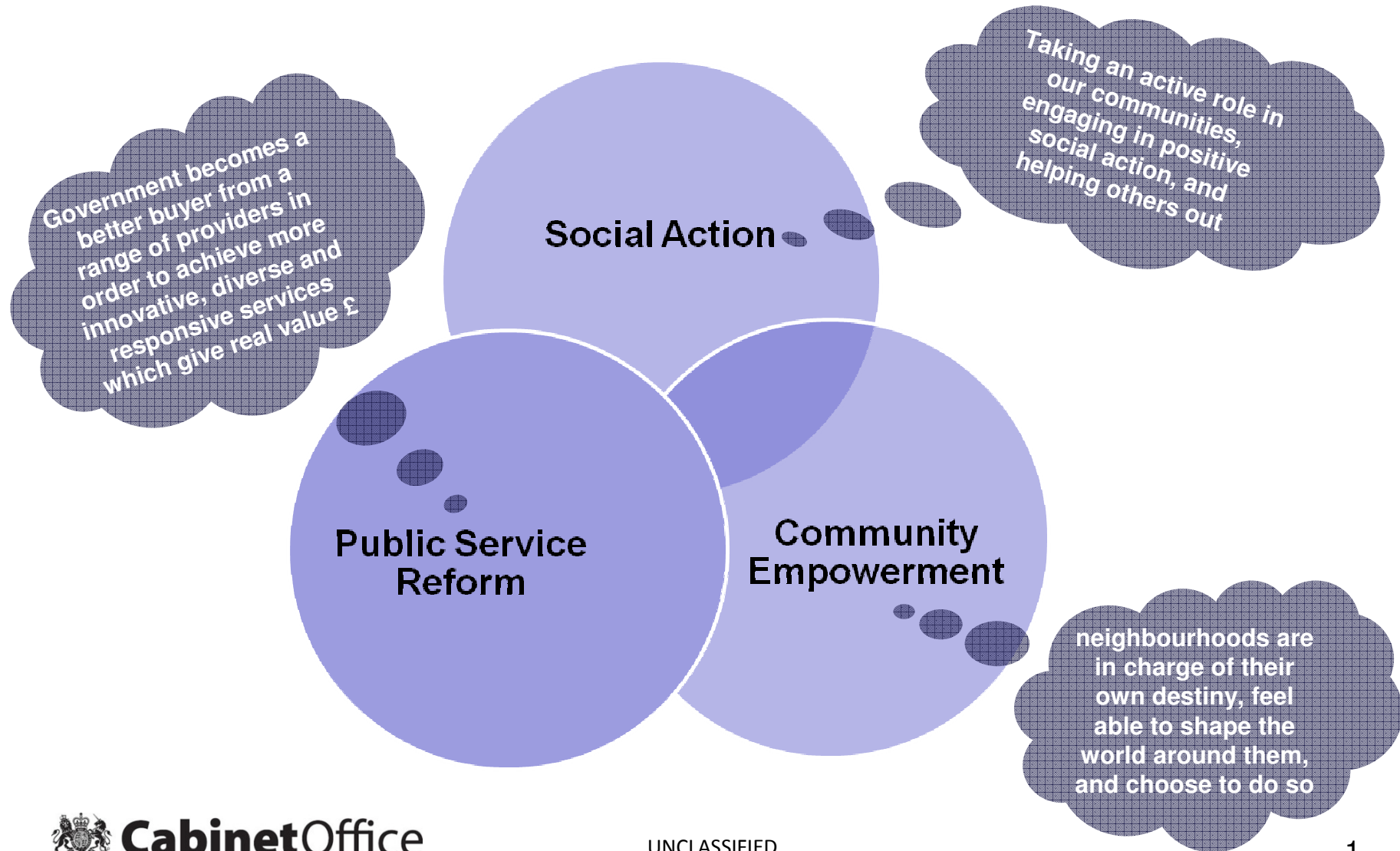


# What is the Big Society?



# And

- Much more than a central government initiative or collection of programmes
- Moving away from the top down approach in which government tries to run everything from the centre
- Government still has a role in supporting this change and removing barriers

