Robbie and I have a learning disability, but a lot of people don't realise that, because you can't see it.

Until I stayed in hospital in 2024, I lived at home with my parents in the area I grew up in, where I went to school and synagogue. Growing up, I went to two special schools. I lost my mum during Covid, but she was the one who taught me how to cook.

I like to live independently. When I was ready to be released from hospital, three other homes apart from Norwood were in a horse race for me to live there, but they didn't have kosher kitchens, which I was really worried about. What if I was kosher and the other residents weren't? – I couldn't mix my food with theirs. Then there's the cutlery, the oven and all that. I want to be a strict kosher man.

Now I live round the corner to my dad's house, and he orders all my kosher food for me. I like to make viennas and burgers. I used to go to shul with dad and mum and I still go to the same shul every Shabbat.

I can relax in my own home and I'm comfortable here – no one with a learning disability ever had that before.

Having my own space means if someone visits, we can sit and chat. If I go to bed early and can't sleep, I can sit in my little chair or take my phone and put some music on. I like good old Classic FM or Smooth FM, or some chazanut music. I also like musicals. I am a real music fan.

I like to be independent, and I know I've improved and achieved a lot since I moved here.

I can do my own washing, and they help me to change my sheets on Sundays.

I like Pesach – it's my favourite festival. I was born on Shabbat Hagadol, the Shabbat before Pesach, and I like seder: the four cups of wine, although I have to be careful, so I'll be having grape juice.

This Pesach, please give generously to Norwood so more people like me can live a Jewish life in the way we want.

Happy Pesach!

Robbie