

Press Statement**Issue: Monday 21st March 2016****Apprenticeship Levy potential threat to social mobility for under 19s**

Jenny North, Director of Policy and Strategy at Impetus-PEF(Impetus – The Private Equity Foundation) comments on the latest report from The Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission which found a stagnation in the number of under 19s starting apprenticeships.

“Latest Department for Education data shows only 5% of young people are entering apprenticeships at 16 and 18. These important pathways have the potential to provide life-changing routes for young people, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, who have struggled to attain in traditional academic settings. Impetus-PEF’s latest policy report also shows that the vast majority of apprenticeships (75% of apprenticeship starts) were undertaken by over 19s at an intermediate level.

What could make this even worse is the forthcoming Apprenticeship Levy. With firms making a bigger financial contribution, they could be tempted to look for a more certain return, leading them to focus on apprenticeships for older and better qualified people, or existing employees.

With the government focussing on 'high-quality' provision, this needs to translate into apprenticeships which are vehicles for genuine social mobility and offer previously low-attaining students a good second-chance to learn and earn, rather than roles which are dominated by high-attaining young people well advanced on the social ladder.”

Impetus-PEF is a charity which brings strategic resources and funding to high-potential charities and social enterprises working to improve the educational and employment outcomes of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. It currently works with over 20 charities in the UK.

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Notes to Editors**Media Enquiries**

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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 or call 020 3474 1007.