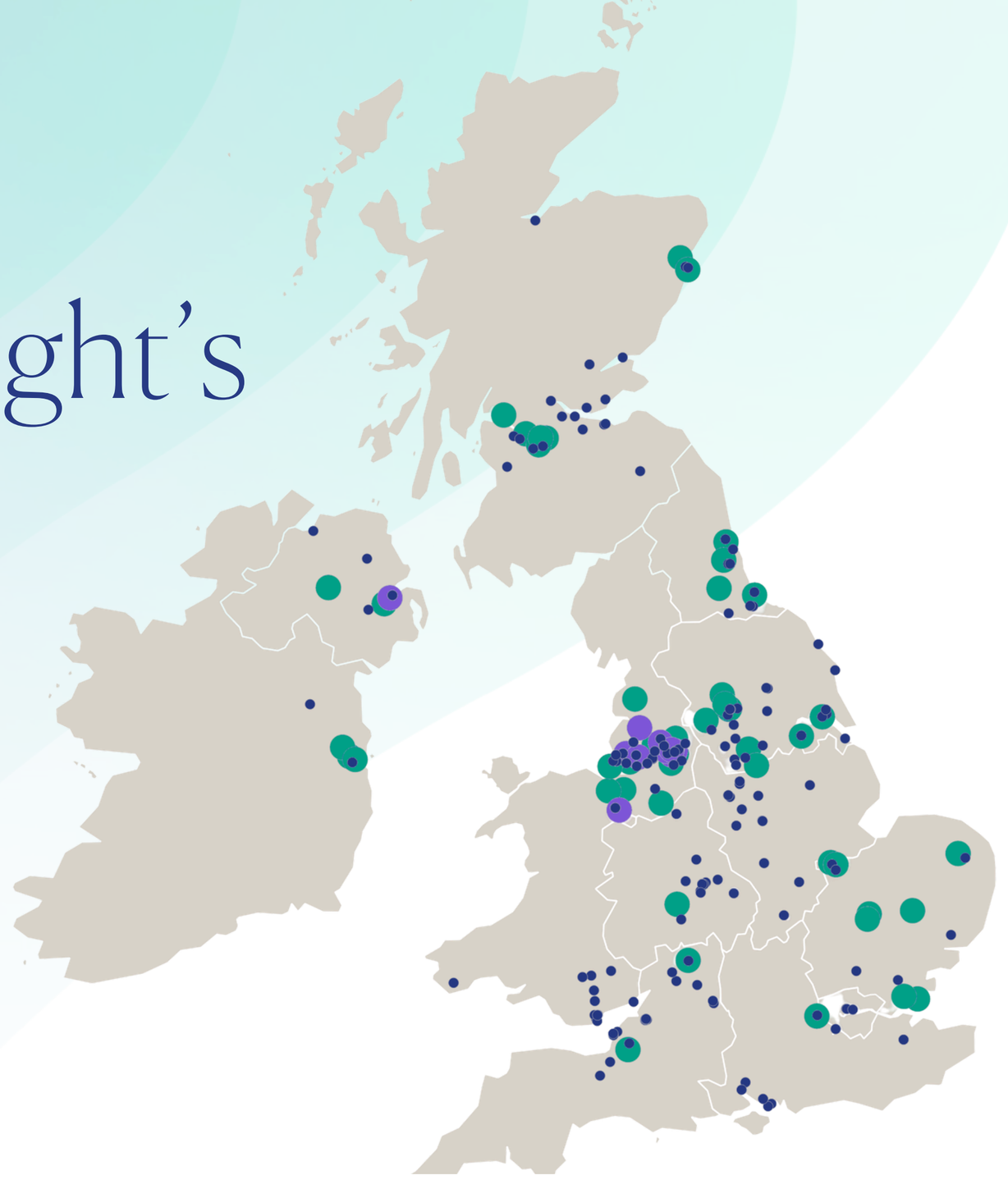
The Impact of Foresight's UK Regional Funds

Findings from The Good Economy's Independent Assessment

November 2026



Foresight
Invest Build Grow

THE GOOD ECONOMY

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Martek Marine, South Yorkshire – Foresight invested in September 2024



Little Rays, Northern Ireland –
Foresight invested in December 2025

“Foresight’s regional funds are closing the UK equity investment gap they were designed to tackle, supporting SME growth from high value sectors to everyday essential businesses in underserved regions and communities”

Measuring the Impact of Foresight’s UK Regional Funds, 2026

Foreword



Fiona Hatch

Investment Director and Private Equity Sustainability Lead



Matt Smith

Partner and Co-Head of Private Equity

At Foresight, we have long believed that where capital is invested matters just as much as how it is invested.

