

# Case study

## Deirdre Noonan

After 14 years away from the tech sector, Deirdre was keen to get back to work. “I had stopped working in 2003 after my now 14-year-old was born, so I was not clear what the route back into the workforce would look like,” she says.

While working through a Master’s degree in Technical Communications and e-Learning, she started to search for jobs but found it difficult to make progress.

When she heard about the information evening on Software Skillnet’s ‘Women ReBOOT’ programme she was intrigued to learn more.

Going to the information evening proved to be an inspiring move for Deirdre; she was impressed by the panel of company speakers and the other women who attended. “I realised that this had the potential to be a very significant support and learning network for me.” says Deirdre.

Before enrolling in Women ReBOOT, Deirdre had been overwhelmed by what she saw as obstacles to getting back into work. These, she says, were “mainly around the transition from being at home to being in the workplace, finding childcare, and being credible in interviews.”

But through Women ReBOOT, she gained insights from recruiters and people working in the sector. “I realised the gap in my CV wasn’t necessarily an issue. My previous experience was still relevant.”

Finishing off her college assignments while continuing her job search, as well as dealing with family life, was a lot to juggle but the support Deirdre received from her coach helped her to manage everything. “It’s helped me to structure my job search and focus on what I want to achieve in my professional life role. It has also clarified the trade-offs between working full-time and part-time.”

“Women ReBOOT has given me lots of insights into the opportunities in technology companies particularly for my specific skillset, which is different to that of a software developer.”

Now Deirdre is working as a learning development specialist at Novitas, an e-learning and training provider.

Women ReBOOT has been a life-changing experience for Deirdre and what she found most valuable was meeting a network of like-minded and impressive women.

According to Deirdre “It’s a fantastic experience, there is so much support available on Women ReBOOT. If you’re thinking of joining the programme, take the plunge and go for it.”

