



RISHI KHOSLA,
Co-founder and CEO of OakNorth



OakNorth is proud to be supporting the invaluable work of WIA UK as it continues on its mission to empower women and children through education, rehabilitation, life skills and social welfare.

At a time of rising uncertainty, the need for these is more important than ever. But too often, young women and girls in particular, are indirectly or directly discouraged from pursuing further education or entrepreneurial careers. By helping to break down these barriers, we can empower the next generation of entrepreneurs who will help drive innovation, social progress and economic growth.

My business partner and I founded OakNorth to help entrepreneurs and high growth businesses scale and achieve their growth ambitions. Since our launch in September 2015, we have lent several billion pounds to British businesses across a variety of sectors, such as: Arora Group, the hotel and property business founded by Surinder Arora; Bright Minds Daycare, the Birmingham-based nursery business founded by Taj Heer and Talon Golding; Care Concern Group, the elderly care and retirement living business founded by Manpreet Johal; and Deliciously Ella, the wellness and plant-based food business founded by Ella Mills.

To date, our loans have directly helped with the creation of tens of thousands of new jobs and social and affordable homes across the UK.

In a world dominated by large corporations, we need innovation, we need difference and we need originality. This starts with entrepreneurs, which is why we need to do more to support and enable the next generation of big thinkers and risk-takers: the visionaries of business, and why we are delighted to be supporting the work of the WIA UK.

My apologies that I was unable to join you this evening but I hope you have a wonderful time and I look forward to hearing all about it from my team.