For more than four decades, we have backed ambitious SMEs across the UK and across all sectors, helping them grow, create jobs and strengthen local economies. Our mission is simple: to unlock opportunity in regions that have historically been underserved by private capital and to demonstrate that strong commercial returns and positive regional outcomes are mutually reinforcing.

We commissioned The Good Economy to do an independent assessment to evaluate the economic and social contribution of Foresight's regional private equity strategy. As at 31 December 2025, the strategy has over £700m of committed capital, of which £380m has been invested so far into 62 SMEs, with 51 currently live and 11 already exited. We invest between £1m and £20m in the structural SME investment gap. The portfolio is sector agnostic with investments spread across ten broad ONS sectors including health and social care, education and the arts and recreation, with manufacturing, wholesale and retail, finance and insurance, and information and communications each representing at least two times their proportion of the UK SME base. At the end of 2025, the portfolio also covered 46% of the Industrial Strategy sectors, contributing to national and regional priorities.

This report provides some of the insights and findings from The Good Economy's assessment. Importantly, the work was not intended to develop a new approach. Instead, it sought to test and validate the principles that have underpinned Foresight's regional investment model since it was launched in 2015. The findings reinforce our conviction that regional investing can be both commercially successful and socially meaningful. They demonstrate that Foresight's investment activity is deliberately directed towards businesses and communities that have historically received less access to capital, helping to support economic development in places with significant potential for growth. The assessment also highlights the broader value created through our investment approach.

Beyond providing capital, we work closely with management teams to help businesses grow sustainably, strengthen governance, develop talent and build long term resilience. The result is not simply larger businesses, but stronger businesses that will last far beyond our investment in them, creating opportunities for employees, customers and local communities alike. As at December 2025, companies supported through our regional funds help sustain almost 10,900 jobs and generate approximately £624 million of annual Gross Value Added (GVA) across the wider economy.

Importantly, the report underscores that the quality of growth matters. The businesses we support are not only expanding their operations, but investing in their people, developing skills, improving productivity and building foundations for future success. Those outcomes reflect our belief that sustainable value creation depends on strong organisations, capable leadership and a long-term perspective. While we are encouraged by the findings, continuous improvement remains central to our approach. Through our regional presence, active ownership model and close partnerships with management teams, we seek to help businesses realise their full potential while creating lasting value for investors and stakeholders. The assessment provides an independent framework that will help us better understand, measure and strengthen those outcomes in the years ahead. For us, this captures the essence of responsible investment. Supporting businesses to grow, creating high-quality employment opportunities and strengthening regional economies is not separate from delivering attractive investment returns. It is fundamental to how long-term value is created.

We would like to thank The Good Economy for bringing independent scrutiny and rigour to this work, and to the entrepreneurs, management teams and colleagues whose commitment has made these outcomes possible. We hope this report gives investors, stakeholders and partners greater insight into the role that place-based investment can play in supporting business growth, strengthening communities and building a more productive, resilient and inclusive UK economy.

Reflections from The Good Economy

I am delighted to see the publication of insights from The Good Economy's groundbreaking assessment of the place-based impact of Foresight's regional SME investment funds. We value our collaboration with Foresight as both a client and a founding member of our Place-Based Investing (PBI) Network. We hold a shared belief that lack of access to growth capital and business support for SMEs is a barrier to achieving good growth in every postcode. Our report puts hard evidence behind that belief. 98% of Foresight's regional investment has gone outside London and the South East, against a benchmark of 40% of all private equity and VC backed companies. And 77% of businesses have grown headcount, with more than half based in the country's most deprived areas, twice the national benchmark. Together we built a framework that asks not only whether SME investments support businesses' growth, but whether that growth creates good jobs in the places that need them most. Foresight's willingness to look hard at the evidence, including where there is more to do, is what makes this partnership valuable.

