

Annex 3: Improving impact

We think there are three core things that the YEF needs to get right to ensure that it is generating evidence and understanding which improves the lives of children and young people. We bring deep experience of all three.

First, **understanding implementation**. We need to understand not just whether an intervention works but how and why, so that we can replicate it and increase impact. This includes:

- Process evaluations to understand implementation – for example EIF's evidence team are well versed in approaches to process implementation and EEF have conducted process evaluation alongside their trials to understand the factors that influence success.
- Understanding of implementation and organisational capacity as well as programme design – for Impetus, SIB and EIF all have rigorous models for understanding organisational capacity including leadership, impact management, and organisational sustainability.

Second, **improving scalability of proven interventions through capacity building support**. We know that many organisation need non-financial support and expertise to increase, sustain and scale their impact. For example, Impetus have developed a world-leading model of capacity building support working intensively with high potential charities to drive their performance and capability over the long term.

Third, **a rigorous approach to reinvestment and learning from failure**. We know that even with all of the above support many interventions will fail. Which means we need to learn from those failures – EEF for example has found that 20-25% of trials demonstrate promise, but that this 75-80% failure rate is useful both for learning and to help the sector stop doing things that don't have impact. And we need to be rigorous in making re-investment decisions – Impetus is a long term, multiyear funder and has a rigorous gateway process for assessing potential reinvestments.

Our approach to supporting communities to develop proposals for evaluation-ready interventions is covered in detail in C6.