

The **A**rea **B**ased **C**hildhood Programme 2013 -2016

Katie Burke, Centre for Effective Services

David Burke, Pobal

Overview of the Presentation

- Introduction to the Area Based Childhood (ABC) Programme
- Process to Date
- Governance Structures
- Programme Management: Roles of Centre for Effective Services and Pobal
- Agenda for today

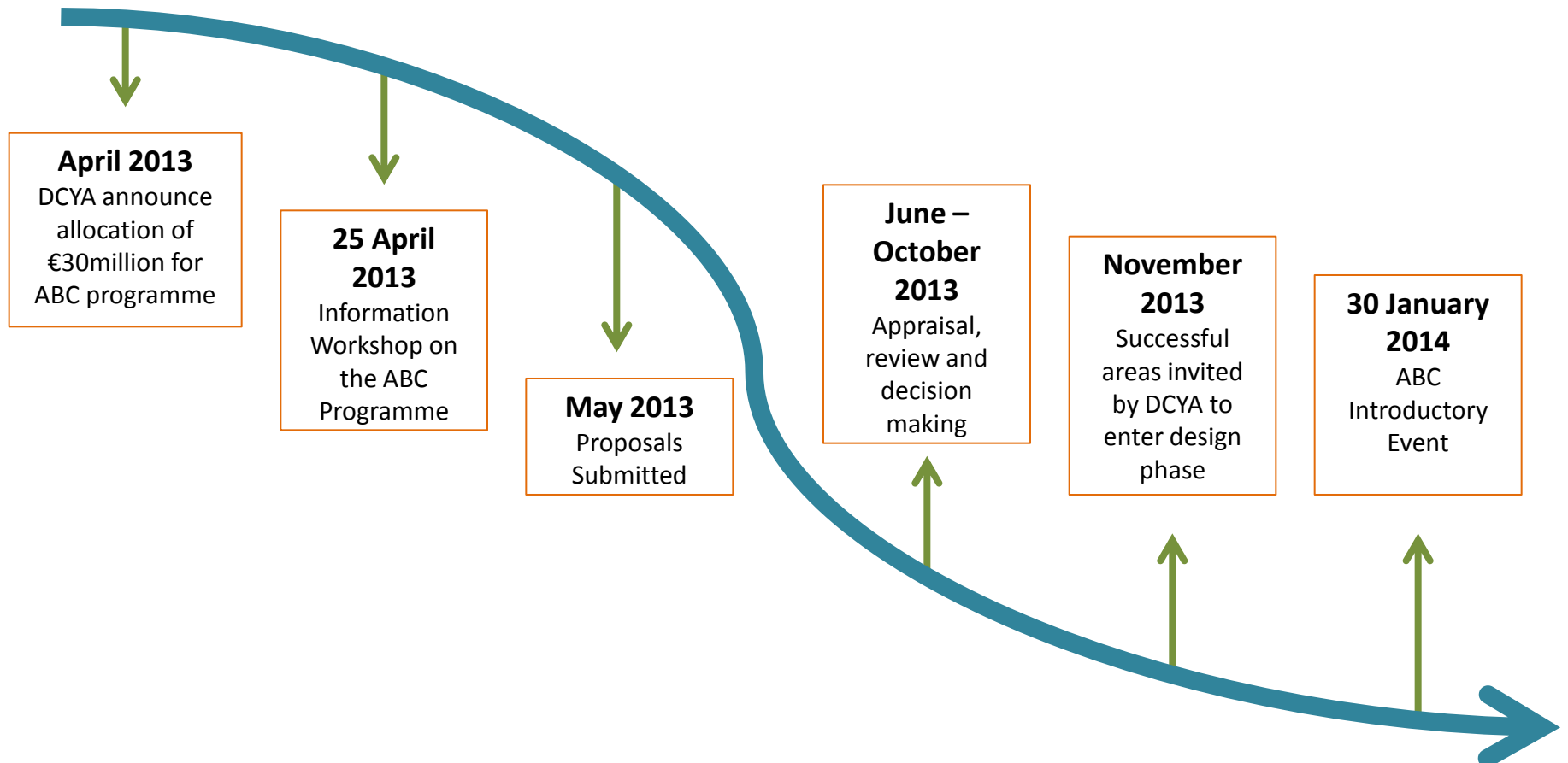
Area Based Childhood (ABC) Programme

- Programme for Government (2011): *'...adopt a new area based approach to child poverty, which draws on best international practice and existing services to tackle every aspect of child poverty.'*
- April 2013, €30 million allocation for the programme, joint funded by the Department for Children for Youth and Affairs and Atlantic Philanthropies.
- ABC Programme's objective is **'breaking the cycle of child poverty within areas where it is most deeply entrenched** and where children are most disadvantaged, through **integrated and effective services** and interventions' in the following areas: **child development, child well being and parenting and educational disadvantage'**.
- Under the ABC Programme, the interventions and approaches within Areas should be:
 - **Evidence informed** – practices and services based on the integration of experience, judgement and expertise with the best available external evidence from systematic research
 - **Integrated with mainstream services** such as health, education and the new Child and Family Agency.

