**Leeds Asylum Seekers Support Network (LASSN)**

**English at Home**

**What is English at Home and who does it help?**

English at Home is for people who want to improve their English but cannot go to college classes at the moment. This could be because of childcare, illness, because you have never been to school or other reasons. We can help asylum seekers, refused asylum seekers, refugees and spouses of refugees. Our teachers are volunteers. One of them will come to your house for one hour per week for an English lesson. If you are a woman you will have a female teacher, if you are a man you will have a male teacher.

**How can I get help from English at Home?**

Some people are referred to English at Home by staff from other organisations. Others hear about us through friends and relatives who been helped by us. You can also refer yourself by contacting the English at Home Manager (see below).

**What happens after I have been referred?**

Catherine (the English at Home Manager) will come to see you at your house and explain how it works. She will check your level of English, don’t worry, this is not a test. She will also ask you what you want to learn. If we think we can help, you will be matched to one of our volunteers. You will usually wait from one to four months to start lessons, but once you have a teacher we can provide lessons until you are able to go to classes.

**Who are the volunteers and what do they do?**

We train and security check all our volunteers. We do not pay them. The volunteers help because they are sympathetic towards asylum seekers/refugees, are interested in English teaching and have spare time. The volunteer will visit you at your home, or somewhere local if that is not possible. They come once a week for one hour. Some volunteers are British people, others are from different countries but have very good English.

**What kind of things might volunteers help me with?**

* Improving your confidence in using English
* Improving your English speaking skills
* Improving your English listening and understanding skills, including different accents
* Improving your English reading skills
* Improving your English writing skills
* Practising things like phone calls and filling in forms

**What kind of things can’t volunteers help with?**

* They cannot give legal advice or help with asylum claims
* They cannot help with problems such as housing and benefits (but sometimes the Manager can)
* The cannot look after your children
* They cannot tell you what to do

Contact Catherine Tonge, the English at Home Manager:

0113 3731759, 07927 808375 or [catherine@lassn.org.uk](mailto:catherine@lassn.org.uk).