Sarah Forster
CEO and Co-Founder of The Good Economy



I believe that Foresight's investment activity makes a notable contribution to meeting the UK's challenge of economic resilience. First, its strong portfolio showing of manufacturing sector SMEs is supportive of Britain's re-industrialisation agenda - which is absolutely fundamental to inclusion and productivity. Second, it shows that there are SMEs across the UK, beyond the Oxford-Cambridge Arc, that are invisible but investible - investing in these 60-70% of 'missing' SMEs would boost GDP by 2%. Foresight's region-as-place based investment activity highlights the importance of promoting devolution not only in the public sector but also in the private sector. Finally, by launching this report with The Good Economy, Foresight is lighting up the way for a constructive discussion on the role of the wider private equity sector in the UK's economic future.

Mark Hepworth
Chief Economist and Co-Founder of The Good Economy



Foresight's Theory of Change

We believe SMEs are the backbone of the UK economy. With the right support they create jobs, local economic resilience and broader UK prosperity. However, they are underserved in the UK and do not receive the investment they need. To better articulate and evidence the impact of our regional investment approach, we have formalised our investment model into a theory of change. This was not about creating a new strategy. It was to validate the strategy we've successfully executed for many years and to strengthen the evidence of how our regional model translates into economic and social value.

Problem	Impact Objectives	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes	Impacts
The structural conditions in the UK regions Foresight invests into	**The impact goals Foresight sets for its regional investment**	**How Foresight puts its inputs to work**	**The direct, countable results of these activities**	**The effects that Foresight helps bring about**	**The long-term change Foresight contributes to**
Regional capital imbalance	Invest in companies in under-invested regions of the UK	Sourcing and capital deployment targeted to specific UK regions through a network of regional offices	Capital deployed, SMEs invested in	**Investee Businesses** Scaling SMEs in under-invested regions	Increased regional capital access
Under-invested regions	Make investments that contribute towards stronger regional economies	Hands-on operational support to SMEs and fostering professional capabilities and innovation	Jobs supported, plus talent development and upskilling	**Regional** Business, jobs and skills growth that strengthens local communities and expands opportunity	Stronger more investable regional businesses
Regional inequality	Support the growth of quality employment opportunities in regional economies	Strengthening of governance and sustainability practices, informed by Foresight's impact themes	Board and management teams supported	**UK** Reducing investment gap and regional inequality through targeted equity investment into underserved regions, strengthening local economies	Inclusive growth in under-invested UK regions
Constrained access to equity finance, expertise and networks	Promote ESG integration and sustainability best practice in all investee businesses		Sustainability and governance practices introduced		
			Regional partnerships and cross-portfolio knowledge sharing		
			Operational and innovation support provided		
			Support for business growth		

Inclusive growth through a place-based investment lens

A Meaningful Economic Engine

Social impact is defined as the measurable contribution Foresight's capital and active ownership make to inclusive economic growth in under-invested UK regions.

£380m

Invested to date across 62 companies, 51 currently supported and 11 exited as at December 2025

£624m

Total annual GVA generated by the current regional portfolio in 2025[1]

46%

of companies align with Industrial Strategy sectors, contributing to national and regional priorities, 14% of companies are in the high-growth Frontier Industries

50%

Regional portfolio companies located in areas of highest deprivation, **twice** the national benchmark, supporting more inclusive growth in areas facing the greatest economic challenges

Professionals At Play, Leeds - Foresight invested in December 2019

[1]Includes direct, indirect and induced

Job Creation Across the UK

Beyond job numbers, it's also about job quality.

Foresight's regional portfolio is a significant and growing source of jobs and economic value, adding employment faster than the wider market across the places it supports.

Mowgli, Manchester - Foresight invested in July 2017

10,861

Jobs supported across the portfolio and the wider economy[1]

7

Jobs supported in the wider economy for every 10 supported by the portfolio

86%

of companies beat sector national job growth rate

64%

of companies pay above sector average

79%

of companies are in areas of higher need for good jobs

38%

of jobs in sectors that provide important, accessible employment opportunities

44%

of companies offer apprenticeships, with apprentice numbers more than doubling since investment, opening routes to skilled careers

By both scale and concentration, the portfolio offers opportunity, spanning skills, wage ranges and accessibility, helping to ensure economic growth is inclusive and future career prospects are available throughout the UK.

