

# Compass 'Ignites' leadership development with bespoke talent programme

7 months ago



[Compass Group UK & Ireland](#) has launched Ignite your Potential, a new talent programme for high-potential managers. Developed with ioda, the programme focuses on human-centred leadership, helping participants lead with purpose, empathy and authenticity.

60 managers from across the business have joined the first cohort, supported by senior leaders including Compass' Chief People Officer, Sophie Smith; Chief Growth Officer, Michelle Sanders; and Executive Director – Strategic Accounts, Charlie Brown. The 15-month programme began earlier this week (17 November), at Xcelerate with Edgbaston and will run across four waves.

On completion, participants will gain a CMI Level 5 Diploma, Chartered Manager Status and a Level 5 Apprenticeship in Leadership & Management. Ignite is part of Compass' Signature Programmes and supports its 'Our Social Promise', to develop talent and create opportunities for all.

Kirsty Adams, People Director Talent, Leadership, Learning & Inclusion at Compass Group UK & Ireland said: "This is a really exciting new programme for Compass, and for our future leaders. As a business, we have ambitious growth plans for the coming years, and our success will be driven by the talent and passion of our people. Through Ignite, we want to accelerate development of managers who are early in their career and showing signs of high potential, so they are ready to step up into leadership with purpose, empathy, and impact.

"The ambition is for the programme to drive sustainable growth by building a business that creates meaningful opportunities for our people, drives our growth agenda and is a positive force in the communities where we operate."

Lisa Reynolds, Managing Director at IODA said: “We are thrilled to be working in partnership with Compass on this incredible leadership project. At ioda we believe that developing talent is the cornerstone of business success, and being part of this journey is a true privilege. We are excited to support the learners and can’t wait to see the impact they’ll make throughout the programme and beyond.”

Emily Mills, Unit Manager - One Retail who is taking part in the course commented: “After attending Ignite’s launch, I left feeling empowered and excited. Showing up for our teams as our true, authentic, and vulnerable selves and being open to feedback - helps create a safe space for them to do the same. I want to be a part of the future leadership team and this programme will give me the tools and guidance to become the leader my current and future teams deserve.”