

Skills for Londoners – Community Outreach Programme

Pawan

Pawan is from Iraq. She has been in the UK for 8 years and now lives in Lambeth. When she came to the UK, she was unable to work or study because she couldn't speak English. As a mother of young children she was prevented from studying as she wasn't able to find provision with a creche.

English was one of the barriers for her to progress in life.

"I'm not understand when people talked, I'm very scared and can't talk."

Pawan has a degree in librarian science and worked as a librarian in Iraq. She wants to volunteer, with the aim to get a job as a librarian in the UK. To achieve this goal, Pawan needs Functional Skills Maths and English.

Pawan's class has been learning from the teaching materials developed as part of the GLA's Outreach Program. Before studying from the materials, she didn't know how she could further her education and career, including due to the fact that the UK context is different to her native country.

"[Education] is very different in my country."

Through the lessons, she was able to understand how adult education works and what she needs to start working in her profession.

"The teachers explained things to me. I asked a lot of questions."

Conversations about her ambitions and educational plans she had during the classes, as well as research she did together with her teacher and classmates, facilitated by the materials meant that she found a relevant course.

Apart from facilitating research, the materials are also designed to support students with contacting providers to enquire about the desired courses. As a result of this, Pawan felt confident to contact the providers.

"We got help with writing emails"

"I contacted [the course provider] and I joined."

She successfully completed Entry 3 in Functional Skills Maths and she's now doing Level 1. The next step for her is to do Functional Skills English and a librarian course in a college. As a result of being part of the Outreach Project, Pawan knows where to look feels confident in her abilities to carry on and apply for these courses.