

BIG LOCAL

COMMUNITY PROFILE



Prepared by residents of the Leeming/Aycliffe Road area, volunteers of
The Big Local Project
for 'Getting People Involved'
in the.....

Big Local Leeming/ Aycliffe area of Borehamwood

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The Background

What is Big Local?

The following paragraphs are taken from the Community Development Foundation's website (the organisation that is currently managing the programme on behalf of the Big Lottery) and will provide useful background reading for anyone who has only recently got involved:

Big Local is a ten-year programme that will achieve lasting change in 150 areas in England. It will provide a mixture of funding, finance and support. This will enable local people to build on local talents and aspirations to identify and act on their own needs, to make their areas better places to live, now and in the future. Local communities will drive Big Local in their area. The programme will support, challenge, train and encourage people to develop and take ownership of Big Local in their local area. There will be a unique programme of activity in each area based on local needs but sharing the Big Local programme outcomes.

Big Local will support communities to identify issues and plan and develop solutions. This will provide a sustainable approach to long-term issues and ultimately create better places to live. Big Local aims to achieve the following outcomes:

Communities will be better able to identify local needs and take action in response to them.

People will have increased skills and confidence so that they can continue to identify and respond to local needs in the future.

The community will make a difference to the needs it prioritises.

People will feel that their area is a better place to live.

A Community Development Foundation (CDF) led consortium has been chosen by the Big Lottery Fund (BIG) to set up and manage a new independent, charitable organisation to deliver Big Local. While the organisation is being set up, CDF with its partners will be delivering the first stages of the programme.

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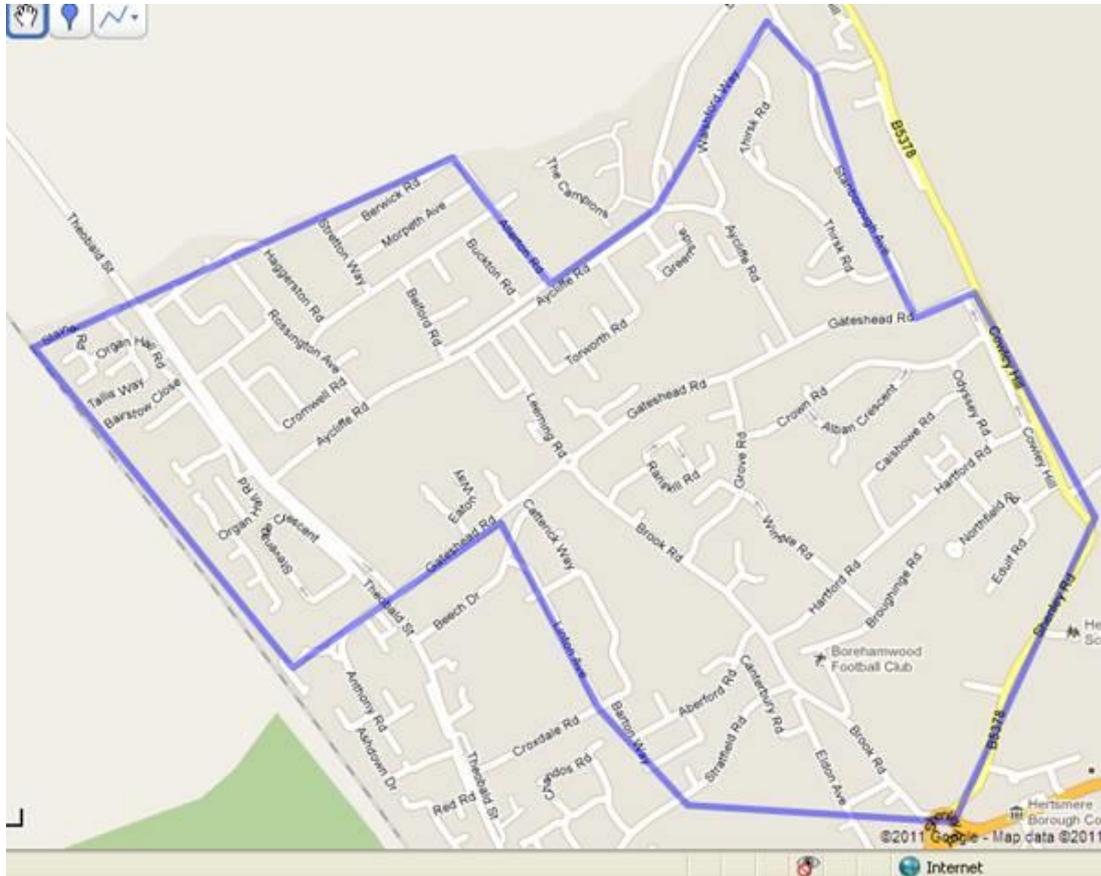
How much money is available through Big Local and how can local areas use it?

