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For immediate release

Impetus-PEF Invests in Educational Charity SAPERE

18 February 2014, London, UK – Impetus – The Private Equity Foundation (Impetus-PEF), the pioneer of venture philanthropy in the UK, today announces a £75,000 investment in SAPERE, an educational charity that trains teachers to improve the thinking skills of their pupils through engagement in philosophical dialogue.

Impetus-PEF brings strategic resources to high-potential charities and social enterprises working to improve the lives and prospects of children and young people living in poverty in the UK. It uses a highly effective venture philanthropy model, consisting of management support from the Impetus-PEF investment team, pro bono business expertise and long-term funding, to support and improve the capacity of charities working in the areas of educational attainment and work readiness.

SAPERE, Society for the Advancement of Philosophical Enquiry and Reflection in Education, aims to improve educational outcomes in the UK by developing children's thinking skills through engagement in philosophy, using its Philosophy for Children programme. The programme is delivered through weekly sessions in schools, facilitated by the teacher, in which children discuss an interesting philosophical question that the children themselves develop in response to stimulus material, for example, "What's the difference between telling a lie and keeping a secret?" or "When did you start to think?".

The approach focuses on children's abilities and dispositions to question, reason, construct arguments and collaborate with others. Research has shown that by acquiring and learning to apply thinking skills in this way, both cognition and self-confidence can improve, leading to an improvement in academic attainment. SAPERE has trained over 10,000 teachers in 2,500 schools to use Philosophy for Children with their pupils and throughout the curriculum.

Alongside core funding, Impetus-PEF will support SAPERE to refine the focus of its work and to maximise the impact on pupils from low-income backgrounds, enhancing the effectiveness of the programme in UK schools.

Commenting on the investment, Sarah Young, Investment Director at Impetus-PEF managing the SAPERE partnership, said: "We are excited to be working with SAPERE. We are impressed by the team's commitment to understanding the impact of the Philosophy for Children programme and by promising research showing that this approach can raise educational attainment. We look forward to working with SAPERE to make the most of the programme's potential to raise the achievement of pupils from low-income backgrounds."

Bob House, Chief Executive of SAPERE, said: "This investment from Impetus-PEF gives us a unique opportunity to maximise the benefits of our Philosophy for Children programme, especially in areas of economic disadvantage. The extra funding and the accompanying support from Impetus-PEF will help us deepen our impact on the young people in the schools that we work with."

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Notes to the editors

- **About Impetus – The Private Equity Foundation (www.impetus-pef.org.uk)**
Impetus-PEF brings strategic resources to high-potential charities and social enterprises working to improve the lives and prospects of children and young people living in poverty in the UK. It aims to ensure that these organisations are effectively delivering targeted outcomes... and then achieving scale in the areas of educational attainment and work readiness. It uses a highly effective venture philanthropy model, consisting of management support from the Impetus-PEF investment team, pro bono business expertise and long-term funding, to support and improve the capacity of these charities. Impetus-PEF was formed from the merger of Impetus Trust and the Private Equity Foundation in 2013. With over a decade of experience of supporting more than 50 charities and social enterprises, Impetus-PEF is the pioneer of venture philanthropy in the UK. It currently has 28 organisations in its active portfolio.
- **About SAPERE (www.sapere.org.uk)**
SAPERE is the UK's only internationally recognised provider of training and support for Philosophy for Children, a learning approach that 2,800 teachers and over 50,000 children a year, as well as other community groups, are adopting in the UK. SAPERE's experience over twenty years, backed up by academic research, shows that there are numerous benefits from Philosophy for Children including increased self-esteem, increased motivation to learn and gains in oral communication skills, literacy and numeracy, particularly in the less able. Founded in 1992, SAPERE is a registered charity based near Oxford, which operates across the UK with a network of 60 accredited trainers.