

**Press Release: 19 January 2016**

**Support grows for better quality vocational choices**

As Ofsted urges Government action to improve the quality of vocational choices for young people in further education, Jenny North, Director of Policy and Strategy at Impetus-PEF comments,

“Government policy is focussed on filling the national skills gap with the creation of 3 million new apprenticeships, however many young people who struggled at school, are not making real progress in further education, and are instead making the unfortunate but easy journey into unemployment.

For young people to have greater choices and access to better quality vocational options, it's essential the Government improves the quality of Maths and English tuition in further education to enable those young people who did not achieved A\*-C grade in English and Maths at GCSE the first time round, to leave with these essential qualifications aged 19. Currently only 11% of young people taking English and Maths GCSE for a second time, achieve A\*-C pass, proving the current system is failing thousands of young people. Without these essential qualifications, vocational choices for these young people will forever be limited. This attention to quality of provision, needs to be paired with the availability of well-informed careers advice and access to high-quality vocational courses and apprenticeships which lead to sustained employment.

To make these options a reality, Government funding must be complemented by strong regional structures such as Local Enterprise Partnerships to ensure young people have the opportunity to fulfil their potential.”

**ENDS**

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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](http://www.impetus-pef.org.uk) or call 020 3474 1007.