At least £1 million is available to each area. The money is available through the Big Local Trust, a new independent charitable trust that the Big Lottery Fund will endow with £200 million. The trust will be managed by the new independent organisation being set up the CDF led consortium.

Local areas can use the funds over ten years to provide a mixture of funding, such as grants, social investments, loans, microfinance and support. This means that some of the money distributed in each area can come back to Big Local and be available for reuse.

What area of Borehamwood does Big Local cover?

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What is the area perceived as being like?

Local update

The area identified as the Leeming /Aycliffe area i.e including Organ Hall but not the whole of Cowley Hill ward has been selected by the Big Lottery as one of the first 50 areas nationally to be awarded Big Local funding. The target area consists of part of two electoral wards (Cowley Hill and Brookmeadow). In Hertsmere Borough Council's Community Profile of 2010 these areas were highlighted as being relatively deprived in relation to Hertsmere as a whole and the County of Hertfordshire. Educational attainment, employment, health and disability and crime indicators suggested these were particular areas of concern along with access to affordable housing and mobility. Anecdotally, the area has significant areas of vandalism, empty shops, and projects a general run down feeling in parts.

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Residents cite certain areas as crime hotspots and havens for disaffected youths.

The area is perceived as being remote from many of the key services many residents rely upon, and this together with lower than County / Borough average car ownership and poor public transport links, serves to exacerbate feelings of isolation. This, in turn, leads to poor awareness of and take up of services which feeds into cycles of deprivation.

A sum of at least £1000000 has been agreed for allocation over a period of up to 10 years but this does not preclude all funding being spent in less than 10 years.

The key feature of Big Local is the involvement of local residents in deciding which initiatives will be funded and local residents via a local partnership will drive the process

Big Local Pathway

Big Local will support communities in each of the local areas to run the programme themselves so that it is community driven, responds to local needs and builds on local strengths. Each local area will follow a pathway with a number of stages to do this.

At this point the focus for Aycliffe / Leeming Road Big Local is on the first three areas of the Big Local pathway. It is vital to ensure that the programme locally is community led and that through a process of consultation and wider community engagement a local partnership is formed to take the programme forward.

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1. **Getting People Involved:** The first stage is to spread the word about Big Local and make sure local people know how they can get involved. This is ongoing but to date has included: “The Big Local Picnic”, family trips incorporating consultation events, briefings to local organisations and services, open days at the Community Shop, questionnaires at summer events and an information flyer to be distributed to every household in the target area.
2. **Exploring community visions for the future of the area:** This stage is about thinking about how the area might change for the

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better in the future. What do people like about the area? What do people want to change? What would people like to build on? A wide range of community members and groups should be engaged about their views and wishes for the area. At this stage, not everyone's vision will be the same and the idea is not to arrive at a shared community vision yet but to engage a wide range of people and groups about their hopes for the future of the area. This information will be used to develop a community profile of the area that will eventually be used to develop the community plan which will outline priorities for the £1 million allocation

3. ***Creating a local partnership to deliver Big Local in the area:***

Once community visions have been collected from a wide range of people in the community the next stage is to create a local partnership. The role of the local partnership will be to support inclusive and continuous community participation with a diverse range of organisations and community members. The local partnership will include a representative mix of residents and representatives of local agencies with the best skill set to meet the needs of the local area. The local partnership will be majority resident in membership. Membership of the local partnership will change over time in response to local needs and it will be reviewed at least annually.