Learning from Prevention and Early Intervention Programme

- The new initiative builds on the learning from Prevention and Early Intervention Initiative.
- The Prevention and Early Intervention Initiative, which was jointly funded by programme by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs and Atlantic Philanthropies, implemented early intervention programmes in three areas: Ballymun (youngballymun), Dublin Northside (Preparing for Life) and Tallaght West (Childhood Development Initiative).
- Programmes implemented were based on needs assessments and consultation with local communities, with interagency working and innovative approaches central to the process.

Area Based Childhood Programme: Process to Date



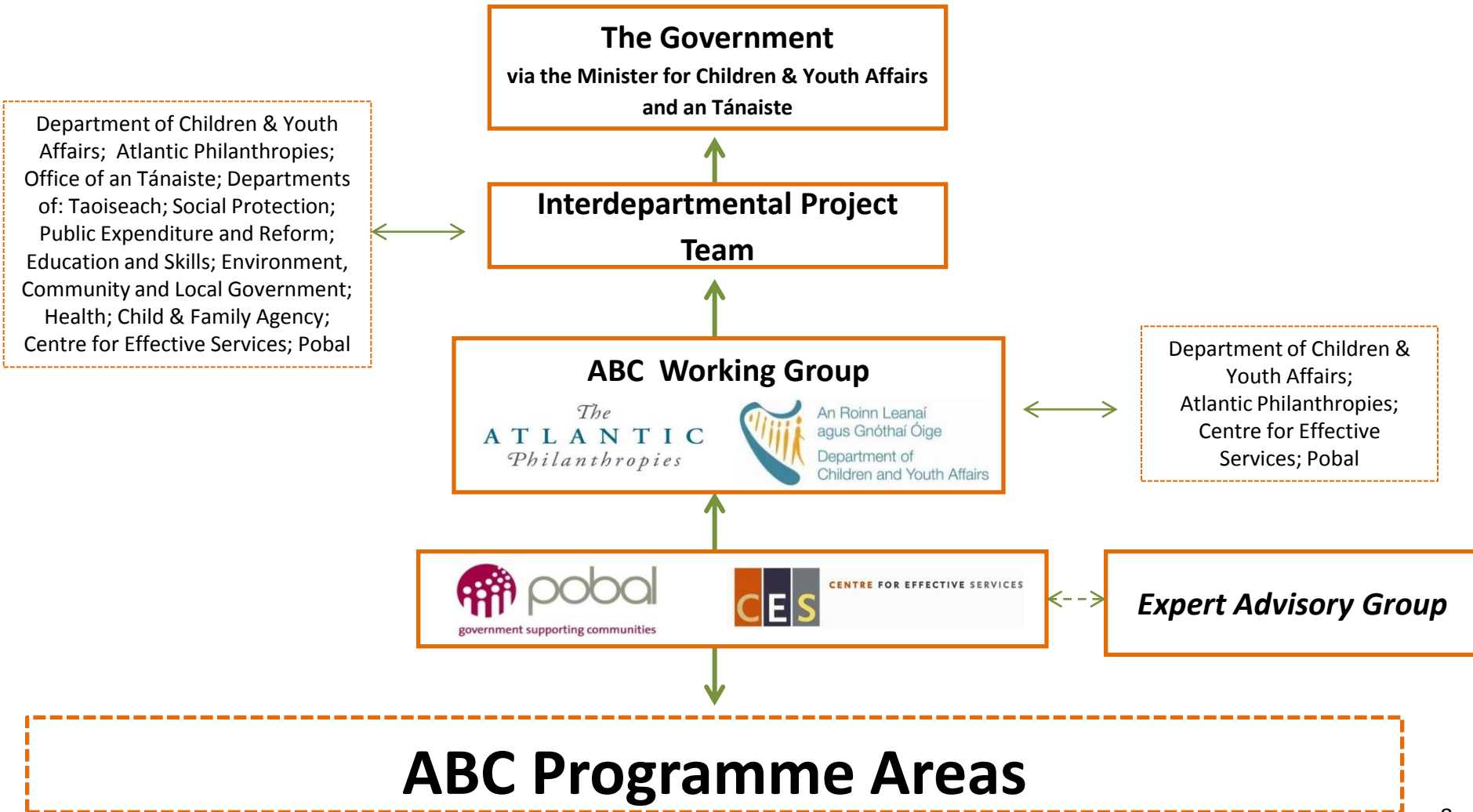
Areas Funded under the Area Based Childhood Programme