[1] Includes direct, indirect and induced

Locally Rooted, With National Reach, Across All Sectors

80%

Coverage of Strategic Authorities in England (including established, planned and emerging Strategic Authorities)

98%

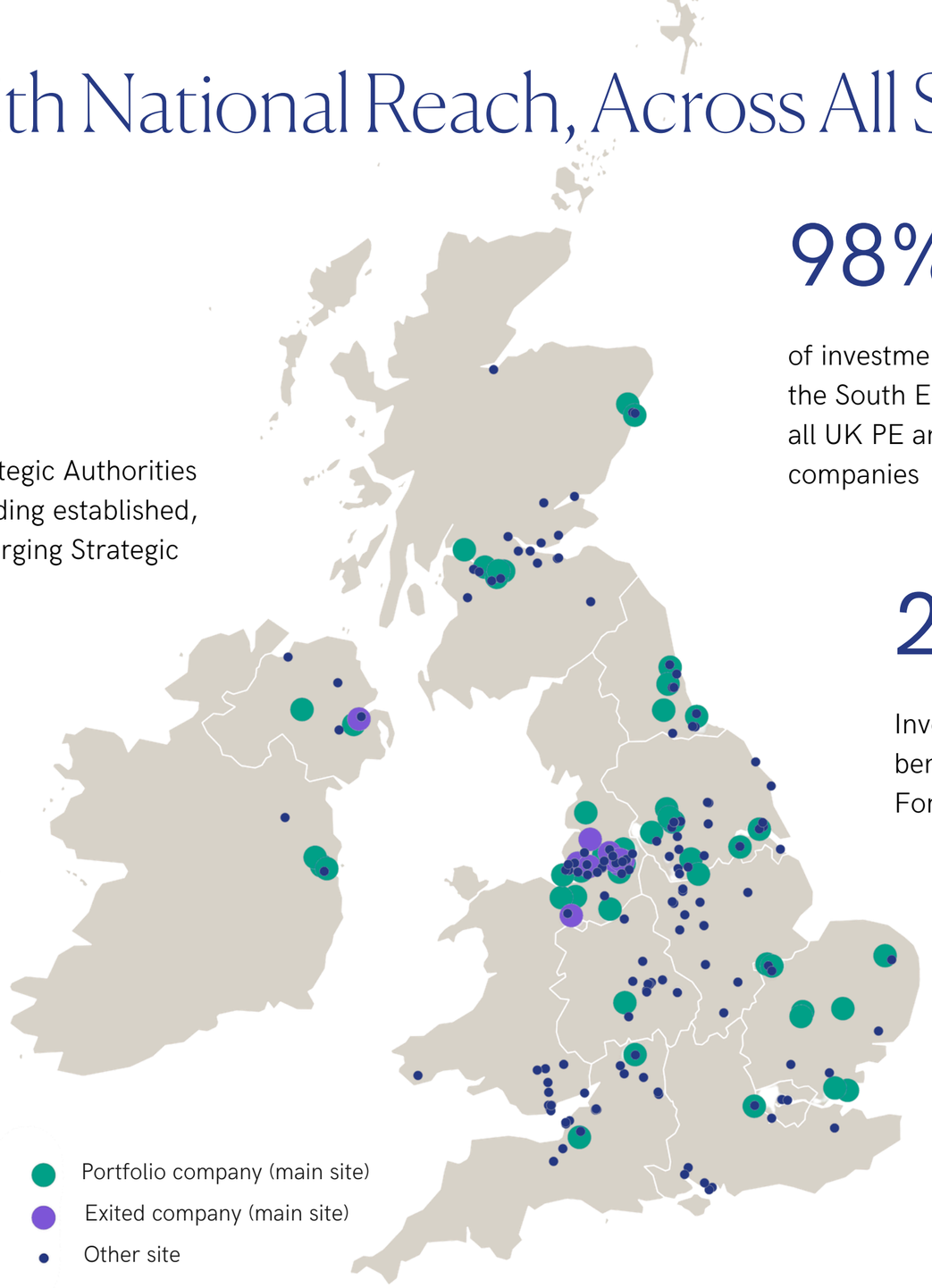
of investment outside London and the South East compared to 40% of all UK PE and VC backed companies

10

Broad ONS sectors covered across the portfolio: manufacturing, wholesale & retail, professional services, info & comms, health & social care, admin & support, construction, education, finance & insurance, transport & storage, arts & recreation and hospitality

2x

Investment level versus industry benchmark in regions where Foresight funds are most mature



100%

Regional coverage across the UK outside London

How We Support Regional Growth

Bridge gaps

We invest in established SMEs that sit between early-stage venture funding and larger institutional buyouts, helping address a recognised regional funding gap. The average age of a portfolio company at investment is 24 years and the median size is 46 people.