What has been happening to date?

Community Action Hertsmere has been funded to deliver the "Getting People Involved" programme in the target area. As part of the programme CAH has developed a range of "soft touch" consultation initiatives including questionnaires at public events, open days and group activities alongside supported sessions for residents with specific needs, (such as adults with mental health issues & learning disabilities).

The aim throughout has been to inform residents and partner agencies about the opportunities Big Local will bring to the area to raise interest in

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becoming more involved in the process and to establish what are the key issues for people who live in the area.

People from all sections of the community have been spoken with, leafleted, and interviewed as part of this process in their homes, on day trips, in schools, at the community shop and at public events. Responses from more than 1000 residents have been recorded in this process and close to 300 have expressed interest in becoming more involved. All of those expressing an interest will be invited to a series of public events to find out more about how they can play a vital role in the delivery of Big Local in their community.

What have people told us?

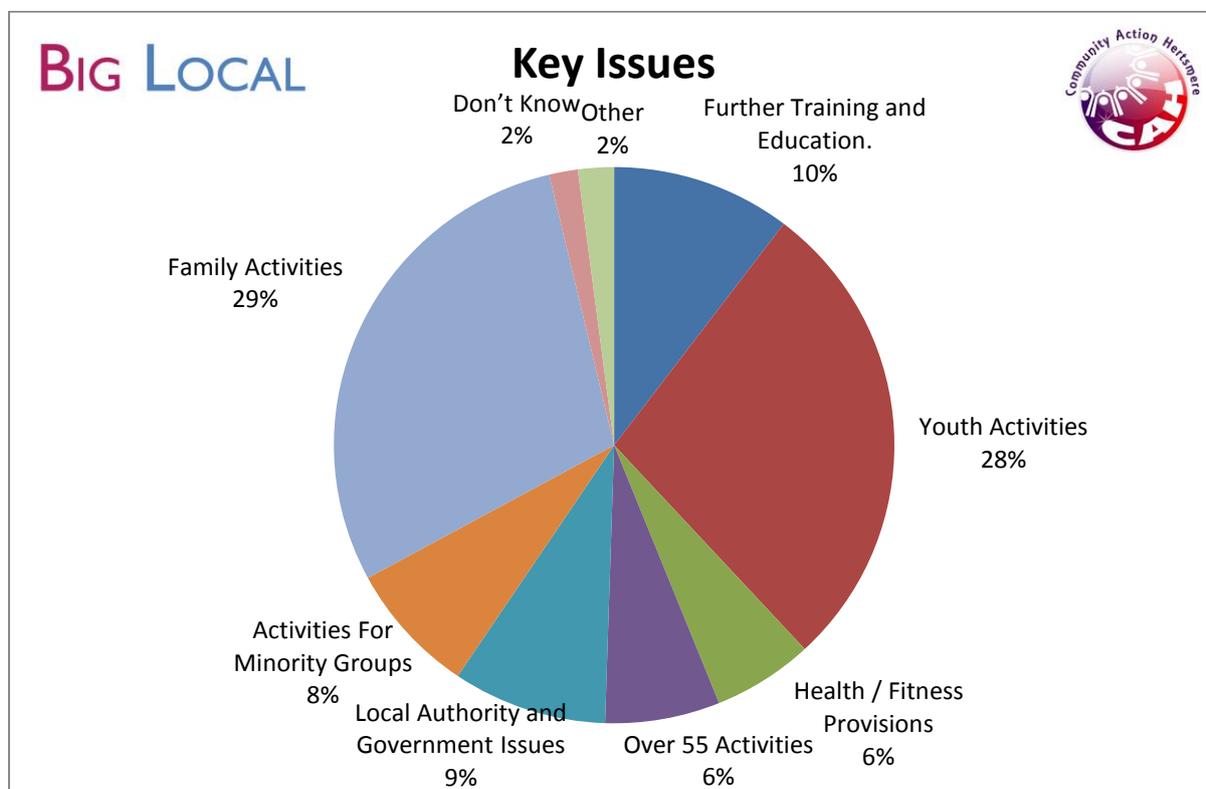
Throughout the consultation process a number of key themes were identified as issues of particular importance to residents. Interestingly responses were not only borne out of self interest (for example a significant number of young people identified the needs of older people as a priority and vice versa).

