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For immediate release

Impetus-PEF provides £250,000 and strategic advice to City Gateway to increase their education and training provision for 14-24 year olds

30 April 2014, London, UK: Today, Impetus – The Private Equity Foundation (Impetus-PEF) announced that it is providing a package of £250,000 and management advice to help develop City Gateway, a charity dedicated to supporting excluded young people in London.

As the pioneer of venture philanthropy in the UK, Impetus-PEF transforms the lives of disadvantaged young people by ensuring they get the support needed to succeed in education and employment. It does this by identifying the most promising youth charities and social enterprises and providing them with a combination of long-term funding and sustained strategic advice. In addition to £250,000, City Gateway will receive management advice, detailed guidance on governance, IT, finance and funding strategies from the Impetus-PEF investment team and access to pro bono advice from a range of expert business consultants.

Based in Canary Wharf, City Gateway helps the most excluded women and young people overcome obstacles (poor language levels, limited aspirations, low skill levels and safeguarding risks) into employment. They do this through apprenticeships with over 120 corporate partners or via their own social enterprises. Its alternative education provision has been recognised as an example of best practice nationally. City Gateway's results for apprenticeship completion and progression into employment are significantly better than the national average.

Eddie Stride, Chief Executive of City Gateway, said: "We've been tackling youth unemployment for 15 years through personalised support, job focused training, apprenticeships and social enterprise. In 2012-13 we reached over 2,000 young people, women and families including 311 NEETs, onto our pre-employment training and 234 unemployed young people into apprenticeships. Impetus-PEF's investment will help us improve what we do and lay the vital foundations for future sustainable growth, enabling us to bring hope to thousands more Londoners with our employment focused model over the coming years."

Impetus-PEF Chief Executive Officer Daniela Barone Soares said: "The UK labour market has changed dramatically over the last 20 years and many young people have been left behind as a result. In places like Tower Hamlets, it's not so much lack of jobs that's the problem, but lack of qualifications and work readiness – being able to demonstrate from day one the skills and personal qualities employers now expect. With Impetus-PEF's proven combination of support and resources, City Gateway will be able to help even more young people find and keep jobs, delivering a positive impact on the wider problem of youth unemployment in the UK."

ENDS

Media enquiries 020 3474 1007 or press@impetus-pef.org.uk

Please download our infographic that illustrates the difficulty young people face getting their foot on the work ladder - <http://bit.ly/1hUpDb3>

Notes to editors

Impetus - The Private Equity Foundation (Impetus-PEF) transforms the lives of 11-24 year olds from disadvantaged backgrounds by ensuring that they get the support they need to succeed in education and employment. It does this by finding the most promising youth charities and social enterprises in the UK and helping them - through a pioneering combination of management support, specialist expertise and funding - to become highly effective at delivering programmes proven to transform the lives of the young people they serve. For more information, please visit www.impetus-pef.org.uk / <http://bit.ly/1izizL3> or call 020 3474 1007.

City Gateway was set up in 1999 by a group of city workers involved in local churches to bring hope to the local community of Tower Hamlets particularly those who hadn't benefited from the area's wider economic development. Now working across the capital, City Gateway helps the hardest to reach and most excluded NEET young people and women overcome obstacles such as poor language levels, limited aspirations and low skill levels by connecting, engaging and training them and providing them with the skills and opportunities to enter into work. In 2012-13 50% of young people enrolled had fewer than 5 GCSEs, 64% had either English or Maths GCSE and 42% had neither English nor Maths GCSE. City Gateway operates:

- Youth training and employment projects, partnering with over 130 international and national firms to offer apprenticeship opportunities to 16-24 year olds. Over 90% of City Gateway apprentices consistently successfully complete their apprenticeships, typically between 14 and 17% above the national average;
- The first alternative provision school serving 14-19 year olds in London, offering an alternative and vocational route to young people for whom mainstream education has not worked. City Gateway 14-19 Provision is based in Tower Hamlets, with two more sites planned to be launched in 2015 in Newham and Hackney;
- Informal Education projects, including youth centres in Tower Hamlets and the City of London. These offer young people positive activities, everything from dance and drama workshops through to targeted support for young people with issues including homelessness, drug addiction, sexual health risks and other safeguarding issues;
- City Gateway Women and Families Services, operating across Tower Hamlets offering support, training and employability programmes to women covering the spectrum from those seeking confidence to access public services to those seeking employment;
- Social Enterprises developed in conjunction with training programmes to offer training and employment opportunities to local people whilst offering quality and affordable services. Current enterprises include: Gateway Motion (gym and personal training), Flavour Gateway (on site cafes and corporate catering), Beauty Gateway (beauty salon) and Gateway Tots (Playgroups).

City Gateway have been recognised as an example of national best practice in apprenticeships and youth engagement and have grown to work with thousands of individuals in Tower Hamlets and across London. City Gateway's work based learning programmes were graded Outstanding by Ofsted in 2010-11 and City Gateway became a LSIS Beacon Provider. In 2012 City Gateway was awarded Investors in People Gold. City Gateway have also received various awards including, Centre for Social Justice Award in 2011 and a Big Society Award in 2012.

HRH, The Duke of York, KG is Patron of City Gateway.

For more information please visit www.citygateway.org.uk or call 0203 727 6263.