Build resilience

We work alongside management teams to strengthen governance, develop growth plans, attract talent and build more resilient businesses.

Create a virtuous cycle

Our investment approach helps businesses grow while creating jobs, strengthening supply chains and increasing economic activity in regions across the UK.

Scale sustainably

ESG, governance and workforce development are integrated throughout the investment journey, helping businesses become stronger and more future-ready.

Accelerate ambition

Through board support, strategic guidance and operational expertise, we help companies scale sustainably, improve productivity and expand into new markets.

Strengthen places

Portfolio companies contribute to local growth ambitions, support employment and skills development, and operate across many of the UK's priority growth sectors.

Combining local knowledge with long-term investment and hands-on support helps ambitious businesses grow, creates quality jobs and contributes to stronger regional economies.



TES, Northern Ireland - Foresight invested in October 2024

"Foresight's portfolio shows consistent governance and ESG improvement since investment – a large body of evidence links improvements of this kind to stronger company performance, greater resilience and better workforce outcomes"

Measuring the Impact of Foresight's UK Regional Funds, 2026

Evidence links stronger sustainability practices to returns, resilience and workforce outcomes.

Foresight's active ownership model - board seats, monthly engagement, Non-Executive Director appointments and a structured ESG approach - embeds practices in companies that had only lightly touched on ESG prior to investment.

+8%

PE funds whose portfolio companies had strong ESG profiles achieve up to 8% higher IRRs than peers[1]

Improvers

The ESG-performance link is strongest among companies actively strengthening practices, not those already highly rated[2,3]

Resilience

Stronger ESG practices are associated with downside protection during economic shocks[4]

25-40%

More productive employees at purpose-driven organisations[5]

Source:[1]EY-Parthenon, How private equity can optimize ESG to maximise value creation, 2024; [2]PRI, Part III: ESG factors and returns – a review of recent research, 2024; [3]BCI / Stanford, ESG value creation in Private Equity: from Rhetoric to Returns, 2026; [4]PRI, Part III: ESG factors and returns – a review of recent research, 2024; [5]McKinsey Quarterly, Five ways that ESG creates value, 2019.



Quality Food Products, Aberdeen - Foresight invested in October 2024

CASE STUDY

Beckett Investment Management Group

Business focus
Wealth manager, chartered financial planner and employee benefits provider with offices across the East of England

Year invested
2021

Headcount
122 (+53% growth during investment period)



> Foresight has been a supportive partner throughout our growth journey, enabling us to continue investing in our people and client proposition and supporting with a number of acquisitions.

Ian White, CEO, Beckett Investment Management Group

Action

Strategy

As a people-led financial services business, the sustainability strategy focuses on attracting, retaining and engaging talented people and supporting a culture that enables the company to sustainably grow, both organically and through selected acquisitions.

What we did and why

- Supported accreditation as a B-Corp, an unusual status in this industry, especially for a smaller company but we believe this aligns strongly with Becketts' values
- Became signatories to the Women in Finance Charter and awarded Great Place to Work status consistently since 2024
- Maintained Chartered status, reflecting the company's commitment to quality and values
- Became a Disability Confident employer
- Developed employee health and wellbeing program, established learning and development charter as part of the "Becketts Academy" development structure
- Published an impact report and reported on the gender pay gap which has reduced by 7% since investment
- Engaged with meaningful social initiatives providing every member of staff with a volunteering day each year, and launching the Becketts Awards to recognise excellence across the firm
- Offered all investors an Ethical Growth investment portfolio designed to deliver long-term returns while upholding ethical values

Impact

The difference it made

- Increase to c.5,000 clients receiving valuable retirement and financial planning advice, from c.1,500 at investment, in a geographic region and demographic which is typically underserved
- Focus on culture throughout the business led to economic growth and supported an increase in employment of over 50% alongside strong internal career progression
- Meaningful year-on-year improvement in engagement of female staff in what has historically been a male dominated sector with 50% gender equality at senior management level

CASE STUDY

Fieldway Group

Business focus
Merseyside headquartered contractor specialising in fire safety and electrical services

Year invested
2018

Headcount
98 (doubled during investment period)



> Partnering with Foresight has been a pivotal chapter in our journey, helping Fieldway scale the business, strengthen the processes and maintain the values that define the company.
>
> Brian Murphy, CEO, Fieldway Group

Action

Strategy

Structured our thinking around the three core ESG pillars, with particular focus on social value as it is vital for us winning projects.