Specifically, the key issues identified were as follows:

- **Youth Activities**
- **Family Activities**
- **Local Authority & Government Issues**
- **Activities for minority groups (including people with disabilities)**
- **Further Training & Education**
- **Activities for the Over 55's**
- **Health & Fitness Provision**

The proportion of people identifying these issues is represented by the following pie chart.

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What does this mean?

A representative group of residents came together in January 2012 to discuss the seven key issues identified, to suggest what they actually mean for them and others living in the area and what actions could be developed to address them. The following is a summary of this work:

1. Young People

- Not enough flexibility in the definition of “Youth” used by service providers
- Existing activities are not promoted widely enough to young people
- Not enough inter generational work / activities
- Drug use is common amongst young people
- Young people making wrong choices and becoming trapped in vicious cycle
- Not enough positive activities for young people to engage with
- More volunteering chances

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- Not enough specialist activities for young people with additional needs
- High unemployment and lack of prospects for young people out of education/training
- Anti social and perceived threat of young people hanging around local shops.
- Other chances to become involved in Community Projects
- There is increasing evidence of alcohol misuse by young people as witnessed by the numbers of discarded beer cans, bottles etc. within the neighbourhood.

2. Local Authority & Government

- Lack of social housing and hostels
- Lack of life skills (training)
- Substance misuse and supply
- Street lights
- Poor roads
- Lack of dropped kerbs (access issues for people with disabilities)
- Feedback mechanisms to local councils
- Poor infrastructure in High Street
- Dirty streets and dog mess on pavements/ park areas
- Wheely bins are an ongoing hazard for people with disabilities, parents with pushchairs etc when they are left on pavements after emptying.
- Security around some social housing blocks needs improving/updating.
- Better co-ordination and more availability of CCTV resources would impact on opportunistic vandalism.

3. Further Education & Training

- Poor life skills education (budgeting, debt,)
- Low aspirations
- Leisure opportunities
- More needed for lone parents

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- More volunteering support
- Poor public transport connections
- No obvious F.E. facility now Oaklands closed
- Poor targeted advertising of current provision
- Access to IT for older people
- Access to IT for income deprived families

4. Family activities

- Lack of affordable family friendly places and activities
- Current provision too expensive
- Poor promotion of what currently exists
- Lack of support for families
- Lack of support for lone parent families
- Lack of awareness of mental health issues
- Not enough cross cultural activities
- Family learning activities (such as cooking, exercise)

5. Health & fitness

- Lack of information about wellbeing, drugs, healthy eating etc.
- Exercise is not promoted as a fun activity
- Lack of social activities
- Lack of GP appointments and poor aftercare
- Discrimination / lack of understanding of mental health issues
- Early Intervention projects for families and wellbeing

6. Over 55's activities

- Not enough targeted activities
- Little awareness of isolation issues
- Lack of mobility and transport

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- Poor promotion of current provision
- Lack of self protection education
- Lack of Health & Fitness activities for this age group
- A growing problem within this age group relates to people who have recently lost their jobs – increase in poverty related issues and alcohol dependence.

7. Minority groups

Specifically within this category we have identified groups of people with learning and physical disabilities, people with enduring mental ill health, people from BaME communities (notably Eastern European, African and Bosnian), religious minorities and members of the LGBT community.

