

Leadership appointments for Compass Group UK & Ireland

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[Compass Group UK & Ireland](#) has appointed Michelle Sanders in the role of Chief Growth Officer and Sophie Smith as Chief People Officer, both will start next month and will join the Executive team.

Michelle was previously the Managing Director of Samworth Brothers Futures, which focuses on exploring upcoming trends and fostering connections in non-traditional retail domains. She initially joined Samworth Brothers as Sales Director in 2013 and moved her way up through other business and commercial roles, including Category Commercial Director for the 'food to go' division – the company's largest sector. Prior to that, she also worked at Noble Foods and Associated British Foods. Michelle will be responsible for delivering the company's growth agenda, overseeing its growth community team across all sectors.

Sophie Smith joins from the position of Chief Human Resources Officer, leading the People function for BW Group, a global maritime and sustainable technology company, based in Singapore. She also spent time at Experian as HR Director for Asia Pacific and Europe, and held leadership roles at Rolls-Royce, 3i, and NatWest. Sophie will take the lead on Compass Group UK & Ireland's Talent agenda and continue work in delivering the company's 'Our Social Promise' – a commitment to support a million people with opportunities and change their lives through job creation, education, training, community and charitable engagement by 2030.

Robin Mills, Chief Executive Officer, Compass Group UK & Ireland: "We are a people powered business, so the news that Michelle and Sophie are to join is an exciting milestone. They both bring a great deal of expertise, which will support our vitally important people agenda around offering opportunities and nurturing our talent, with Michelle leading on growth across our business. Both these roles are integral for the continued success of our organisation. I look forward to working with Michelle and Sophie."

Michelle Sanders commented: "I'm really excited to be joining Compass Group UK & Ireland in the position of Chief Growth Officer – the size and ambition of the company aligns perfectly with my aspirations. I am looking forward to the next stage of my career and getting to know the team, as well as Compass' clients and customers."

Sophie Smith said: "This is an exciting time to join Compass – the team have an ambitious people agenda, which is brought to life through its overarching Our Social Promise commitment. I am looking forward to working with the Compass teams, to ensure we continue and enhance opportunities for all."