What we did and why

- Upgraded our fleet to approximately 30 low-emission, energy efficient vehicles. We also focused on effectively using Joblogic, which efficiently mobilises engineers' call-outs and reduces mileage. All of this will support our commitment to be Net Zero by 2045, as well as help to reduce costs
- Engaged with local stakeholders through volunteering, school partnerships and apprentice schemes. We are also a Living Wage employer and have focused on training and development opportunities, believing that this will improve productivity
- Ensured governance processes were aligned with external standards such as the UN Global Compact and third-party accreditations to demonstrate our competence and focus on quality

Impact

The difference it made

- Waste and energy use reductions have led to an 8% cost saving
- 78% of the team say they are proud to work for Fieldway with 80% enjoying their jobs. Nearly half of our employees have been with us more than three years helping to retain talent and knowledge, whilst also helping reduce recruitment costs, which have also been helped by the high conversion rate of apprentices to FTEs
- More than 50 staff hold professional qualifications, with a well-trained workforce driving productivity
- Positive reaction from public procurement clients with a net promoter score of +73

CASE STUDY

Family Adventures Group

Business focus
Daycare nurseries and children's leisure sites across South West England, West Midlands and South West Wales

Year invested
2024

Headcount
372 (+165% increase since investment)



> Across all the PE-backed CEOs I speak to, I haven't found a more aligned investor relationship than ours with Foresight.

Tom Filer, CEO, Family Adventures Group

Action

Strategy

Create an environment where both children and team members can flourish.

What we did and why

- In a sector where staff continuity is critical to attracting and retaining families, we focus on employee wellbeing and engagement
- Introduced transformative initiatives including flexible working pilots, a new Future Leaders Programme, and over 40 hours annually of continuous professional development through the group's Apprenticeship Academy
- Introduced enhanced benefits – many inspired directly by employee feedback – ranging from emergency childcare and hardship support to generous leave allowances and birthday holidays
- Implemented a successful apprenticeship programme which has a strong track record of offering permanent employment on completion, an important source of employees trained to our standard of care. We currently have 81 apprentices

Impact

The difference it made

- Commitment to culture, values and wellbeing recognised by inclusion in The Times 100 Best Places to Work and received Great Place to Work certification
- Strong employee engagement scores - increased from 4.0/5 to 4.2/5
- Market leading staff retention rates
- Top-20 UK nursery group in 2024 and 2025 as rated by parents on daynurseries.co.uk



The Good Economy (TGE) is a leading UK specialist in impact measurement, place-based investment and sustainable finance. TGE works with investors, institutions, businesses and public bodies to understand how investment can deliver both financial returns and positive economic and social outcomes.

Why Foresight commissioned TGE

As one of the UK's most active regional investors, Foresight wanted an independent assessment of the impact its regional funds are having on businesses, jobs and local economies. Rather than relying on anecdotal evidence or individual success stories, Foresight commissioned TGE to apply a robust, evidence-based methodology to assess whether its investment activity is helping address regional investment gaps and support inclusive economic growth.

What TGE did

TGE analysed a decade of investment activity across Foresight's regional fund series, using portfolio, ESG and company data alongside external economic benchmarks and regional datasets. It assessed:

- Where capital is invested and whether it reaches under-served regions
- How portfolio companies grow and create jobs
- The wider economic contribution of those businesses
- The quality of jobs created and where they are located
- The impact of Foresight's active ownership beyond the provision of capital

Using this data, TGE developed a structured assessment framework linking investment activity to economic growth, job creation, governance improvement and regional resilience.

THE GOOD ECONOMY



Graham + Sibbald, Dundee - Foresight invested in September 2025

Conclusion

The result from The Good Economy's assessment is a clear, evidence-based picture of how place-based capital can support business growth, regional prosperity and long-term economic resilience.