- Lack of support and consequent low confidence for people in marginalised groups (e.g. cultural, mental health, LGBT etc)
- Not enough groups and activities for specific minority groups
- Lack of specific sports/leisure activities for people with specific cultural or health related needs
- Access issues for people with mobility problems
- Over reliance on internet access excludes sections of the community
- Lack of integrated activities
- Lack of awareness of minority lifestyles and consequent discrimination

What can be done to address these issues?

Young People

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- More targeted diversionary activities
- Central information point for promoting activities
- More flexibility on age banding
- Early intervention
- General move to raise aspirations
- More activities based on what young people want.
- Mentoring opportunities for young people

Local Authority & Government

Whilst it is acknowledged that Big Local funds cannot be used to undertake work which is the responsibility of a statutory/government agency it would be entirely appropriate for funds to be used to develop the skills of residents to better influence the provision of such services.

- Develop more low cost housing and hostel provision
- Reinstate overnight street lighting
- Develop interventions for intergenerational poverty
- Improve highways
- Carry out access audits for roads, pavements and facilities and support improvements work
- Develop and promote environmental volunteering schemes

Further Education & Training

- Develop life skills training initiatives in the community
- Make better use of and promote positive role models
- Develop debt advice services
- Promote the development of a credit union in the Area
- Promote IT basic skills and utilise other forms of promotion/access to services
- Encourage greater use and more provision of public transport
- Better transport to existing colleges
- Volunteering to encourage confidence and boost self esteem
- Supported volunteering that offers accredited training

4 .Family activities

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- Develop wildlife environmental schemes for families to experience
- Consider subsidised access to activities to encourage family participation
- Central information point to promote and sign post activities
- Develop structured break, weekend activities with support for families to attend
- Raise awareness of mental health issues thorough workshops , advertising etc
- Promote affordable inclusive activities
- Family support projects

Health & Fitness

- Work with schools and the community to promote healthy lifestyles
- Develop community (fun) sports days
- Ensure activities take account of individual needs
- Lobby NHS re GP appointments and aftercare (develop skills within community to achieve this).
- Develop and promote initiatives to combat discrimination.

Over 55's Activities

- Raise awareness of what already exists through information point and signposting
- Develop buddying schemes to combat social isolation
- Emphasise preventative activities
- Develop community safety initiatives

Minority Groups

- Raise awareness of the diverse communities served within target area (better information,
- Positive promotion, joint events etc.)

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- Develop more need specific activities and promote within the community
- Consider and develop mechanisms that allow better integration across needs
- Promote internet access within accessible community location(s)

Common Vision Strands across issues

Current provision and activities need better and targeted promotion; a single community information point would assist in this but would require personnel to support people through signposting.

Support, advice and guidance would be required to assist community members in developing ideas, projects and strategies.

Support structures would need to be established to aid the development of skills, training and confidence building within the community.

Current activities and activities arising out of the Big Local programme will require co-ordination, support and promotion.

Further volunteering opportunities to develop and build people confidence, self esteem, skills and employability chances.

Moving on

Community Action Hertsmere remains committed to supporting and enabling local people to play a full and active role in the delivery of Big Local initiatives. A series of briefing events will be held for elected members and partner agencies to explain the key role they will be able to play as advisory board members utilising their vast range of skills and local knowledge for the benefit of the local community and these will be in addition to bespoke events for residents.

All participants in the Big Local programme can be offered tailored training; advice and support through Community Action Hertsmere to ensure both residents and advisors are best equipped to play a full and active role.

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Community Action Hertsmere's Community Shop (in the heart of the target area) will soon undergo a rebranding to become the Big Local Hub and as such will be a one stop point of contact for all things Big Local!

Who put this report together?

