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Confidence is key in the return to work for family carers

18 carers have secured employment since May 2021

Kaleidoscope – Guiding Family Carers Back into Paid Employment are planning to celebrate the achievements of its participants by hosting a Reunion and Reconnection half day event on the 16th June in Athlone. This event falls in the middle of this year's National Carers Week and will provide an opportunity for all the participants of the Kaleidoscope programme to finally meet face to face.

The aim of the event is to reconnect all the participants from Kaleidoscope and look at what steps they can take to support each other in their search for paid employment.

The Kaleidoscope project, which is funded under the Dormant Account Funds, launched in May 2021, slap bang in the midst of the pandemic. It has been a huge success, with over half of the participants engaging in paid employment, volunteering or further education since the programme commenced.

Project Co-ordinator Lisa Dunne states that the Kaleidoscope has '*provided many of the participants with a new lease of life, has increased their confidence levels and has reduced social isolation*' with one participant reporting that she has '*never felt so empowered in her life*'.

Kaleidoscope will also launch their pre-employment handbook during Carers Week. The handbook was developed in partnership with Return Ready (another returnship project hosted by Care Alliance Ireland) to assist family carers who want to return to the workplace and don't know where to begin. The workbook is available to both participants and non-participants of Kaleidoscope and Return Ready.

For further information please contact Lisa Dunne (Project Co-ordinator, Kaleidoscope) at: kaleidoscope@carealliance.ie or 085 181 9146