- Ballyfermot, Dublin 10
- Ballymun (youngBallymun)
- Bray
- Clondalkin (Archways)
- Dublin Docklands
- Dublin Northside (Preparing for Life)
- Finglas
- Grangegorman(NW Inner City)
- Knocknaheeny (Cork)
- Limerick
- Louth (Drogheda and Dundalk)
- Midlands – implementation of Good Behaviour Game
- Tallaght West (Childhood Development Initiative)

Structures in the Area Based Childhood Programme

- **Funders:** Department of Children and Youth Affairs and Atlantic Philanthropies.
- **Interdepartmental Project Team** – provides cross-departmental oversight and advice at a national level.
 - *Members include:* Department of Children & Youth Affairs, Atlantic Philanthropies, Office of an Tánaiste, Departments of: Taoiseach, Social Protection, Public Expenditure and Reform, Education and Skills, Environment, Community & Local Government and Health; Child & Family Agency, Centre for Effective Services and Pobal
- **ABC Working Group:** Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Atlantic Philanthropies, Centre for Effective Services and Pobal.
- **Expert Advisory Group** - provides impartial and independent guidance and support in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the Area Based Childhood Programme.
 - *Members include:* Dr Frances Ruane (Chair), Dr Mark Dynarski ,Prof. Marjorie Smith, Dr Claire Finn (DCYA)
- **Programme Managers:** Centre for Effective Services and Pobal
- **13 Areas**, each with a:
 - **Consortium**
 - **Lead Agency**

Area Based Childhood Governance Structure



Centre for Effective Services' Role to Date on the ABC Programme

- The Centre for Effective Services works to help make better use of existing research and information to improve services and outcomes for children, youth and communities
- To date, the Centre for Effective Services has provided support in terms of:
 - A 'Scan' of Irish and International programme, policies and literature on area based approaches and child poverty
 - Outcomes for the Initiative – a logic model
 - Examples of evidence and evidence informed approaches to inform the work of the areas
 - Injecting the learning form the Prevention and Early Intervention Initiative
 - Advising on the application process and applicants received

Pobal's Role to Date, on the ABC Programme

- Pobal is an intermediary body that manages programmes and supports communities and local agencies on behalf of the Irish Government and the EU, to promote social and economic inclusion, reconciliation and equality.
- To date, Pobal have:
 - Advised the funders on the development of terms and guidelines for the programme;
 - Acted as fiscal agent for the programme;
 - Undertaken formal accountability arrangements for the programme;
 - Managed the 'contracting' process with the areas;
 - Provided advice on applicant proposals.

ABC Programme Management Roles: Pobal & Centre for Effective Services

- Providing support in design, management, impact, evaluation and governance to the ABC areas.

| Pobal's role | Centre for Effective Services' role |
|---|---|
| Grant Administration | Service design and implementation supports |
| Governance supports and performance management | Design and implementation of an evaluation framework for the programme |
| Programme accountability | Sharing learning and good practice from the Prevention and Early Intervention in and across the ABC areas |
| Jointly responsible for: | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication with the areas • Progress reports to Funders | |

Service Design and Evaluation

Design and Implementation Support

- Implementation Support will be provided to areas throughout the duration of the Area Based Childhood Programme
 - Including support to areas in developing logic models and implementation plans during the Design Stage
- Design and Implementation Support Process will be outlined later today

Evaluation Framework

- There will be a national monitoring and evaluation framework for the ABC Programme
- Centre for Effective Services is designing and managing the implementation of an evaluation framework for the ABC Programme, including:
 - Identifying the objectives of the evaluation
 - Determining the balance between national and local monitoring and evaluation
 - Identifying baseline and ongoing data to be collected and reported
 - Convening and supporting the Expert Advisory Group
- Framework to be developed and implemented in consultation with the Areas, ABC Working Group and Expert Advisory Group

What are the Next Steps for your Area in the ABC Programme?

- The Design, Contracting and Implementation Process – to be discussed this afternoon
- Programme managers and Areas establish a shared clarity and confidence regarding the objectives, service model and management arrangements to support local delivery
- Submission of completed:
 - Logic Model
 - Implementation Plan
 - Budget

Area Based Childhood Networking Event: Today's Agenda

- 11.45** Learning from Experience: Implementing and Mainstreaming Preventative and Early Intervention Approaches:
Marian Quinn and Winnie Donoghue: Prevention and Early Intervention Network
- 12.15** A Tour: Introducing the Areas
- 1) What is the name of your consortium and the geographical area it covers
 - 2) What are the main issues you plan to address under the Area Based Childhood Programme?
 - 3) In ten years time, what one change would you most like to see in your area and how will the Area Based Childhood Programme help to enable that change?
- 13.00** Lunch
- 13.45** A Tour: Introducing the Areas (continued)
- 14.30** Next Steps – The Design, Contracting and Implementation Process
Stella Owens, CES and Joan McGarry, Pobal
- 15.30** Breakout Groups and Discussion with Panel
- 16.00** Conclusion