Special thanks to all of the local residents who have given up their time to attend meetings, share ideas and discuss and debate the key issues affecting your community:

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Community Assets

Venue	Under 5s	5-10	11-17	18-24	25+	55+	Sport	Language	Health & Wellbeing	Art	Drama	Dance	Singing	Religion	Uniformed Groups	Recreational/Leisure	After School Provision	Breakfast Club	Further Education	Private Hire	Additional Needs Children	Additional Needs Adult	Comp/Supp School	Ethnic Groups
Community Venue																								
Windsor Hall	✓		✓		✓	✓	☐		✓	✓				☐		✓				✓				
Fairway Hall	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓				✓	✓		✓		✓				✓				
Aberford Hall		✓					✓		✓			✓								✓	☐	✓		
Organ Hall						✓										✓				✓				
Borehamwood Football Club		✓					✓					✓								✓				
Bowling Club		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓													✓				
Big Local Community Shop								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓						✓			✓	
Meadow/Mead						✓			✓													✓		
The Ark		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓									✓				
Fountain Court						✓	✓		✓				✓			✓								
Boys Club			✓				✓																	
Scout Hut						✓										✓								
Synagogue														✓										
No. 10									✓															
MPDC Hertswood Cen		☐					✓		✓			✓								✓		✓	✓	
Cadets															✓									
B/W Youth F.C.							✓																	
Canterbury																								
Poplars Free Church (Stanborough)						✓								☐		✓								
Church Halls																								
St. John Fishers																								
St Andrews			✓					✓						✓										
St Teresas			☐			✓	✓	☐						✓	✓					✓				
St. Michaels	✓	✓						✓	✓			✓	✓	✓						✓				
Parks (Outdoors Space)																								
Aberford		✓																						
Meadow																								
Aycliffe																								
Organ Hall		✓																						
Pubs																								

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Appendix 1

LeemingAycliffe Big Local Area

Overall Deprivation

- Big Local area is in the 30% most deprived in England.
- Leeming, Aycliffe, Torworth, Allerton and Morpeth roads are in the 16% most deprived in England.

Income Poverty

- Children: 27%- 46% are officially in poverty.
- Old people: 20-41% are officially in poverty are in the 9% worst deprived in England.

Crime

- Overall, not statistically high compared to the rest of England.
- Youth related ASB: 60 % decline between 2006 and 2010 but still the highest in Hertsmere Borough.
- Domestic violence related incidents: Rose 30% between 2006 and 2010 and the highest number across Hertsmere.

Unemployment

- High; in the worst parts, only 20% employed.

Health and Disability

- Poor
- Childhood health - in 2010, 34.4% of Year 6 children (aged 10-11 yrs) were overweight or obese (up from 26.1% in 2007).
- 33% of girls say they don't find it easy to be as physically active as they would like to be; due to high cost, restricted availability of gym times, fear of being judged by gym staff or having to undertake a disciplined regime of exercises.
- Special educational needs & disability (SEND): 15 - 20% of children are classified across a spectrum including emotional, behavioural and learning special needs.

Education & Skills

- Amongst adults, this is poor but schools are improving well.
- Children achieving the expected level at age 5 rose from 41.6% of in 2007 to 59.6% in 2011.
- 10 times the number of university graduates in 2011 compared to 2000
- 5 GCSE grades A*-C rose from 23% in 2000 to 74% in 2011.
- Boys achieve considerably less well than girls especially in the early years.

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- Achievement gap is improving between the poorest performers and the rest.
- All schools have been judged by OfSTED to be GOOD.
- English and Maths has been improving considerably since 2008.
- School attendance has improved in some primary schools but is significantly below national average in at least one school; this impacts on child's education and career potential.

Barriers to housing: Caused by high house prices and shortage of social housing.

- 125% increase in demand for social housing between 2010 and 2011.

Birth Rate: Increasing and one of highest rate of lone parent families in Hertfordshire

- 30% increase in births in Leeming and Aycliffe in 2008 leading to increased demand for school places.

Ethnicity

- Non-White British have risen from only 5 % in 2000 to more than 30% in 2011; at one school, White British children were in a minority in 2010 at approx 47%
- More than 55 languages are spoken; Albanian being the most widely spoken and other Eastern European languages being a significant proportion of the total.
- African and Asian languages are the most prevalent in number.
- Children of Asian origin are often second generation in England; many consider English to be their first language although their parents/grandparents may still consider their native tongue to be the home language.