

Grangegorman ABC Programme – Press Release 12/10/2015

Major funding boost to support children in Grangegorman area

- ***Almost €1 Million from Department of Children and Youth Affairs and The Atlantic Philanthropies for early childhood programmes***

We are delighted to announce that the Grangegorman **Area Based Childhood (ABC)** Programme has been awarded a grant of just over €940,000 from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and Atlantic Philanthropies. The grant will fund an exciting series of activities from 2015 to 2017 to help improve outcomes for 0-6 year old children and families living in the Grangegorman area in Dublin 7. This programme will make a significant difference to children, families, and service providers in the Grangegorman area, where some children have not realised their full potential due to socio-economic disadvantage and gaps in services.

The aim of ABC is to ensure that children get the best start in life by providing a range of programmes that have been shown to achieve positive results for parents and children. 120 senior infant children across 4 local schools will participate in the Doodle Den after-school literacy programme, including activities with their parents. All teachers of junior and senior infant children in the 4 schools will train in, and implement, the Incredible Years programme for classroom management with the children, benefitting up to 450 children, and almost 50 children needing additional supports will benefit from a small group programme during school hours. Up to 100 parents of 3-6 year olds will be offered parenting support classes in different locations in the area.

For pre-school children, 20 parents with new babies will be offered an 8-week baby programme, and 14 families will participate in a 2-year Parent Child Home Programme, aimed at supporting parents in developing their child's literacy and language through play and reading. Up to 50 local childcare staff and managers will be offered accredited training programmes to support improved service delivery to pre-school children. The consortium of organisations will also work together to develop effective referral pathways between services to ensure early referral of children and families experiencing problems to get the help and support they need.

A consortium of 10 organisations working in the Grangegorman area came together in 2013 to develop the initial application to fund the initiative. The consortium has grown to 30 organisations with a remit for the 0-6 age group in the local area, including Dublin Institute of Technology (lead agency for the programme), DEIS primary schools, crèches, child and family projects, community development projects, City of Dublin Education and Training Board, North West Inner City Network, Dublin City Council Library, Grangegorman Development Agency, An Siol CDP, Gateway Project, Grangegorman Labour and Learning Forum, HSE Dublin North East, Tusla, Daughters of Charity Community Services, and Dublin 1 and 7 School Completion Project.

Activities began in September 2015. If you would like more information on Grangegorman ABC Programme, contact abc@dit.ie or call Mick Cowman on 01 402 7626.

Notes to the editor:

- The Area Based Childhood Programme is a cross-departmental initiative announced in the Programme for Government. The Centre for Effective Services (CES) and Pobal have been asked by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) and Atlantic Philanthropies (AP) to support and oversee the design, planning, evaluation and implementation of this programme. The ABC Programme is co-funded by the Irish Government and the Atlantic Philanthropies, with a total investment of almost €30 million between 2013 and 2017.
- The Area-Based Childhood (ABC) programme aims to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families in some of the most disadvantaged areas of the country.
- Under the ABC Programme, investment is targeted to 13 Areas. Resources are being provided to a consortium in each Area, which is offering a range of services to be delivered, and is led by a lead organisation. DIT is the lead organisation for the Grangegorman Area funding.
- The North West Inner city of Dublin has indicators of inter-generational disadvantage accumulating in pockets. Examples include: a high percentage of people with primary education only; poor attendance rates in local schools; a high percentage of lone parents; and low participation in higher education.
- The ABC programme has a particular emphasis on improving health, educational and social outcomes for children and young people, and on improving the effectiveness of existing services for them.
- The total funding allocated to the Grangegorman ABC Programme is €940,825, with an additional 20% matched funding to be contributed by the consortium member organisations.
- The funding will be spent between Jan 2015 and Sept 2017.
- If you would like more information on Grangegorman ABC Programme, contact abc@dit.ie or call Mick Cowman on 01 402 7626.