



## **My Family advisory group**

### *Introductions*



**Nicola Willey MBE**

Nicola works for the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office in London. Previously she served as Regional Director for Science and Innovation at the British High Commission in Singapore. Before Singapore, Nicola was Head of the FCO's China Climate Change and Energy Network at the British Embassy in Beijing. Previous roles include earlier postings in Beijing and Paris. Nicola studied geography at Oriel College, Oxford.



**Conrad Rasmussen**  
Head of Experience and  
Creative Director at  
Wunderman Thompson (WPP)

Conrad helps organisations connect with people, helping design better products or services, craft clear communication or rally teams around a common goal. He believes in the power of diverse, high-functioning teams. When people realise their potential – for themselves, their workplaces and their communities – we can help make the world a better place.

Conrad has a proven track record of building effective, healthy teams, excelling during seasons of change and rapid growth. In his work he does his very best to listen, learn, unlock potential and encourage clarity. He is shaped by his background: he was born in California, grew up in Pakistan, and lived in Finland for 12 years. He is now happily settled in London with his wife and three children.



**Alexander Nicolaus**  
Chief People Offices, Paysend

Originally from Germany, raised in France and with a British education, Alex has pretty good odds at every football World Cup. In more practical terms, that international background underpins his 20 years career to date in Europe, China and across Asia. He has helped large corporates and fast-growing start-ups, across different industries, with their people and culture challenges in this era of digital and tech disruption.

Alex is currently a member of the executive leadership team at Paysend responsible for developing and executing a global people strategy. His purpose is helping companies to attract, retain, and develop exceptional talent while creating unique workplace cultures. His experience is in building high performing teams and everything that underpins them - from People Services to Total Rewards, HR systems, Employer Branding, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion People Analytics, Talent Acquisition and People Development & Performance.



**Deirdre Medler**  
Director of Initial Teacher  
Education, School of Education  
& Lifelong Learning

Deirdre is married to Kevin and has two adult daughters, Laura and Amy. She has a background as a primary teacher and currently works at the University of East Anglia (UEA) in initial teacher training. Her particular interests are in developing effective partnerships, supporting children and families and helping different generations to value and learn with and from each other.

Deirdre's teaching interests include approaches to learning outside the classroom and meaningful cross-curricular ways of learning. She is committed to promoting the global dimension in all teaching activity to facilitate equality, respect, social justice and sustainable development. She is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and a Professional Affiliate of the Chartered College of Teaching.

Deirdre enjoys the great outdoors, offering hospitality, reading and spending time with family and friends.