Continuous improvement remains central to our approach. We recognise the importance of using our active ownership approach to raise job quality and inclusion. The gender pay gap of 14.6% across the portfolio currently exceeds the UK average of 12.8% and whilst 64% of companies pay above sector average, the remainder do not. On each investment we make, we will focus on driving fair pay, progression and apprenticeships commitments, widening access for younger, lower-skilled and disadvantaged workers and helping create pathways into higher-quality roles in support of social mobility.

Foresight's regional investment strategy is:

- Helping address the UK's regional inequality
- Deliberately regional and well targeted
- Providing a significant and growing source of jobs
- Supporting places where good jobs are needed
- Generating value for the whole of the UK

Methodology & Glossary

Reporting date	All data and analysis sourced from Foresight's internal Sustainability Platform as at 31 December 2025.
Scope	The assessment covers Foresight's regional fund series - Foresight Regional Investment Funds I-VIII, Foresight West Yorkshire SME Investment Fund and the AIB Foresight SME Limited Partnership.
Social impact	Social impact is the measurable contribution Foresight's capital and active ownership make to inclusive economic growth in under-invested UK regions. The three things this definition requires: 1. Measurable evidence - grounded in observed data, modelled estimates where appropriate, and structured qualitative evidence 2. Foresight's contribution - Foresight is one of several factors shaping outcomes in portfolio companies. The assessment framework describes Foresight's contribution. It does not claim outcomes would not have occurred without Foresight 3. Inclusive growth - the benchmark is not just business performance. It is whether that performance translates into better-quality jobs, stronger local economies, and improved resilience in places that have historically lacked access to growth capital
Assessment framework	The assessment uses a four-layer framework to evaluate social impact across Foresight's regional funds: 1. Baseline portfolio footprint – where capital is invested and the characteristics of the portfolio 2. Economic impacts – employment and economic contribution generated by portfolio companies 3. Inclusive job growth – job quality, skills, wages and performance in areas of need 4. Regional resilience & contribution – the value Foresight adds through active ownership, governance and ESG support
Gross Value Added (GVA)	A measure of economic output generated by portfolio companies and the wider economy. The assessment reports total GVA including: • Direct GVA – generated by portfolio companies themselves • Indirect GVA – generated through portfolio company supply chains • Induced GVA – generated through the spending of direct and indirect employees in the wider economy
Jobs supported	Foresight's regional investment portfolio companies currently support over 5,000 jobs (4,500 FTE). For every 10 jobs (FTE) in the portfolio over 7 jobs are supported across the wider economy through supply chain activity (indirect) and employee spending (induced). In total, over 8,100 jobs are supported nationally by the regional funds, and almost 11,000 including realised companies (6,267 direct, 3,361 indirect and 1,234 induced).
Regional investment benchmark	Foresight's regional investment activity is benchmarked against UK private equity and venture capital investment activity, using UK Private Capital market data. Regional concentration is assessed using location quotients, where a value of 1 represents the industry benchmark, above 1 indicates over-representation and below 1 indicates under-representation.
Industrial Strategy	The UK's Modern Industrial Strategy (June 2025) is a 10-year plan to boost investment, productivity and growth by concentrating support on the sectors and places where the UK is strongest. The Industrial Strategy IS-8 are its eight growth-driving sectors: advanced manufacturing, clean energy, creative industries, defence, digital and technologies, financial services, life sciences, and professional and business services. Frontier industries are the high-growth subsectors within each IS-8 sector.
Higher good job need areas	Areas where either economic growth indicators or job quality and inclusion indicators perform below the national average. These include measures such as private sector job growth, productivity, wages, employment, job security and skills.
Deprived areas	Areas classified among the most deprived 20% of local authorities based on deprivation measures. The assessment uses these locations to understand the extent to which investment and employment are concentrated in areas facing greater socioeconomic challenges.

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Important Information

This document has been approved by Foresight Group LLP ("Foresight") as a financial promotion for the purpose of Section 21 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 ("FSMA") on 30/10/2026. Foresight Group LLP is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority ("FCA"), under firm reference number 198020. Foresight's registered office is The Shard, 32 London Bridge Street, London, SE1 9SG.

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