

A Changed Approach  
to VCS Grant Investment  
– briefing for Neighbourhoods Scrutiny  
22/9/14

# Our context & drivers for change

- Need to use this VCS grant investment to help us address significant issues in the city
- How can we achieve maximum strategic impact with our funding?
- Investment should be focused & aligned with city priorities
- Need to move to a 'one council' perspective & approach
- Opportunity to share journey with VCS

# Discovery phase: what have we learned?

- We have been talking to all of our colleagues in BCC to understand the current pattern of funding
- We now know we are investing c.£7.62m per year through VCS/3<sup>rd</sup> Sector grants
- We also know that we do not all do this in the same way or have a clear understanding of what each part of the council is doing: i.e. we're not joined up!

# Discovery phase: what have we done?

- Mapping exercise to align spend against city priorities
- First attempt at grouping aligned spend by 'purpose' – what we're actually spending the money on
- Started to design 'one council' grants tools to improve our consistency and help the sector
- Started designing proactive & engaging sector consultation
- Early and ongoing conversations with some VCS leaders

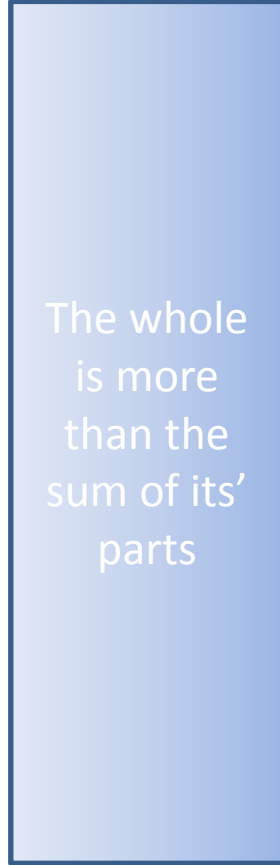
# ...the more exciting part is the potential to make more strategic sense.....

Individual service focussed  
collection of funding activity

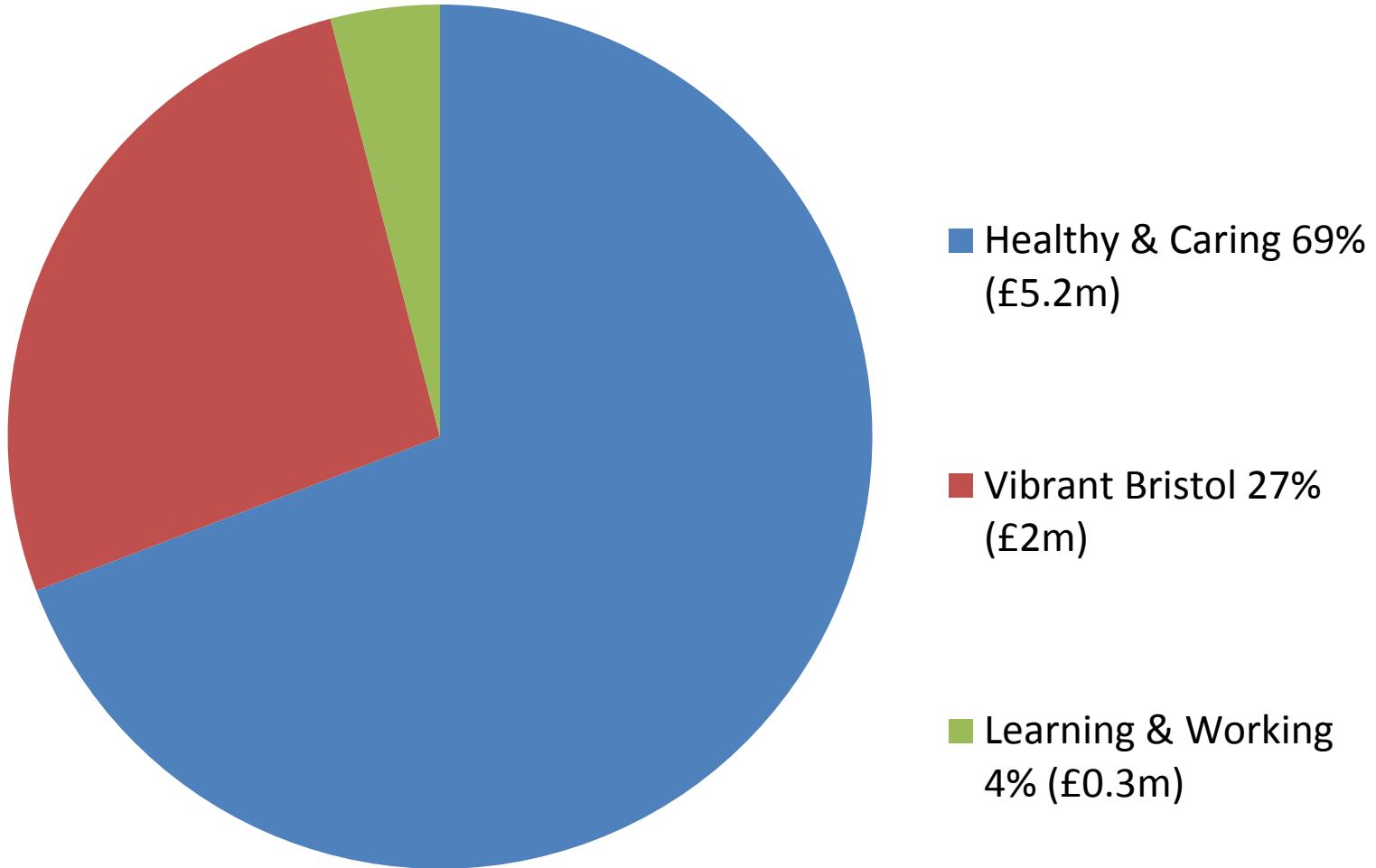
- Not joined up!







