

Press Release

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MPs set to debate need to widen participation in technical education and apprenticeships

Today 9 January 2017, following calls from youth charity, Impetus-PEF, the House of Commons will debate an amendment to the Technical and Further Education Bill intended to help close the gap between disadvantaged young people and their better-off peers entering and progressing from Level 3 technical qualifications and apprenticeships.

The amendment to the bill was tabled by Gordon Marsden MP, and calls upon the newly established Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education to pay due regard to widening participation for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. This follows a [submission](#) from Impetus-PEF which highlighted the value of high-quality technical education and work-based training in acting as a vehicle for social mobility.

[Research](#) published by the charity last year found that only 36% of students from disadvantaged backgrounds attain a Level 3 qualification, versus 60% of their better off peers. [Research](#) published by the Social Mobility Commission found that nationally, young people who were eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) are half as likely to start and complete an apprenticeship as their better off peers. Impetus-PEF have emphasized that the creation of the new Institute is an opportunity to act on this gap.

The youth charity believe that a 'Social Mobility Clause' which commits relevant government bodies and the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education to measure the gap in access, completion, and progression, and report on their work to close it, would help focus attention, and resource, on this issue.

Andy Ratcliffe, CEO, Impetus-PEF said "There is a great divide in our education system, at every level the deck is stacked against young people from less well-off families. That's true for apprenticeships and vocational and technical education as much as for GCSEs and university.

If we're serious about building an education system that works for everyone we need to bridge that divide. That's why we're calling on the government to add a 'social mobility clause' to its new apprenticeship legislation."

END**Media enquiries**

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Notes to editors

Impetus – The Private Equity Foundation (Impetus-PEF) transforms the lives of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds by ensuring they get the support to succeed in school, in work, in life. They do this by finding the best charities working with these young people, helping them to have a bigger impact and by influencing the decisions and resources devoted to them.

Impetus-PEF currently works with more than 20 charity partners, which in turn reach over 80,000 young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

For more information, please visit www.impetus-pef.org.uk or call 020 3474 1007.