# Office of Civil Society

- Was known as Office for the Third Sector
- Bigger and more influential-at the heart of government within the Cabinet Office
- Purpose is to “grow” the Big Society

# ROLES

3 main roles:

- Thought leadership-Big Society, Behaviour Change, Open Public Services
- Sponsorship of the sector in Whitehall-Support and challenge to civil society (Easier to run, easier to work with Gov, more money to sector)
- Delivery of flagship projects-Incubating new policies, moving to scale

# So, one year on.....

## Social action

- Budget was strongly supportive of charitable giving
- National Citizens Service-11,000 16 year olds to take part in the first wave this summer
- £400,000 from government and NESTA to trial SPICE in England- giving volunteers vouchers or discounts
- £1m to support YouthNet through [www.do-it-org.uk](http://www.do-it-org.uk)

# Giving White Paper

- Big Lottery to deliver New Local Infrastructure Fund-
- Trial Charity Promotions on Directgov
- Open up government buildings to charities and voluntary groups
- Social Action Fund - £24m to support the more proven models to get people involved in all stages of life more involved in their communities, reach out to people who don't volunteer and build on things like the Olympics
- Innovation in Giving Fund – Launched Sept 2011. £10m to find and back innovative ideas for increasing volunteering and charitable giving
- A Giving Summit in the Autumn-to bring together charities, businesses, financiers etc to set the course for the future of giving

# Opening Public Services White Paper

- Published on 11 July
- 5 key themes:
  1. Increasing choice, wherever possible;
  2. Decentralising power;
  3. Diversity - opening up public services to a range of providers competing to offer a better service; and
  4. Fair access
  5. Accountability
- Listening events July-Sept

# Big Society Bank aka Big Society Capital

- Interim arrangements set up with Big Lottery whilst European state Aid and FSA approval awaited
- Will be regional events in the meantime
- The BSIF has been directed by Government to make social investments using up to £5 million of dormant account money, when dormant account money becomes available over the summer.
- [http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog\\_big\\_society\\_investment\\_fund.htm](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_big_society_investment_fund.htm)





# Community Empowerment

- 5000 **Community Organisers** recruited and trained- Locality will manage the programme- 11 national kickstart areas including Birmingham (none in the East Midlands)
- **Community First Programme** will encourage more social action in neighbourhoods-CDF have brought together a strong consortium to help them deliver, including **Asda** will bring up to £10m into the fund by 2014, **Community Foundations** will manage the endowment building process, **CCLA** will deliver the investment strategy to ensure income from the endowment and **Social Investment Business** will develop proposals for social investment beyond 2015



# Local Intelligence Team

- Provide detailed local knowledge on growth of the Big Society
- One of me in each of the English “regions”
- To be connectors between Whitehall and local areas
- To provide information and context to local areas
- To provide intelligence, insight and challenge from local areas
- To provide policy / project support and delivery



# How we can work together

- Keen to hear of projects / activity that provides evidence of:
- Citizens taking more control, Engagement in local leadership
- Evidence of new partnerships being struck at local levels, VCS / LA, VCS / local business
- New ways of working together / doing things in different ways
- Public Services being delivered in different ways  
LAs out-sourcing to VCS, Communities more involved in commissioning



# And

- Signs of business contributing to the community in new and interesting ways
- Citizens stepping up / local responses
- Interested in successes, but also in barriers
- Ministers and officials really interested in where things are working well
- Case Studies/ stories
- Big Society Awards



# Big Society Awards

- The Big Society Award has been created to recognise individuals, groups or organisations that are demonstrating the Big Society in their work or activities.
- keen to see many more nominations and awards from West Midlands
- [www.number10.gov.uk/bigsocietyawards](http://www.number10.gov.uk/bigsocietyawards)

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