

Learn English At Home – Sanryo

Background

Sanryo is a 33-year-old male who arrived from Brazil four years ago. In his home country he'd finished a Human Resources degree at university and began a qualification in System Analysis. Wanting to improve his English, Sanryo found out about the class that Learn English at Home (LEAH) teach through a friend. He enrolled in a class with LEAH in 2024.

LEAH is a charity supporting refugees, asylum seekers and migrants furthest away from learning and unable to access college to learn English and integrate into their local community. They do this through informal English lessons delivered by a network of over 100 DBS-checked trained volunteers. Lessons are delivered either one to one or in community classes depending on the needs and location of the learner. These take place either face to face or online.

Barriers

LEAH worked well for him as he'd faced barriers to accessing other courses. "What stopped me the most was the distance and no good English to [have] deep conversation to make [the] call to courses ... [LEAH helped with] many things in my life, making new friends, conversations in English, going to hospital, supermarkets, library, etc., without using the phone translator. Now I'm more confidence to speak English. Before, I hardly spoke anything because I didn't have confidence."

How We Helped

Through the GLA Community Outreach Programme, Learn English at Home introduced the learning offer across London. Sanryo said "LEAH provided support, making calls, bringing course staff to us to answer questions and contact with the organisations."

Through the GLA Programme, Learn English at Home introduced the support Hounslow Adult Community and Education (HACE) learning offer as part of a series of sessions on the skills and learning offer in the community. HACE visited the Heston class in February to share information about the courses they offer. During the sessions, students that were eligible were given the opportunity to complete sign-up sheet with details of their telephone numbers and postcodes. This enabled the team at HACE to identify appropriate ESOL classes for each individual learner.

To further support learners from informal to formal learning, HACE arranged for initial ESOL assessments at a local library 2 minutes from the LEAH class. They then arranged to complete Initial Assessments the following Thursday at the library. Sanyro enrolled onto an evening ESOL course delivered by HACE in February. Unfortunately, he was unable to start the course as he was moved to Surrey.

Many asylum seekers are often moved to parts of the country that they have no knowledge of and sometimes don't have the skills to navigate their new communities. Consequently, LEAH have amended their policy so that they could continue to support learners for up to three months when they move out of borough.

When Sanyro was moved, his LEAH coordinator Savannah provided details about ESOL courses near him using the [GLA website](#). He has now enrolled on an ESOL course at college in his new community.



Written by Gurpreet Keila, Operations Manager at Learn English at Home, 2/4/2025