

Press Release: 8th June, 2015

Impetus-PEF invests £100,000 and strategic support in Venture Trust

Outdoor-based life skills and employability charity in Scotland secures strategic funding

8th June 2015: Today, Impetus-PEF announced it is providing a package of £100,000 and strategic and operational support to Venture Trust charity. Based in Scotland, with hubs in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Stirling, Venture Trust works with highly disadvantaged and disengaged young people to help develop their life skills, improve long-term employment and education outcomes.

Impetus-PEF's support will focus on Venture Trust's three-phase programme, which is centred on a short, intense, outdoor-based life skills course. The programme helps participants to develop the confidence, motivation and skills they need to make positive life changes.

Impetus-PEF is the charity which brings funding and strategic resources to high-potential charities and social enterprises working to improve the lives and prospects of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. It currently funds and works with over 20 charities in the UK. Its partnership with Venture Trust will help reach young people in all areas of Scotland – from big cities to the highlands and islands – most of whom have complicated or chaotic lives.

Daniela Barone Soares, Chief Executive of Impetus-PEF, commented, “For any young person facing an uncertain future, spending time out of employment, education or training can be daunting. For young people living in isolated areas, the challenges that lie ahead in securing sustained employment can be magnified. Venture Trust serves young people living in both remote areas and those closer to the cities, and provides an innovative programme of outdoor-based engagement and therapy, enabling them to make positive changes to their future. Impetus-PEF is delighted to be working in partnership with Venture Trust to help strengthen its performance and make a significant impact on the lives of hundreds of disadvantaged and disengaged young people in Scotland.”

Mark Bibbey, Chief Executive, Venture Trust, said: “I am delighted to receive the backing of Impetus-PEF in furthering the work of Venture Trust. This investment marks a significant stage in our development, and we are looking forward to partnering with Impetus-PEF; its support will mean that we can reach more young people desperately in need of our help.”

Elisabeth Paulson, Investment Director at Impetus-PEF, added: “An improving economy is reducing youth unemployment in Scotland as those nearest the labour market take up newly available jobs. However, an entrenched group of young people remain marginalised from these opportunities, owing to their difficult life experiences, multiple barriers to progression and inability to unlock core personal and employability skills. Venture Trust’s unique model helps young people from disadvantaged backgrounds stabilise their lives and move forward into work, education and training. I am looking forward to working with Venture Trust’s team, helping to develop their capacity to drive meaningful and sustained outcomes for the young people they serve.”

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Notes to editor

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 50,000 young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

For more information, please visit www.impetus-pef.org.uk or call 020 3474 1007.

Venture Trust believes that people have the ability to make positive changes in their lives for a more productive future. Venture Trust supports people who are struggling with complicated life circumstances such as being ‘looked after’ by Local Authorities, involvement in offending, homelessness, drug and alcohol misuse, caring responsibilities and other complications in their lives. These situations are often compounded by lack of access to services or low educational achievement, leaving them isolated, marginalised or in poverty. Venture Trust offers a three-phase personal and social development programme, working in communities across Scotland. The programme involves an intensive wilderness-based element, mentoring, and employability support which aims to help people unlock their potential. This may be better communication skills, consequential thinking and building positive relationships with others, growing in confidence and self-esteem, or moving towards education, training and employment. For more information, please visit www.venturetrust.org.uk.