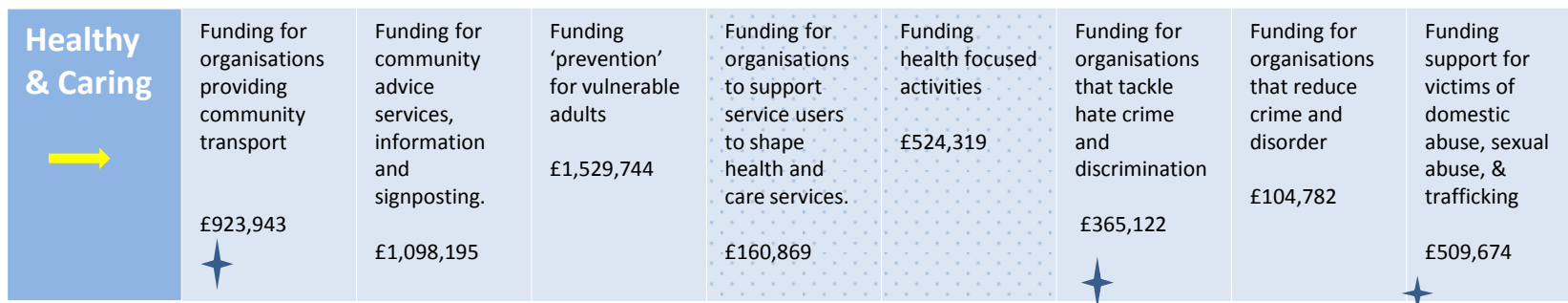
No shared approaches,  
standards, tools,  
knowledge.....




## 2014/15 Grants spend by City priorities



## 2014/15 funding aligned by City priorities and 'themes':

<b>Healthy &amp; Caring</b> 	Funding for organisations providing community transport £923,943 	Funding for community advice services, information and signposting. £1,098,195	Funding 'prevention' for vulnerable adults £1,529,744	Funding for organisations to support service users to shape health and care services. £160,869	Funding health focused activities £524,319	Funding for organisations that tackle hate crime and discrimination £365,122 	Funding for organisations that reduce crime and disorder £104,782	Funding support for victims of domestic abuse, sexual abuse, & trafficking £509,674 
								


<b>Learning &amp; Working</b> 	Funding organisations that support vulnerable adults into employment £192,976	Funding adult education and skills £75,000	Funding organisations that promote volunteering £39,982
			

<b>Vibrant Bristol</b> 	Funding community and equalities voice & Influence £280,592	Funding key arts providers £935,194 	Funding community centres and city farms £404,700	Funding support for the local voluntary and community sector £393,796	Wellbeing funds £350,000	Small Arts Grants £67,000	Community First Grant £150,000
							

<b>Green Capital</b> 	Green Capital Grant £150,000
	


Key: *Devolved/other annual grant funds*


Existing commissioning process 


Active Citizens cross-cutting theme 

# Possible grant funding objectives for a cross-council grant approach

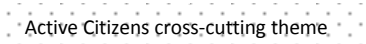
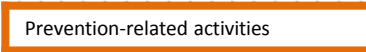

<b>Healthy &amp; Caring</b> 	1 We want vulnerable people to be able to get around the City	2 We want people to be able to get advice to help them with welfare, debt, housing and care issues	3 We want timely, responsive support for vulnerable adults so that they can maintain their independence	4 We want people to shape local health services and care management	5 We want people to be able to choose to live more healthily	6 We want to tackle hate crime and discrimination	7 We want people to feel safe in the City	8 We want to support and protect victims of violence and abuse in our City
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<b>Learning &amp; Working</b> 	9 We want disadvantaged people to have better access to employment	10 We want more adults to have basic skills	11 We want local people to volunteer and make a difference in their communities
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<b>Vibrant Bristol</b> 	12 We want citizens & service users to be able to influence the things that matter to them	13 We want local key arts providers to be vibrant, diverse & sustainable	14 We want community assets to deliver well for the needs of their communities	15 We want our local VCS to be diverse and sustainable so that it can respond to the needs of the City	Wellbeing funds	Small Arts Grants	Community First Grant
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<b>Green Capital</b> 	Green Capital Grant
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**Key:**

-  Active Citizens cross-cutting theme
-  Prevention-related activities
-  Devolved/other annual grant funds



# What do we want to aim for?

A one-council strategic approach:

To be really sure we are investing our funding in the way that reaches the right people, with the right services to make a difference to their lives in the city.

## And we will need to have:

- A single one council pot of VCS grant investment funding: using our role as an 'intelligent client' to use our investment in the most effective way
- Shared knowledge and understanding of needs across the city from both our colleagues cross council, our partners and the communities of our city
- One agreed set of grant management tools & standards, to offer consistency to the sector

# Our “ask” of Scrutiny

- Members response to the idea of a strategic approach to VCS grant investment
- What are the things that you feel we need to be mindful of in taking this strategic route forward?
- What areas of direct involvement would be of interest to Scrutiny members?
  - i.e. regular input and updates from officers re developing the work
  - Direct input with VCS leaders involved in the work?