

**Press release**

**Date: 01 July 2016**

## **Impetus-PEF celebrates independence of their charity ThinkForward**

Youth charity, Impetus-PEF (Impetus – The Private Equity Foundation) today celebrated the achievements and independence of ThinkForward, the charity it created six years ago.

ThinkForward was formed by Impetus-PEF in 2010, in response to their research findings which identified a gap in provision for young people most at risk of becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training) and furthest from being able to access existing support. ThinkForward works with schools to identify the most at-risk young people at age 13 and commits to supporting them for five years through their transition from school into employment. The charity pairs these young people with highly qualified Progression Coaches who provide long-term, personalised support, helping them to overcome challenges in and out of school and to build employability skills and confidence.

Since its creation in 2010, ThinkForward has gone from strength to strength, working with national employment charity Tomorrow's People to support over 1,400 young people in fourteen schools across Tower Hamlets, Hackney and Islington since its inception. Of the young people who graduated from the programme last year, 91% were in education, employment or training at the time of leaving and it continues to see positive results for the young people currently enrolled. Building on their success in London, in early June ThinkForward expanded to four schools in Nottingham north, an area identified as having the greatest need for the programme.

In addition, ThinkForward successfully delivered one of the world's first social impact bond (SIB) tackling youth unemployment, enabling over 1,000 disengaged young people in London's most deprived boroughs to improve their educational attainment and employability skills significantly. The SIB enabled ThinkForward to expand its programme across 14 schools and was publicly acknowledged by Prime Minister David Cameron as an example of success ahead of the 2015 Autumn Spending Review, highlighting the government's desire to scale SIBs in the future.

Over the years, ThinkForward has benefited from a support package from Impetus-PEF worth an estimated £4.5 million which has included management support and specialist



[info@impetus-pef.org.uk](mailto:info@impetus-pef.org.uk)



020 3474 1000



[impetus-pef.org.uk](http://impetus-pef.org.uk)



[@ImpetusPEF](https://twitter.com/ImpetusPEF)



183 Eversholt Street, London NW1 1BU

expertise from pro bono professionals as well as funding. Having nurtured the charity since inception, Impetus-PEF is thrilled that within just six years, ThinkForward has become an independent charity and look forward to continuing to work together to help disadvantaged young people achieve the best possible outcomes in school and in work.

Andy Ratcliffe, CEO of Impetus-PEF commented, “Thinkforward is an outstanding example of how a charity can combine a deep commitment to changing the lives of young people with a restless desire for improvement. They are an inspiring example of what real impact looks like and what we strive for in our work with our partner charities. We are immensely proud of ThinkForward’s achievements and excited to support them as they take their next steps as an independent charity.”

Kevin Munday, ThinkForward’s Managing Director commented, “We have Impetus-PEF and its supporters to thank for ThinkForward’s unique programme design and success to date. Their investment approach has helped us refine our programme for greater impact and has built firm foundations for our independence and future expansion. We look forward to continuing to work together.”

### **Media enquiries**

Lizzie Pring, Communications Manager, Impetus-PEF  
Tel: 020 3474 1007  
Email: [press@impetus-pef.org.uk](mailto:press@impetus-pef.org.uk)

### **Notes to Editors**

**Impetus-PEF** (Impetus – The Private Equity Foundation) transforms the lives of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds by ensuring they get the support they need to succeed in education and employment. It does this by partnering with the most promising charities and social enterprises which serve young people, providing them with a combination of long-term core funding and sustained management support. Impetus-PEF currently works with more than 20 charity partners, which in turn reach over 80,000 young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

For more information, please visit [www.impetus-pef.org.uk](http://www.impetus-pef.org.uk) or call 020 3474 1007.

**ThinkForward** ensures that young people who are disengaged from or underperforming at school receive the support they need to transition successfully into higher education or sustained employment. It does this by providing them with an experienced and trusted Progression Coach, who provides long-term personalised support, helping them to overcome challenges in and out of school and to build employability skills and confidence. ThinkForward was founded by Impetus – The Private Equity Foundation in 2010 with support from Tomorrow’s People.

For more information visit [www.thinkforward.org.uk](http://www.thinkforward.org.uk)